

4-4-05



"Edward Rea"  
<erea@aachhomeless.org>  
04/05/2005 12:06 PM

"Councilman Andrew H. Macdonald"  
To <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, "Councilman Ludwig P. Gaines"  
<councilmangaines@aol.com>, "Councilman Paul C. Smedberg"  
cc "James Hartmann" <Jim.Hartmann@alexandriava.gov>, "Jackie  
Henderson" <jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov>  
bcc  
Subject Budget hearing comments

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you at yesterday's hearing. I am attaching a copy of my comments for your information.

Ed Rea  
Executive Director  
Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless  
703-525-7177  
*Moving homeless families to independence*

### **Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless FY 2006 City Council Budget Hearing, April 4, 2005**

I am Ed Rea, Executive Director of the Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless and also co-chair of Alexandria's Homeless Services Coordinating Committee. With me this evening is Rusty Luhning, AACH's Treasurer and an Alexandria small business owner. I am speaking in support of increasing the Community Partnership Fund for Human Services in the proposed FY 2006 budget.

AACH's transitional housing program for families has been in Alexandria for 17 years. Mayor Euille and Vice-Mayor Pepper have been active participants in the Adopt-A-Family graduation ceremony for several years, as have other members of the Council, so you know first-hand the success that we have had in moving homeless Alexandria families to independence. Now that success is threatened.

Our Alexandria families are in private, market-rate apartments in the City. We all know what has happened to Alexandria's stock of affordable housing in recent years and the cost of that housing. With Federal funding remaining level for the past 5 years and no increases in the future, and with our State funding declining, we have had to reduce the number of Alexandria families that we serve from 18 in previous years to 14 at the end of FY 2004 to 11 projected for the end of this fiscal year.

Since 1996, the City has provided support of the Adopt-A-Family program through the Community Partnership Fund. For the past four years the CPF contribution stayed the same at \$32 thousand, which is only about 9% of cost of the Alexandria program. This year we are requesting \$44 thousand, an increase of \$12 thousand, to enable us to at least maintain the current caseload.

The budget proposes a 7%, \$62 thousand increase to the Community Partnership Fund. I do not

know how much AACH will receive under the proposed CPF budget but I suspect that the requested increase is not enough to meet our needs and the needs of your other nonprofit human services partners. I ask you to look hard at how nonprofit agencies enable Alexandria to care for its residents and judge whether the CPF increase is sufficient.

I have worked in budget and management for over 30 years, Rusty runs a small business. We know that budgets are always tight and that programs never get the level of funding that they believe that they need. But we also know that inadequate funding will eventually result in program failure.

We look forward to continuing to work with the City to ensure that AACH and Alexandria's other nonprofit service providers are able to continue to provide high-quality service to the community's most vulnerable individuals.



AACH FY 2006 Budget Hearing Talking Points.doc