



# *City of Alexandria, Virginia*

## *Economic Opportunities Commission*



April 25, 2005

The Honorable William D. Euille and Members of City Council  
City Hall  
301 King Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3211

Dear Mayor Euille and Members of the City Council:

I am writing to express the Alexandria Economic Opportunities Commission's (EOC) support for four proposed budget items. All four of these proposed budget items directly relate to the City's ability to achieve Goal 5 of its strategic plan—A Caring Community that is Diverse and Affordable.

The first proposed budget item involves the real property tax rate for homeowners. The EOC supports the City Council's actions to lower the real property tax rate. The current increase of home assessments and subsequent current tax rate places a significant financial burden on Alexandrians. We also realize that the tax rate cannot be lowered as much as we all might like given the importance of such revenue to fund key City programs. EOC members hope that those key programs that provide Alexandria's poor an opportunity to move to self-sufficiency will continue to be fully funded.

The second proposed budget item concerns the need to provide vital funds to help preserve affordable housing in our City. Specifically, EOC supports the City Manger's proposal to set aside a small portion of the tax on recording real property transactions for affordable housing. This would provide an important funding source for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund or a vital source of funds for real property tax relief for those most in need. The Commission hopes the City Council will approve this proposal.

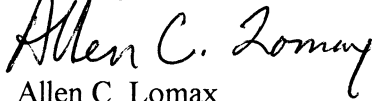
The third proposed budget item involves the need to provide additional funds to help preserve affordable housing in our City. EOC supports and hopes the City Council will approve recent efforts by several Alexandria organizations to encourage the City Council to dedicate a small portion of the property tax revenue to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. Previously the primary funding source for the Trust Fund was voluntary contributions by developers. A recent court decision has placed these funds in jeopardy. Dedicating a small portion of the revenue from the tax rate would be a major step to ensuring that there will be a stable funding stream for the Trust Fund.

The fourth proposed budget item concerns a need for a comprehensive plan to preserve and hopefully, add affordable housing in our City. EOC supports, and hopes the City Council will approve recent efforts by several Alexandria organizations to seek funding

for such a planning process. The process to develop and ultimately produce a comprehensive plan for affordable housing would provide the City and its citizens an essential blueprint to move forward.

Thank you for your consideration of our requests. If you have any questions regarding the EOC's support for the proposed budget items in this letter, please contact me at 703-578-3054.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allen C. Lomax". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "A".

Allen C. Lomax  
Chair

cc: James K. Hartmann, City Manager

2  
4-4-05



# Alexandria Interfaith Association

491 North Owen Street, Alexandria, VA 22304-2245

March 31, 2005

RECEIVED

APR 05 2005

The Honorable Mayor  
and Members of the City Council  
Alexandria City Hall  
301 King Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Paul Glist  
Alexandria Bahá'i  
Community  
Co-president

Dr. Elbert Ransom, Jr.  
Downtown Baptist Church  
Co-president

The Rev. Carla Thompson  
Meade Memorial Episcopal  
Church  
Vice-president

Michelle Conn  
Alexandria Bahá'i  
Community  
Secretary-Treasurer

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council:

We, the members of the Alexandria Interfaith Association, are proud of the diversity in our city, and are eager in encouraging you and the City Council in assuring that all of those who live and work here are provided the opportunity to buy and lease housing. As you are aware the strength of our city rests upon such people. Included with this letter is a defining statement called "Moral Principles for Affordable Housing" which was presented to council in June 2001.

Currently, we are experiencing a period of time when the threat of rising taxes and an all too expensive real estate market negate the possibility of many of our citizens continuing to assume residency in the city of Alexandria. It has been our hope that the increasing amount of commercial development would ease the real estate tax burden, however that has not been realized.

We join others, of like thought, in requesting that you approve the following measures in an effort to protect our elderly and moderate and lower income residents:

- Lower the property tax rate to prevent displacing more homeowners;
- Expand property tax assistance for moderate/low-income homeowners;
- Provide funds for preservation and creation of workforce housing, and
- Support the creation of an action plan and expanded policy options to make housing availability a reality in the city of Alexandria.

Your support and action on the above mentioned measures are greatly appreciated.

With warmest regards,

Paul Glist,  
Co-President  
[pglist@comcast.net](mailto:pglist@comcast.net)

Elbert Ransom, Jr.  
Co-President  
[elran36@aol.com](mailto:elran36@aol.com)

## Moral Principles for Affordable Housing

Our world is enriched when we embrace the entirety of humankind as one family. We experience discovery, challenges and growth. We are all impoverished when we lose variety in our neighbors and friends. “The garden which is pleasing to the eye and which makes the heart glad, is the garden in which are growing side by side flowers of every hue, form and perfume, and the joyous contrast of color is what makes for charm and beauty.”<sup>i</sup>

**We are all enriched by diversity, and all impoverished when we lose variety in our neighbors.**

Our community is larger than just people of means.

**We lose our history and our future by becoming merely a community of those with means.**

Our community includes our neighbors who embody our rich history—a long history as a community of free blacks. We lose our history if we force our neighbors to leave. Our community includes those who wish to join us. Our development and prosperity in Northern Virginia has been fueled by the energies of those who strive to improve their lives and the lives of those around them. We rob the future by barring our gates to new entrants to our economy.

Our community includes our children. We squander our investment in building an Alexandria community if our children cannot afford to come home.

Money is not the only measure of status and belonging in our community. We are all the rays of one sun, the fruits of one tree, and the leaves of one branch.

It is unjust to exile the poor by reason of their poverty, or to bar our doors to the stranger.

**Money cannot be the only measure of status and belonging in our community.**

America remains shackled by a great legacy of prejudice and separation. We and our children will not overcome that legacy if we live in a homogeneous community. Our blind imitation of the past and our silence becomes “the ally of the forces of social stagnation.”<sup>ii</sup>

**Without relentless effort, we will perpetuate a legacy of prejudice and separation.**

We must raise the call for justice for those who cannot speak for themselves. We must “be as a lamp unto them that walk in darkness, a haven for the distressed, an upholder and defender of the victim of oppression.”<sup>iii</sup>

**We have a moral obligation to speak for the voiceless.**

**For what purpose do we raise public money, if not to aid those in need?**

For what else are we collecting taxes? To whom else should people of low and moderate income look to remedy the conditions under which they are living today?

2  
4-4-05

1300 Key Drive  
Alexandria, VA 22302-3410  
February 24, 2005

Mr. Mayor and Members of the City Council  
Alexandria City Council  
City Hall, Suite 2300  
301 King Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Re: Budget Support for Key Drive Drainage Study

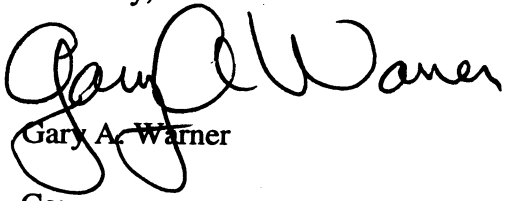
Dear Mr. Mayor and Members of the City Council:

I am writing to you and the other council members requesting your support to maintain the Key Drive Drainage Study funding priority and funding level in the FY 2006/7 budget. Also, I would like to thank you for the work the city has already done for us. Councilman Gaines toured the Key Drive Drainage area with some of our neighbors this past year. Later in December 2004, Ms. Baker and Mr. Baier attended a neighborhood meeting, after normal working hours, to hear our concerns. With these efforts we were able to get the study added to the capital budget late in the cycle.

The current Key Drive drainage plan is decades old and needs to be updated. Storm water runoff has increased from new construction, existing construction expansion, and road widening over the past 40-plus years. The routing of water runoff, the size of the channel, and its condition leave us with an inept drainage system. The adequacy of channel's varying widths, depths, bends, and undersized culverts all come to question during moderate rainfalls. These conditions wreak havoc under heavy rain conditions. Frequently, we experience partial or full flooding in many yards (my yard becomes an impromptu holding pond,) there is continual soil erosion – a concern since we are in a Chesapeake Bay Resource Protected Area, and some neighbors incur serious property damage. While we can anticipate future growth and expansion throughout the community, a moratorium on such growth would not ameliorate the situation – it is here now. A thorough study of current and future drainage requirements in the vicinity of Key Drive would enable the city to identify and implement a plan for correcting the challenges we have.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,



Gary A. Warner

Cc:

- Ms. Jackie Henderson, City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
- Rich Baier, Director of Transportation and Environmental Services
- Jim Hartmann, City Manager
- Bruce Johnson, Director of Management and Budget

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4-4-05

James J. Laychak  
1302 Key Drive  
Alexandria, VA. 22302  
703.461.0085 (Home)  
703.627.8071 (Cell)  
jlaychak@pentagonmemorial.net

Copy

VIA FACSIMILE and MAIL

February 10, 2005

The Honorable Mayor William D. Euille  
City of Alexandria  
301 King Street  
Alexandria, VA. 22314

Dear Mayor Euille:

I am writing to you and the rest of City Council to strongly urge you to support a capital project that is currently proposed for the Fiscal Year 2006 and 2007 budgets. This project is the Key Drive Drainage Study and as I understand it, the money requested for this project will be used to study and design a solution for the Key Drive flooding problem in FY2006 with construction to follow in FY2007. As a resident of Key Drive, I can assure you this is a problem that needs to be addressed. I know a number of residents have already expressed their concerns to various members of City Council. The current drainage system is at least 50 years old and is inadequate to handle the flow of water that arises during major storms.

The Department of Transportation and Environmental Services has recommended funding for this project and has summarized the supporting factors for this project as follows:

- The storm water channel that flows in front of many of the yards on Key Drive and Francis Hammond Parkway is subject to periodic flooding.
- During significant rainfall, the water in the channel overflows the banks and causes flooding in yards, driveways, and some of the residences.
- This flooding blocks some driveways, preventing access into and out of the properties.
- This flooding also causes repeated property damage to some of the homes along Key Drive and Francis Hammond Parkway.
- This flooding has occurred for many years.

James J. Laychak  
1302 Key Drive  
Alexandria, VA. 22302  
703.461.0085 (Home)  
703.627.8071 (Cell)  
jlaychak@pentagonmemorial.net

I would add that this problem is only going to get worse. I am sure there are many other competing projects in the budget that demand funding, but there will always be competing projects that require funding. This problem needs to be fixed. Money has been requested in the budget to address the problem, and now it is up to all of you to make sure this project is adequately funded. As a resident of Key Drive I respectfully urge you and the rest of City Council to appropriately fund this project so that the right solution can be designed and built as soon as reasonably possible. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

  
James J. Laychak

Cc: Ms. Redella S. Pepper, Vice Mayor  
Members of City Council  
Mr. Jim Hartmann, City Manager  
✓ Ms. Jackie M. Henderson, City Clerk and Clerk of Council  
Mr. Bruce Johnson, Director, Management and Budget  
Mr. Rich Baier, Director, Transportation and Environmental Services

2  
4-4-05



"Eileen Longstreet"  
<directorssa@pop.net>  
03/30/2005 01:55 PM

To <Karen.yakubow@alexandriava.gov>  
cc  
bcc  
Subject

Karen: attached is the letter from Anice wilson for inclusion in the 4/4/05 public hearing Her interest is in the Senior Taxi funding.  
Also, I reiterate below the names and addresses of those who have asked us (so far) to be allowed to speak on the Senior Taxi program budget.

~~Phyllis Reddington, 800 S. Washington St, 22314 703-549-5895~~  
~~James Anderson, 225 Whiting St #722, 22311 703-981-2285~~  
Anice Wilson, 4901 Seminary Road #713 , 22311 703-379-6160

I will send in any other names of folks who contact us about attending the public hearing

Thank you for your assistance on the phone.

Sincerely,  
Eileen H. Longstreet



Exec. Dir. Anice Wilson-Sr Taxi Rider for public hearing 4-4-05.doc



March 30, 2005

To: Alexandria City Council and Mayor Euille

From: Anice Wilson, Senior Taxi Rider

**RE: SeniorTaxi Funding in upcoming budget year**

Ladies and Gentlemen:

If it weren't for my medical condition, I would be present in person to discuss my interest in and need for the Senior Taxi service.

I have been a senior taxi rider for many years. I am no longer able to drive.

The Senior Taxi service is a very needed one; I know this from my years as Director of Hopkins House, a United Way agency. The need was there in 1985 when I retired and it is an even greater need today. For some riders, they may go to the doctor only four or five times a year. For others, including me, doctor visits are more frequent. I have several appointments every few weeks. This is why Senior Taxi is so important to me.

Many people, again including me, cannot afford the regular fare for these trips. Without the subsidy from the City, I would not be able to get to the doctor when I NEED to go. It means a lot to me, and others, to have the security of knowing that I can get to the grocery store, and doctors' appointment, and to the hospital for needed treatment.

Please continue to fund the costs of this program that is so sorely needed by many of Alexandria's elderly, disabled and infirmed.

Sincerely,

Anice Wilson

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4-4-05

Copy

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Alexandria, VA. 22302  
703.461.0085 (Home)  
703.627.8071 (Cell)  
jlaychak@pentagonmemorial.net

VIA FACSIMILE and MAIL

February 10, 2005

The Honorable Mayor William D. Euille  
City of Alexandria  
301 King Street  
Alexandria, VA. 22314

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Sincerely,



James J. Laychak

Cc: Ms. Redella S. Pepper, Vice Mayor  
Members of City Council  
Mr. Jim Hartmann, City Manager  
✓ Ms. Jackie M. Henderson, City Clerk and Clerk of Council  
Mr. Bruce Johnson, Director, Management and Budget  
Mr. Rich Raier, Director, Transportation and Environmental Services

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4-4-05

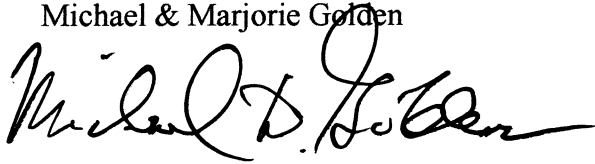
To: Ms. Jackie M. Henderson,  
Clerk of the Council

Ms. Henderson:

I enclose for distribution as indicated copies of our letter to Councilman Gaines. We would appreciate it if you could see to the distribution of the enclosed copies. A copy of the letter and attachment are attached for your records.

Thank you.

Michael & Marjorie Golden

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael D. Golden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "M".

1120 Francis Hammond Pkwy  
Alexandria, VA 22302  
February 10, 2005

Councilman Ludwig P. Gaines  
Alexandria City Council  
City Hall, Suite 2300  
301 King Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Re: Budget: Support of Key Drive Drainage Study

Dear Councilman Gaines:

We had the pleasure of meeting you last year during an early morning tour of the stream/storm sewer which runs from N. Quaker Lane down Key Drive and Francis Hammond Parkway. Although that meeting was prompted by concerns about the possible added drainage burdens which might result from the planned Presbyterian development, you were able to view, personally, the flooding damage on nearly every bordering property which has occurred and continues to occur with every major rainstorm.

We appreciate that the Council was responsive to our neighborhoods concern about the added burdens of development, and are writing now to ask your, and the Council's, support for the Department of Transportation and Environment's proposed budgeting to fully analyze and correct the current flooding problems which are the result of decades of growth and development wholly independent of the proposed new development. Mr. Baier and Ms. Baker of T&E have been made fully aware of the damage we all suffer several times a year from the inadequacy of a current solution to a terrible flooding problem. They have responded with the critically important Key Drive Drainage Study budget proposal.

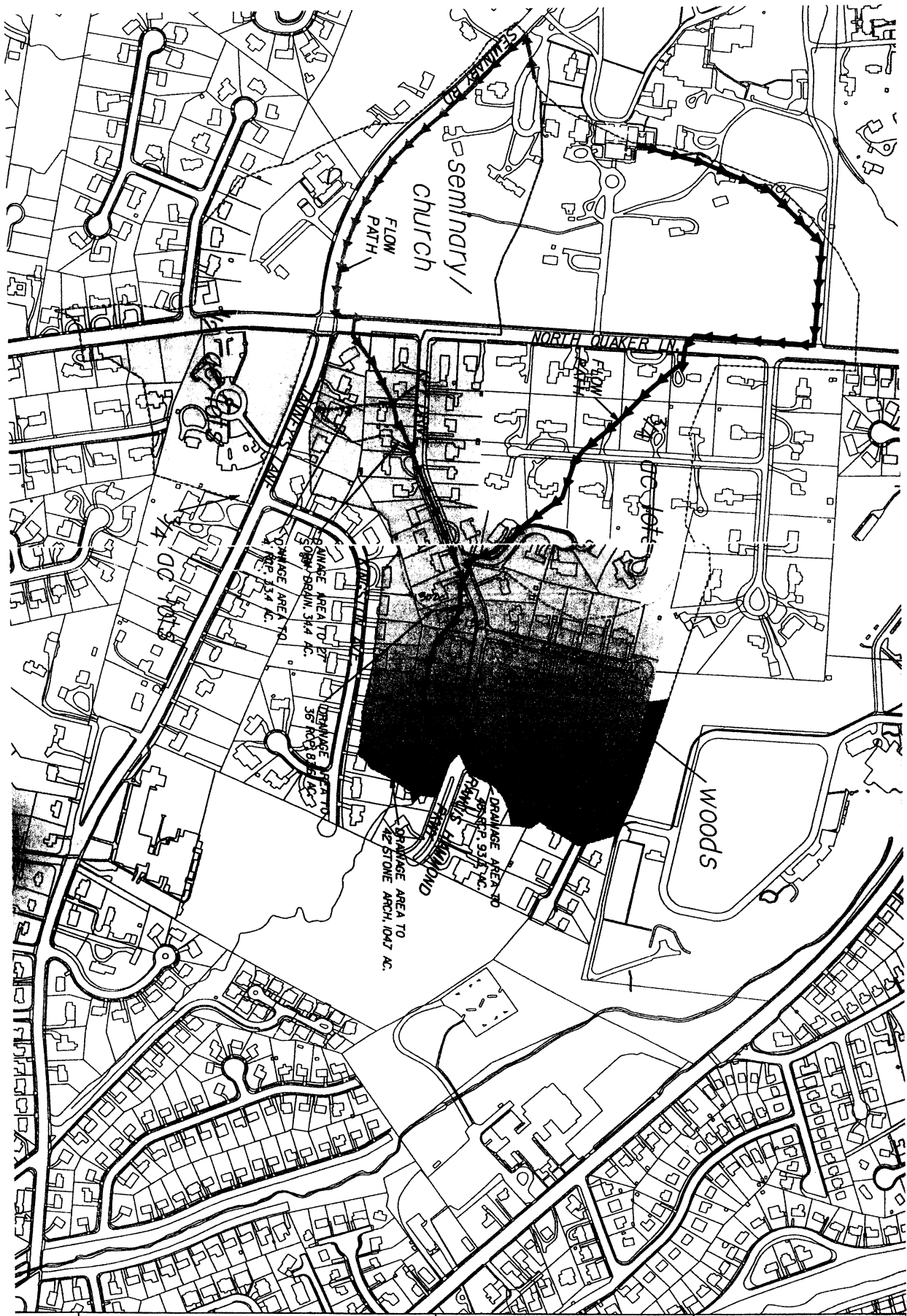
I am enclosing a copy of a map provided by the City which outlines the flood plain which feeds this stream. In addition to including the entire Seminary property and a large segments of North Quaker Lane, Seminary Road and Janney's Lane, it picks up all excess flow from the Chinquapin Park area (especially the area previously pervious and now paved for temporary parking during the several years of construction at TC Williams), and from the Kingston Avenue lots uphill from Key Drive. In all, well over 100 families own properties impacted by this flood plain. The majority of those taxpayers has been, and continues to be, annual victims of the inadequacies of the 50-year-old storm system.

We hope you will share your personal observations with the other members of Council, to whom we are sending a copy of this letter through the Clerk of the Council, and give full support to this urgent and significant budget item.

Sincerely yours,

Michael & Marjorie Golden

Cc: Mayor and Members of the City Council c/o Secretary of the Council  
Rich Baier, Director, Dept of Transportation and Environmental Services  
Jim Hartmann, City Manager  
Jackie M. Henderson, Clerk of the City Council  
Bruce Johnson, Director of Management and Budget



**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA**  
 Transportation & Environmental Services

KEY DRIVE

DESIGN ENGINEER:	JEH	Date:	09/04
CADD ENGINEER:	MSQ	Date:	09/04
DIVISION CHIEF:		Date:	