



**COA Contact Us: Don't Restrict Library Access by Cutting Hours**

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,

Susan Neumann to: alicia.hughes, council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg,  
rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

03/10/2010 08:22 AM

Please respond to Susan Neumann

2  
3-10-10

Time: [Wed Mar 10, 2010 08:22:45] Message ID: [19915]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

**First Name:** Susan

**Last Name:** Neumann

**Street Address:** 1704 Russell Road

**City:** Alexandria

**State:** VA

**Zip:** 22301

**Phone:** 703-664-0405

**Email Address:** sd.neumann@gmail.com

**Subject:** Don't Restrict Library Access by Cutting Hours

Dear Elected Officials:

I am extremely upset that the Library Board and  
the City Manager have proposed cutting Duncan Library's operating hours.

This is an incredibly short-sighted and unreasonable cut, particularly  
considering that, during an economic downturn, library resources are in  
greater demand.

For working families, the reduced hours would make the  
libraries virtually inaccessible during the week, effectively  
disenfranchising them from this valuable service. For children, these  
shortened hours would mean morning programs and storytimes would be delayed  
or cut, and evening storytimes would be eliminated. For adults, evening  
programs -- such as book clubs and author talks -- would likely be  
eliminated, and the meeting rooms would be inaccessible for community  
groups and library events, as all these typically begin at or after  
7pm.

Is this worth a savings of just \$173,000 annually, when the cost is reducing access to all of Alexandria's neighborhood branches?

**Comments:**

If you've never visited Duncan Library, I encourage you to do so. It's a true neighborhood library; many patrons live within walking distance, and the staff knows practically every child by name. It is, without a doubt, a central part of the Del Ray community and an invaluable City service.

Please keep the library open in the evening. The impact of the reduced hours is extremely disproportionate to the amount of the budget cut achieved.

I volunteer twice each week at Duncan Library. I care enough to commit my personal time -- I hope you will care enough to ensure all of Alexandria's residents have the opportunity to visit it as well.

Thank

you for the opportunity to comment on the FY 2011

Budget.

Sincerely,  
Susan D. Neumann



**COA Contact Us: Library Hours**

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,  
Elisa Nebolsine to: alicia.hughes, council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg,  
rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

03/10/2010 08:27 AM

Please respond to Elisa Nebolsine

Time: [Wed Mar 10, 2010 08:27:31] Message ID: [19916]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Elisa  
**Last Name:** Nebolsine  
**Street Address:** 6 West Howell Ave  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22301  
**Phone:** 202 361-8674  
**Email Address:** Elisa@CognitiveTherapyforKids.Com  
**Subject:** Library Hours

Dear Mayor Euille & Councilmembers,

I am writing in reference to the

proposed reduction in library hours at Duncan. I understand that this is a

very challenging economic climate, and that you are being forced to make

some difficult decisions. With that in mind I still urge you to

reconsider your cuts to Duncan.

There are several reasons for this

request. First, selfishly, I view Duncan as a tremendous resource and

frequently use it at all hours. Both my husband and I work full time.

We have three young children. If Duncan were to cut back as significantly

as proposed we would have a very hard time getting there at all (and the

city would lose a lot of revenue is our late fees!).

**Comments:**

Secondly, at a

time when so many people are out of work or looking for work it seems

counterintuitive to reduce one of the few  
free resources that can help

people stay in communication (via computer and email) and actively look for

the best job  
opportunities.

There are many more reasons why I hope

Duncan does not get its hours cut, but I will not belabor the point. This

is the first  
letter I have ever written to the City in this capacity, and

it is my great hope that you will reconsider your  
decision.

Sincerely,

Elisa Nebolsine



**COA Contact Us: Library Funding**

**Mike and Linda Oliver** to: william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,  
alicia.hughes, council, delpepper,  
paulcsmedberg, rose.boyd,  
jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

03/10/2010 09:36 AM

**Please respond to Mike and Linda Oliver**

**Time: [Wed Mar 10, 2010 09:35:53] Message ID: [19920]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Mike and Linda  
**Last Name:** Oliver  
**Street Address:** 3113 Circle Hill Road  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** Va  
**Zip:** 22305-1607  
**Phone:** 703-683-3547  
**Email Address:** Inmoliver@comcast.net  
**Subject:** Library Funding

Dear Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Donley and members of City Council,

Please consider keeping all of the Alexandria City Public Library hours the same as they are now because they are necessary to continue providing morning children's programs and evening hours for adult and student use as well as a space to hold community meetings. We feel that reducing hours of operation would seriously cut into these programs and perhaps eliminate them all together. We appreciate the difficult choices facing you at this time.  
Thank you, Linda & Mike Oliver



**COA Contact Us: Duncan Library**

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,  
**Brooke Adams** to: alicia.hughes, council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg,  
rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

03/10/2010 09:42 AM

**Please respond to Brooke Adams**

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**Time: [Wed Mar 10, 2010 09:42:29] Message ID: [19921]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

**First Name:** Brooke

**Last Name:** Adams

**Street Address:** 1600 Hancock Ave

**City:** Alexandria

**State:** VA

**Zip:** 22301

**Phone:** 7032990069

**Email Address:** brookea@alumni.virginia.edu

**Subject:** Duncan Library

I am extremely upset that the Library Board and the City Manager have proposed cutting the Barrett, Burke, and Duncan Library's operating hours.

This is an incredibly short-sighted and unreasonable cut, particularly considering that, during an economic downturn, library resources are in greater demand.

For working families, the reduced hours would make the libraries virtually inaccessible during the week. For children, these shortened hours would mean morning programs and storytimes would be delayed or cut, and evening storytimes would be eliminated. For adults, evening programs -- such as book clubs and author talks -- would likely be eliminated, and the meeting rooms would be inaccessible for community groups and library events, as all these typically begin at or after 7pm.

**Comments:**

Our libraries are a central part of our community and an invaluable City service. Please keep the library open in the evening -- the impact of the reduced hours is extremely disproportionate to the amount of the budget cut

achieved.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the FY 2011

Budget.



**COA Contact Us: Library Cuts**

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,  
**Anna Holster** to: alicia.hughes, council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg,  
rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

03/10/2010 09:44 AM

**Please respond to Anna Holster**

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**Time: [Wed Mar 10, 2010 09:43:54] Message ID: [19922]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Anna  
**Last Name:** Holster  
**Street Address:** 122 Roberts Lane  
Unit 400  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 215-290-4009  
**Email Address:** aholster@gwmail.gwu.edu  
**Subject:** Library Cuts

I was recently informed that a proposal for reducing library hours has been suggested. I am personally very upset by this proposal, as my daughter and I are avid supporters and users of the Barrett Branch of the Alexandria Library. My 6-year-old daughter is a first grader at Douglas MacArthur Elementary School and attends the Campagna Center after school every day until 6pm. Following school, we have dinner, then visit the library several evenings a week. We typically visit the library during the 7-9pm time frame, and generally see a number of children and other patrons utilizing the library and its accommodations.

If the hour of closing is reduced from 9pm to 7pm, I am afraid my daughter and I will no longer have the opportunity to take advantage of what the library has to offer, as we typically patronize the library only in the evening due to school and work responsibilities. Like many working families in Alexandria, the only opportunity to visit the library is during the evening hours and having



**Comments:**

visited the library at various hours throughout the day, I can safely assert that the evening hours are some of the library's busiest periods on weekdays. The elimination of evening access to the library would surely deprive many Alexandria residents of the opportunity to take advantage of everything the library system has to offer. Further, the reduction in hours would lead to the elimination of all evening story times, book clubs, and activities for adults, which provide a necessary community resource.

While I understand the financial constraints you are under, I also believe the library is a valuable resource for our community and the proposed cuts would effectively eliminate library access for most working families, while resulting in only modest budget cuts relative to the immense losses. I hope that another proposal for elimination costs can be considered that does not lead to loss of access to the library for working families.

Thank you for considering my comments,

Anna R. Holster



**COA Contact Us: budget**

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley, alicia.hughes,  
**Ann Herlin** to: council, delpepper, paulcmedberg, rose.boyd,  
jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

03/10/2010 09:49 AM

**Please respond to Ann Herlin**

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**Time: [Wed Mar 10, 2010 09:48:52] Message ID: [19923]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

**First Name:** Ann

**Last Name:** Herlin

**Street Address:** 53 Skyhill Rd. # 301

**City:** Alexandria

**State:** VA

**Zip:** 22314

**Phone:** 703 823-5964

**Email Address:** ann@opmh.org

**Subject:** budget

Mayor, Vice Mayor, and members of City Council,  
I am writing to express

my concern about the proposed budget reductions in both the housing budget

and the budget for  
the Dept. of Health & Human Services and the

Community Services Board. While I recognize that it is a difficult budget

year, I would strongly advocate that in difficult times we must pay

greater attention to the most vulnerable among us; NOT  
ask them to bear

the brunt of the cuts.

I consistently hear the need for affordable

housing expressed as one of Alexandria's most important needs. We have

lost  
significant affordable rental housing in the last decade, and it

simply hasn't been replaced with other affordable housing  
options. I am

proud to live in a city in which one of its stated strategic goals is to be

a "caring and inclusive community that

values its rich diversity,  
history, and culture, and promotes affordability." While it isn't  
perfect, I am proud of our safety net,  
and the strength of our supportive  
services through the governmental and non-profit sphere. I am proud of the  
strength of  
community that comes from multi-generational families who  
live here. I am proud to know that this truly is a diverse, multi-  
income  
community. All of these things are VERY important to me as a citizen who  
wants to live in a true community, and  
not an enclave of upper income  
people. But it feels like this is in jeopardy. I feel strongly that we  
must preserve all of the  
roughly 3,400 publicly-assisted units and  
tenant-based vouchers that Alexandria has, not just the ARHA units  
(including  
housing choice and section 8 vouchers). And, as our  
affordable rental stock has dropped so dramatically, we must be  
looking  
to how to increase our affordable housing options. While this may not be  
the time to increase, on such a critical  
goal, it is important not to go  
backwards.

I am also particularly concerned about cuts in programs for  
the poor, aged, sick, disadvantaged youth, and especially for the  
mentally ill -- especially when we know these same programs will also be  
facing reductions in state aid. While many of  
us are facing harder  
economic times, these are often the people who have nowhere to go. As I  
said above, it seems wrong  
to me to ask the most vulnerable to bear the  
brunt of the sacrifice.

I know the challenge is finding other areas of  
the budget to cut if these areas are preserved. I don't have enough  
knowledge of all the city workings to make specific recommendations, but

**Comments:**

I will note that something seems off kilter when the economic development

and marketing budgets are facing no reductions, and yet the poor, mentally

ill, and affordable housing budgets are. I know that economic

development and marketing are important to the long-term health, and I'm

not suggesting they be eliminated, but I would think at least some

reductions could be made there, given the stakes.

I didn't see any

reference to it in the budget summary, but one on-line comment also spoke

to the trolley. The trolley is nice if we can afford it, but I doubt

that it is the make or break reason for a tourist to come to Alexandria,

and / or to find their way down King Street. If cuts could be made

there, I would support them. (More than I would support cuts to DASH,

which is essential transportation to many, particularly - again - the

most vulnerable.)

Thank you,  
Ann Herlin



**COA Contact Us: Affordable Housing and the Budget**

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,

**Jim Mercury** to: alicia.hughes, council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg,  
rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

03/10/2010 09:51 AM

**Please respond to Jim Mercury**

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**Time: [Wed Mar 10, 2010 09:51:24] Message ID: [19925]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Jim  
**Last Name:** Mercury  
**Street Address:** 1204 S Washington St - Apt 624  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** Virginia  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:**

**Email Address:** chezms@earthlink.net

**Subject:** Affordable Housing and the Budget  
Dear Mr. Mayor and Council Members,

I am writing to urge you to reverse

the proposed severe cuts in City funding for affordable housing programs.

I believe many other constituents have written you presenting the facts and figures involved, including some relatively modest taxes and fees to consider that would maintain the affordable housing expenditures at the current levels; I fully endorse those arguments.

Additionally, I would

hope you consider the credibility of the City's elected leadership on this issue as well. Strategic plans, master plans, commissions, task forces, proclamations valuing compassion and diversity and the contributions to the City made by middle and lower income workers (including most of the City workforce performing the essential tasks needed to keep the whole thing

**Comments:** humming) – these mean nothing if the City abandons the issue in hard times.

Furthermore, what message would such severe cuts send to private

sector interests, real estate developers in particular? That the City talks a good game on affordable housing, but can be had on the issue if the pressure is intense enough? The Council has taken strong stands on the issue with Gunston Hall and Hunting Towers; these proposed cuts, if enacted, would send the opposite message.

Housing – shelter – is one of the staples of human existence, and should be a fundamental part of any progressive administration. I hope you will take a stand in support of that proposition.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Jim Mercury



**COA Contact Us: Proposed Duncan Library Changes**

**Nicholas Nebolsine to:** william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,  
alicia.hughes, council, delpepper,  
paulcsmedberg, rose.boyd, jackie.henderson,  
elaine.scott

03/10/2010 09:56 AM

**Please respond to Nicholas Nebolsine**

**Time: [Wed Mar 10, 2010 09:56:30] Message ID: [19926]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Nicholas  
**Last Name:** Nebolsine  
**Street Address:** 6 West Howell Avenue  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22301  
**Phone:** 703 739 7682  
**Email Address:** nebolsine@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Proposed Duncan Library Changes

Dear Mayor Euille & Councilmembers, I am writing in reference to the proposed reduction in library hours at Duncan. I understand that this is a very challenging economic climate, and that you are being forced to make some difficult decisions. With that in mind I still urge you to reconsider your cuts to Duncan Library. There are several reasons for this request.

Duncan is a tremendous resource and we frequently use it at all hours. Both my wife and I work full time. We have three young children. If Duncan were to cut back as significantly as proposed we would have a very hard time getting there at all.

**Comments:** Secondly, at a time when so many people are out of work or looking for work it seems counterintuitive to reduce one of the few free resources that can help people stay in communication (via computer and email) and actively look for the best job opportunities.

There are many more reasons why I believe Duncan does not  
get its hours cut and I hope the City of Alexandria will continue to  
provide a tremendous community resource.

Best Regards,  
Nicholas

Nebolsine





**COA Contact Us: Library hours cut - proposal**

**Vanessa Bustamante** to: william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,  
alicia.hughes, council, delpepper,  
paulcsmedberg, rose.boyd, jackie.henderson,  
elaine.scott

03/10/2010 10:31 AM

**Please respond to Vanessa Bustamante**

**Time: [Wed Mar 10, 2010 10:31:03] Message ID: [19927]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

**First Name:** Vanessa

**Last Name:** Bustamante

**Street Address:** 3201 Landover St. # 801

**City:** Alexandria

**State:** Virginia

**Zip:** 22305

**Phone:** 7038370834

**Email Address:** vanessabustamanteg@gmail.com

**Subject:** Library hours cut - proposal

Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor and Council Members:

I am extremely concerned

that the Library Board and the City Manager have proposed cutting the

Barrett,  
Burke, and Duncan Library's operating hours. This is an

incredibly short-sighted and unreasonable cut,  
particularly considering

that, during an economic downturn, library resources are in greater  
demand.

For working families, the reduced hours would make the

libraries virtually inaccessible during the week. For  
children, these

shortened hours would mean morning programs and storytimes would be delayed

or cut, and  
evening storytimes would be eliminated. For adults, evening

**Comments:** programs -- such as book clubs and author  
talks -- would likely be

eliminated, and the meeting rooms would be inaccessible for community

groups and  
library events, as all these typically begin at or after

7pm.

Our libraries are a central part of our community and an

invaluable City service. Please keep the library open  
in the evening --

the impact of the reduced hours is extremely disproportionate to the amount

of the budget  
cut achieved.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Bustamante  
City of

Alexandria Resident



**COA Contact Us: Library Hours**

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,  
**Cathleen Phelps** to: alicia.hughes, council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg,  
rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

03/10/2010 10:37 AM

Please respond to Cathleen Phelps

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**Time: [Wed Mar 10, 2010 10:37:41] Message ID: [19928]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

**First Name:** Cathleen

**Last Name:** Phelps

**Street Address:** 514 Prince St.

**City:** Alexandria

**State:** VA

**Zip:** 22314

**Phone:** 703 549 6189

**Email Address:** catmandu07@gmail.com

**Subject:** Library Hours

I am writing about the proposed reduction in library operating hours for the Barrett, Burke and Duncan branches. As I understand it, these cuts will save about \$173,000 annually, a modest reduction when considering the size of the overall operating budget. Yet the impact of the change on the community will be significant:

\* Library resources are in greater demand

during an economic downturn.

\* Working families will have almost no

opportunity to use library resources.

\* Children of all ages benefit

socially and educationally from library programs, resources and study

opportunities. We should be looking for ways to INCREASE, not decrease,

the use of these resources and programs for our children so they are better

prepared for school and beyond.

\* Evening programs such as book clubs,

**Comments:**

author talks and access to meeting rooms will be a loss for our adult

community. This is important because, again, library resources become even

more of a valuable service to our neighborhoods when the economy is down.

Ideally, there is a way to achieve greater financial reductions without such negative impact for people in Alexandria. If not, shouldn't the cost savings be significant enough to justify the pain of the service reduction? I think so. But what I am seeing here is a noticeable and negative impact for Alexandria in exchange for not a lot of cost savings. I know there are creative people working on this budget and I bet they can find other and better solutions to balance the budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the FY 2011 Budget.



**COA Contact Us: FY 2011 Budget**

**Maureen Schweers** to: william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,  
alicia.hughes, council, delpepper,  
paulcsmedberg, rose.boyd, jackie.henderson,  
elaine.scott

03/08/2010 01:34 AM

**Please respond to Maureen Schweers**

**Time: [Mon Mar 08, 2010 01:33:55] Message ID: [19786]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

**First Name:** Maureen

**Last Name:** Schweers

**Street Address:** 2311 Commonwealth Ave.

**City:** Alexandria

**State:** VA

**Zip:** 22301

**Phone:** 703-838-0676

**Email Address:** maureen.schweers@gmail.com

**Subject:** FY 2011 Budget

I am extremely upset that the Library Board and the City Manager have proposed cutting Duncan Library's operating hours. This is an incredibly short-sighted and unreasonable cut, particularly considering that, during an economic downturn, library resources are in greater demand.

For

working families, the reduced hours would make the libraries virtually inaccessible during the week. For children, these shortened hours would mean morning programs and storytimes would be delayed or cut, and evening storytimes would be eliminated. For adults, evening programs -- such as book clubs and author talks -- would likely be eliminated, and the meeting rooms would be inaccessible for community groups and library events, as all these typically begin at or after 7pm.

**Comments:** Is this worth a savings of just

\$173,000 annually, when the cost is reducing access to all of Alexandria's neighborhood branches?

If you've never visited Duncan Library, I encourage you to do so. It's a true neighborhood library; many patrons live within walking distance, and the staff knows practically every child by name. It is, without a doubt, a central part of the Del Ray community and an valuable City service.

Please keep the library open in the evening.

The impact of the reduced hours is extremely disproportionate to the amount of the budget cut achieved.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the FY 2011 Budget.



**COA Contact Us: Please do not cut the library hours**

**Victoria Serrano Ruiz** to: william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,  
alicia.hughes, council, delpepper,  
paulcsmmedberg, rose.boyd, jackie.henderson,  
elaine.scott

03/10/2010 11:10 AM

**Please respond to Victoria Serrano Ruiz**

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**Time: [Wed Mar 10, 2010 11:10:36] Message ID: [19930]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

**First Name:** Victoria

**Last Name:** Serrano Ruiz

**Street Address:** 280 Yoakum Parkway #1205

**City:** Alexandria

**State:** VA

**Zip:** 22304

**Phone:** 703-347-3446

**Email Address:** serranoruizvictoria@gmail.com

**Subject:** Please do not cut the library hours

I am concerned that the Library Board and the City Manager have proposed cutting the Barrett, Burke, and Duncan Library's operating hours. This is an incredibly short-sighted and unreasonable cut, particularly considering that, during an economic downturn, library resources are in greater demand.

For working families, the reduced hours would make the libraries virtually inaccessible during the week. For children, these shortened hours would mean morning programs and storytimes would be delayed or cut, and evening storytimes would be eliminated. For adults, evening programs -- such as book clubs and author talks -- would likely be eliminated, and the meeting rooms would be inaccessible for community groups and library events, as all these typically begin at or after 7pm.

**Comments:**

Is this worth a savings of just \$173,000 annually, when the cost is reducing access to all of Alexandria's neighborhood branches?

Our

libraries are a central part of our community and an invaluable City service. Please keep the library open in the evening -- the impact of the reduced hours is extremely disproportionate to the amount of the budget cut achieved.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the FY 2011

Budget.



Document used for First Night tonight

Ann Dorman

to:

Jackie.Henderson

03/10/2010 11:14 AM

Show Details

Jackie:

Attached is the document we would like to be part of our testimony at the public hearing today. Thanks!

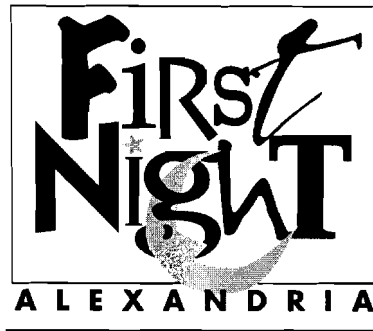
*Ann*

Ann M. Dorman, CMP

Meetings & Events of Distinction

703.626.1266

[ADorman@MeetingsandEventsofDistinction.com](mailto:ADorman@MeetingsandEventsofDistinction.com)



### First Night Alexandria and the City of Alexandria

Why does Alexandria have a First Night.?

1. It is a community celebration through music and dance, magic and clowns, rock and roll and fireworks.
2. It is family-friendly, safe, affordable and accessible to all.
3. It is a time for families and individuals of all ages and ethnicities, in a casual atmosphere, to celebrate the end of one year and the hope of a new one.

Additionally, in 2009 First Night

1. Paid \$97,397 in goods, services and fees to Alexandria City businesses (57.98% of expense budget)
  2. Brought an estimated 5000-7000 people to Alexandria on New Year's Eve
  3. 80.8% of survey respondents said they would NOT have come to Alexandria on New Year's Eve if there was not a First Night
  4. The average amount of money people spent other than the purchase of their badge was \$45 per person
  5. Embassy Suites and three Kimpton Hotels were sold out; Hilton was nearly sold out.
  6. 60.2% of survey respondents have been to First Night more than one time
  7. The first ever Fun Hunt generated 104 teams of 4-6 people each walking throughout Old Town from the Torpedo Factory to the Embassy Suites the afternoon of December 31
  8. Every TV affiliate (NBC, CBS, ABC, Fox and News Channel 8) was in Alexandria on December 31
  9. Fox broadcast live from the Embassy Suites Hotel on December 30 for two hours.
- ❖ First Night Alexandria was told early in the calendar year of 2009 to expect a 5% (\$2500) reduction in funding in 2010. We were prepared for that.
  - ❖ On February 17 First Night Alexandria was notified that the actual reduction would be \$12,500, 8.58% of the total budget.
  - ❖ The only way to make up that much of the budget would be to further reduce venues and performers.
  - ❖ In 2008 there were 30 venues.
  - ❖ In 2009 there were 19 venues.
  - ❖ In 2010 there could be as few as ten venues.

**Contact:** Ann Dorman, CMP  
First Night Alexandria Executive Director  
[ADorman@FirstNightAlexandria.org](mailto:ADorman@FirstNightAlexandria.org)  
703.626.1266 (direct)



**COA Contact Us: Library**

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,  
**Sheryl OKeefe** to: alicia.hughes, council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg,  
rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

03/10/2010 11:57 AM

**Please respond to Sheryl OKeefe**

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**Time: [Wed Mar 10, 2010 11:57:35] Message ID: [19936]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

**First Name:** Sheryl

**Last Name:** OKeefe

**Street Address:** 800 Chalfonte Dr

**City:** Alexandria

**State:** VA

**Zip:** 22305

**Phone:** 703-683-3879

**Email Address:** sheryl\_okeefe@hotmail.com

**Subject:** Library

To Mayor Euille and City Council Members, I am extremely upset that the Library Board and the City Manager have proposed cutting Duncan Library's operating hours. This is an incredibly short-sighted and unreasonable cut, particularly considering that, during an economic downturn, library resources are in greater demand.

For working families, the reduced hours would make the libraries virtually inaccessible during the week. For children, these shortened hours would mean morning programs and storytimes would be delayed or cut, and evening storytimes would be eliminated. For adults, evening programs -- such as book clubs and author talks -- would likely be eliminated, and the meeting rooms would be inaccessible for community groups and library events, as all these typically begin at or after 7pm. As an adult trying to get my Master's degree I've come to depend on the library for studying and research - all of which is done after my

**Comments:** kids have had dinner.

Is this worth a savings of just \$173,000

annually, when the cost is reducing access to all of Alexandria's neighborhood branches?

If you've never visited Duncan Library, I

encourage you to do so. It's a true neighborhood library; many patrons live within walking distance, and the staff knows practically every child by name. It is, without a doubt, a central part of the Del Ray community and an invaluable City service.

This is an absurd way to cut costs. I urge

you to keep the library open in the evening. The impact of the reduced hours is extremely disproportionate to the amount of the budget cut achieved.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the FY 2011

Budget. ~Sheryl O'Keefe



**COA Contact Us: Library Cuts in the FY 2011 Budget**

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,

**Charlotte Dugan** to: alicia.hughes, council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg,  
rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

03/10/2010 12:39 PM

**Please respond to Charlotte Dugan**

---

**Time: [Wed Mar 10, 2010 12:39:12] Message ID: [19938]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

**First Name:** Charlotte

**Last Name:** Dugan

**Street Address:** 711 A Massey Lane

**City:** Alexandria

**State:** VA

**Zip:** 22314

**Phone:** 703-549-0939

**Email Address:** peanutdugan@yahoo.com

**Subject:** Library Cuts in the FY 2011 Budget

I am extremely upset that the Library Board and the City Manager have proposed cutting the Barrett, Burke, and Duncan Library's operating hours.

This is an incredibly short-sighted and unreasonable cut, particularly considering that, during an economic downturn, library resources are in greater demand.

For working families, the reduced hours would make the libraries virtually inaccessible during the week. For children, these shortened hours would mean morning programs and storytimes would be delayed or cut, and evening storytimes would be eliminated. For adults, evening programs -- such as book clubs and author talks -- would likely be eliminated, and the meeting rooms would be inaccessible for community groups and library events, as all these typically begin at or after 7pm.

**Comments:**

Is this worth a savings of just \$173,000 annually, when the cost is reducing access to all of Alexandria's neighborhood branches?

Our

libraries are a central part of our community and an invaluable City service. Please keep the library open in the evening -- the impact of the reduced hours is extremely disproportionate to the amount of the budget cut achieved.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the FY 2011 Budget.

Charlotte Dugan

OTCA Storm Water Utility fee comments

Poul Hertel

to:

Jackie.Henderson

03/10/2010 12:47 PM

Cc:

"Alicia Hughes", "Del Pepper ", "Frank Fannon", "Frank Fannon IV ", "Mayor Bill Euille", "Paul Smedberg ", "Rob Krupicka", "Vice Mayor Kerry Donley"

Show Details

Dear Ms. Henderson

Please find attached the Old Town Civic Associations comments for the Budget public hearing regarding the Stormwater Utility Fee.

Sincerely

Poul Hertel

President Old Town Civic Association

**Old Town Civic Association, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 1213**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22313**

RE: Proposed Stormwater Utility Fee

Dear Mr. Mayor and Members of the City Council

While the Old Town Civic Association (OTCA) is grateful to the Staff from the Transportation & Environmental Services Department who took the time to present to us the proposed Stormwater Utility fee, we cannot support the proposed implementation.

OTCA does not question the need for servicing the Stormwater infrastructure and takes as a given that it along with education, safety and roads are a fundamental government function whose costs are everyone's responsibility. We therefore encourage the City to pursue alternative means like the Counties of Arlington and Fairfax, who have chosen to use an earmarked real-estate tax assessment instead.

OTCA concerns arise from two specific provisions in the fee structure.

The use of average size calculations means that smaller units end up subsidizing larger ones, which is a regressive fee structure.

To this is then added the non-green common ground for townhouses that are part of larger complexes, such as parking, alleys and private streets, which will be taxed as well. This levy is unfair, since it is a common practice for developers to regard parking lots and private roads as required open space in order to obtain more density. Since the City pushed for more density, the practice of substituting rooftops, streets and parking spaces for open space was condoned by the City, which now tries to penalize the residents for its own urban planning norms. The planning habit involves every townhouse community built since the mid-seventies.

The proposed levy/utility fee can be used to solve larger and more expensive problems, such as the combined sewers. Since there are no upper limits once the fee is introduced, it is not inconceivable that it will increase significantly. This could exacerbate the fairness issue raised previously and there will be less transparency for citizens in determining how they are being assessed. The property tax rate, which is set after many opportunities for public involvement, is a better instrument for public financing of core functions. Using a dedicated portion of the property tax rate also correlates more closely to the ability to pay.

Sincerely  
Poul Hertel  
*Old Town Civic Association Board President*



More About the Trolley

Joseph Shumard

to:

Janelle Schmidt

03/10/2010 01:24 PM

Show Details

A clarification first: the suggestions that there be a charge to ride the King Street Trolley or that funding for this be eliminated, have been made by members of the public and not from members of the City Council. Although the Trolley was not a subject of the Budget Work Session last night, it is important that we speak to our City officials and convey to them how important this issue is to the business community.

The Trolley has been a success since it started service on April 1, 2008. Ridership in the first year was approximately 640,000 and the ridership at the King Street Metro Station increased by about 3% - also in that first year! The funding for the trolley primarily comes from a 1% addition to the hotel tax (5.5% increased to 6.5%). Last year the trolley budget got cut as part of the across the board cuts -- so headways and service hours were reduced, although the tax that was associated with it generated increasing revenues.

At least for now, no one on the City Council is suggesting that funding of the King Street Trolley be reduced or eliminated. However the free Trolley is important to the business community and should be used as a model for expansion into other business districts in the City. If you wish to express these concerns to City Council, please call 703-746-4550 to sign up and speak at tonight's budget hearing beginning at 4pm in Council Chambers. Tina Leone will be there tonight as well to deliver the Chamber's comments on the FY2011 City Budget.

Thank you for your support!

Tina Leone

President/CEO

Alexandria Chamber of Commerce

801 N Fairfax St, Suite 402

Alexandria, Va 22314

Direct 703-739-3802

Cell 703-786-6037



**COA Contact Us: City Libraries / Fiscal Year 2011 Budget**

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,

**Dawn Hurto** to: alicia.hughes, council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg,  
rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

03/10/2010 01:43 PM

**Please respond to Dawn Hurto**

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**Time: [Wed Mar 10, 2010 13:42:55] Message ID: [19941]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Dawn  
**Last Name:** Hurto  
**Street Address:** 202 E Raymond Ave  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22301  
**Phone:** 703-765-1767  
**Email Address:** dawnwyse@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** City Libraries / Fiscal Year 2011 Budget  
We live in Del Ray and love the Duncan Library. It is an incredible resource for residents in advocating literacy, education overall and provides a space for neighbors and community groups to gather. Please do not cut its hours! As adults are working longer hours to make ends meet, the library's evening hours are critical for accessibility. Please don't

**Comments:** reduce access to the City's libraries -- important education and community places.  
Thank you for your time and attention.  
- Nate & Dawn  
Hurto  
Alexandria Residents



**COA Contact Us: Library Budget Cuts-FY 2011**

**Margaret Grathwohl** to: william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,  
alicia.hughes, council, delpepper,  
paulcsmberg, rose.boyd, jackie.henderson,  
elaine.scott

03/10/2010 02:20 PM

**Please respond to Margaret Grathwohl**

---

**Time: [Wed Mar 10, 2010 14:20:04] Message ID: [19942]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

**First Name:** Margaret

**Last Name:** Grathwohl

**Street Address:** 106 E. Maple St.

**City:** Alexandria

**State:** VA

**Zip:** 22301

**Phone:** 703-535-3063

**Email Address:** peggysue50@verizon.net

**Subject:** Library Budget Cuts-FY 2011

As a frequent user of the Duncan Library, I am extremely upset that the Library Board and the City Manager have proposed cutting its operating hours as part of the FY 2011 Budget. For working families, the reduced hours would make the libraries virtually inaccessible during times most-often used.

For taxpayers with children, these shortened hours would mean morning programs and storytimes would be delayed or cut, and evening storytimes would be eliminated. For adult taxpayers and voters, evening programs would likely be eliminated, and the meeting rooms would be inaccessible for community groups and library events, as all these typically begin at or after 7 PM.

**Comments:**

The impact of the reduced hours seems to far outweigh the savings-- \$173,000.00 to a line item that is already less than 2% of the City's total budget. The Library system has consistently been the victim of budget cuts (often quite disproportionate) and is already

operating on a shoe-string budget, with many basic library supplies,  
projects and programs being supplemented by Friends of the Library  
groups.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the FY 2011  
Budget.



**COA Contact Us: Budget Hearing - Housing**

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,  
**Lewis Simon** to: alicia.hughes, council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg,  
rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

03/10/2010 02:36 PM

From: Lewis Simon <simonlewisr@yahoo.com>  
To: william.euille@alexandriava.gov, frank.fannon@alexandriava.gov, kerry.donley@alexandriava.gov,  
alicia.hughes@alexandriava.gov, council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,  
rose.boyd@alexandriava.gov, jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov, elaine.scott@alexandriava.gov  
**Please respond to Lewis Simon <simonlewisr@yahoo.com>**

**Time: [Wed Mar 10, 2010 14:36:16] Message ID: [19943]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Lewis  
**Last Name:** Simon  
**Street Address:** 913 S Washington Street  
Apt #208  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 7033469096  
**Email Address:** simonlewisr@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Budget Hearing - Housing

Dear Council,

Simply put – Please reconsider cutting such an excessive amount of dollars from the budget for affordable housing programs in Alexandria.

Affordable housing is desperately needed by those professional who risk their lives on a daily basis to protect our lives and property. Imagine when the next great blizzard, hurricane, tornado arrives, or even worse yet a terrorist attack, again making the roads impassible. How much time will elapse prior to the first responders gaining access to Alexandria from their affordable homes in Woodbridge or other distant points? How will the City Administration cope with a crisis lacking the trained and dedicated first responders?

How much time will elapse

before the retail store workers, pharmacist, hardware store employees, and restaurant staff living far away from Alexandria are able to arrive?

Without them the community is unable to obtain the necessary resources required in the aftermath of a disaster.

Also it is worth mentioning

the citizens whom require affordable housing during the so called "good times". For example, the growing aging community who's numbers continues to grow, although their incomes remain fixed. Don't forget the entry and mid-level professionals, young families, the physically and mentally challenged, and those who have been downsized from their former careers.

All these groups all need affordable housing now.

The twenty-nine

percent (29.8%) or \$686,849.00 reduction in funding for the Housing (as stated in the 2011FY Budget Overview attached below) is unfair and excessive. Rather than decimating the Housing budget (impacting many residents) why not reduce the planned increased funding to other areas (impacting fewer residents). For example, reduce the increased funding for the Registrar of Voters (\$58,464.00), and Real Estate (\$149,124.00), and City Manager (\$49,060.00), and City Attorney (\$192,753.00) totaling \$449,401.00. The total reduction of funding to the Housing budget will drop from \$686,849.00 to \$237,448.00 or from 29% to 10%. This is still not an acceptable amount; however it is not unfairly excessive compared to the rest of the budget reductions listed in the report.

I understand cuts

are required in the newest budget, but you must be reasonable and prudent on where to make the cuts. Displacing many of the groups mentioned above will be the same as displacing a portion of your tax base. The migration of former residents to other locals will not ease the current financial difficulties, it will only exacerbate them. Please have the foresight necessary to provide the funds for affordable housing today assuring for a diverse and well prepared community.

So I ask once more - Please

reconsider cutting such an excessive amount of dollars from the budget for affordable housing programs in Alexandria.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lewis Simon  
Alexandria VA.

**Comments:**

FY 2011

Budget Overview

City of Alexandria – FY 2011 Proposed Budget 3-7

FY10

Approved Legislative & Executive City Council 524,157 528,231 4,074 0.8% City

Manager 1,654,638 1,703,698 49,060 3.0% City Attorney 2,806,519 2,999,272 192,753

6.9% City Clerk & Clerk of Council 419,178 411,493 (7,685) (1.8%) Total

Legislative & Executive 5,404,492 5,642,694 238,202 4.4%

Courts &

Constitutional Officers 18th Circuit Court 1,340,904 1,387,480 46,576 3.5% 18th

General District Court 79,228 59,585 (19,643) (24.8%) Clerk of

Court 1,563,551 1,519,459 (44,092) (2.8%) Commonwealth

Attorney 2,626,465 2,620,781 (5,684) (0.2%) Court Services

Unit 1,381,760 1,337,411 (44,349) (3.2%) Juvenile & Domestic Rel.

Court 34,155 34,512 357 1.0% Law Library 116,927 115,935 (992) (0.8%) Other Public

Safety & Justice 5,173,292 5,192,552 19,260 0.4% Registrar of Voters

1,070,439 1,128,902 58,463 5.5% Sheriff 25,826,168 26,639,084 812,916 3.1% Total

Courts & Constitutional 39,212,889 40,035,701 822,812 2.1%

General

Government Citizens Assistance 557,595 553,903 (3,692)

(0.7%) Finance 8,496,407 9,460,110 963,703 11.3% Procurement 910,105 946,506 36,401

4.0% General Services 11,400,484 11,735,647 335,163 2.9% Human

Rights 614,003 611,052 (2,951) (0.5%) ITS 6,504,441 6,946,545 442,104 6.8% Internal

Audit 223,233 228,976 5,743 2.6% Office of Management &

Budget 1,139,968 1,186,244 46,276  
 4.1% Non-Departmental 12,264,978 10,630,132 (1,634,846) (13.3%) Cash Capital  
 4,400,038 4,000,000 (400,038) (9.1%) Debt Service 37,418,614 37,916,774 498,160  
 1.3% Office on Women 1,321,444 1,404,675 83,231 6.3% Human  
 Resources 3,090,821 2,660,918 (429,903) (13.9%) Real  
 Estate 1,516,494 1,665,618 149,124 9.8% Office of  
 Communications 1,306,261 1,232,716 (73,545) (5.6%) Total General  
 Government 91,164,886 91,179,816 14,930 0.0%  
 Operating  
 Agencies Fire 39,443,967 40,076,376 632,409  
 1.6% Police 53,632,400 52,137,574 (1,494,826) (2.8%) Emergency  
 Communications 0 318,301 318,301 -Health 6,866,006 7,042,544 176,538 2.6% Other  
 Health Activities 1,038,600 1,038,600 -Human  
 Services 29,709,708 28,673,636 (1,036,072) (3.5%) MH / MR /  
 SA 17,222,379 18,345,546 1,123,167 6.5% Housing 2,306,072 2,619,223 (686,849)  
 (29.8%) Economic Development Activities 3,246,153 3,520,653 274,500  
 8.5% Planning & Zoning 5,337,436 5,359,355 21,919 0.4% Historic  
 Alexandria 2,533,323 2,476,606 (56,717) (2.2%) Library 6,074,971 6,247,735 172,764  
 2.8% RPCA 18,949,746 19,313,139 363,393 1.9% Transit  
 Subsidies 16,035,685 15,939,422 (96,263) (0.6%) Transportation & Environ  
 Svc's 27,217,327 27,262,282 44,955 0.2% Total Operating  
 Agencies 229,613,773 229,370,992 (242,781)  
 (0.1%)  
 Education Schools 164,594,674 167,886,567 3,291,893 2.0% Other  
 Educational Activities 12,304 12,229 (75) (0.6%) Total  
 Education 164,606,978 167,898,796 3,291,818 2.0%  
 Grand Total 530,003,018  
 534,127,999 4,124,981 0.8%





**COA Contact Us: Duncan Library Hours**

**Maureen McNulty** to: william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,  
alicia.hughes, council, delpepper,  
paulcsmberg, rose.boyd, jackie.henderson,  
elaine.scott

03/10/2010 08:25 PM

**Please respond to Maureen McNulty**

**Time: [Wed Mar 10, 2010 20:25:35] Message ID: [19955]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Maureen  
**Last Name:** McNulty  
**Street Address:** 3302 Holly St.  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22305  
**Phone:** 703-535-5886  
**Email Address:** momcnultyrn@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Duncan Library Hours  
Dear City Council,  
I was upset to learn that Duncan Library's hours are  
proposed to be cut as a means of balancing the budget. Reducing evening  
hours will dramatically decrease the time that working parents and students  
can utilize the library. Our libraries are a central part of our community  
**Comments:** and an invaluable City service. Please keep the library open in the evening  
-- the impact of the reduced hours is extremely disproportionate to the  
amount of the budget cut achieved.  
  
Thanks very much,  
Maureen McNulty



**COA Contact Us: proposed reduction in library hours**

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,

**Joni Finegold** to: alicia.hughes, council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg,  
rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

03/10/2010 05:55 PM

**Please respond to Joni Finegold**

**Time: [Wed Mar 10, 2010 17:55:00] Message ID: [19952]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

**First Name:** Joni

**Last Name:** Finegold

**Street Address:** 220 E. Windsor Ave.

**City:** Alexandria

**State:** VA

**Zip:** 22301

**Phone:** 703-836-7750

**Email Address:** jonijaz@sprintmail.com

**Subject:** proposed reduction in library hours

While I understand the need to reduce non-essential services in response to

tight budgets, I urge the Mayor and City Council to rethink reducing the

operating hours of city libraries (and rec centers, if those are on the

table, too). The library cuts are due to start in July, but during the

summer when students are out of school and it's hot outside, there is an

even greater need for libraries than before. While cutting the morning

hours may affect families with younger children, I'm more concerned with

older children who have a lack of activities. Since Super Summer has not

**Comments:**

been funded and in general, economic woes have reduced what any family can

afford, we have less overall available for our children. For teens, we

should strive to have as many activities available for them in the evening,

and closing at 7 will affect them primarily. I wish the libraries were

open even later; but in Alexandria, the only thing that seems to stay open

at 8 is expensive coffee bars and restaurants. During the summer it is

extremely important to have libraries, rec centers, and other free,

accessible evening activities.



**COA Contact Us: proposed reduction in library hours**

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,  
**Joni Finegold** to: alicia.hughes, council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg,  
rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

03/10/2010 05:55 PM

Please respond to Joni Finegold

**Time: [Wed Mar 10, 2010 17:55:00] Message ID: [19952]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

**First Name:** Joni

**Last Name:** Finegold

**Street Address:** 220 E. Windsor Ave.

**City:** Alexandria

**State:** VA

**Zip:** 22301

**Phone:** 703-836-7750

**Email Address:** jonijaz@sprintmail.com

**Subject:** proposed reduction in library hours

While I understand the need to reduce non-essential services in response to tight budgets, I urge the Mayor and City Council to rethink reducing the operating hours of city libraries (and rec centers, if those are on the table, too). The library cuts are due to start in July, but during the summer when students are out of school and it's hot outside, there is an even greater need for libraries than before. While cutting the morning hours may affect families with younger children, I'm more concerned with older children who have a lack of activities. Since Super Summer has not been funded and in general, economic woes have reduced what any family can afford, we have less overall available for our children. For teens, we should strive to have as many activities available for them in the evening, and closing at 7 will affect them primarily. I wish the libraries were open even later; but in Alexandria, the only thing that seems to stay open at 8 is expensive coffee bars and restaurants. During the summer it is extremely important to have libraries, rec centers, and other free, accessible evening activities.

budget hearing statement  
Michelle L'Heureux  
to:  
jackie.henderson  
03/10/2010 05:21 PM  
Cc:  
"Michelle L'Heureux"  
Show Details

History: This message has been replied to and forwarded.

Hello Ms. Henderson,  
Please forward my statement to council as was requested by  
Councilwoman Hughes. I was speaker #12 in today's hearing. Thank  
you.

Hello City Council,

My name is Michelle L'Heureux and I serve on the Affordable Housing  
Advisory Committee, am a board member of RPJ Housing, a non-profit  
affordable housing provider, and a member of Housing Action. I  
am representing myself in my statement today.

First let me state the obvious: Alexandria is a desirable place to live and  
with that popularity there is a significant subsection of the community  
who is priced out of living in this city. It is those that are priced out that  
give Alexandria its diversity, not only in terms of race, but also in terms  
of age, gender, and chosen professional occupation.

One of the reasons I'm in this community is because after graduate  
school, I got a job in this area where I grew up, and I was able to  
find affordable rental housing at privately owned Hunting Terrace. I paid  
somewhere just over \$1,000/mth, which is affordable housing in this  
area, especially for a young professional making \$45K a year. I  
guarantee you without that affordable rental housing, I would not,  
several years later, be putting down roots in this fine city and be in the  
process of buying my first home.

Myself and many other residents have benefited directly or indirectly  
from policies that the city has put in place to preserve affordable  
housing. This is why I am upset to see that the proposed budget  
mandates a 30% cut in the Office of Housing budget for FY2011. I

ask council to reduce this cut, which happens to be the largest percentage cut among all city departments.

This cut is even more surprising given the time and energy provided by various city workgroups to ensure affordable housing and given city's own strategic goals to convey that, "Alexandria is a caring and inclusive community that values its rich diversity, history, and culture, and promotes affordability" (Goal 7). This cut will directly undermine these goals and harm the very people that make this city a diverse and fun place to live.

I know this is not an enjoyable part of your job, to listen people complain about what you should be funding and what you're proposing to cut... I empathize, but I do think what is being proposed here is unreasonable especially given the tremendous loss of affordable housing in the last decade and tough economic times that make affordable housing an even more urgent need. So please consider reinstating the money from the real estate tax that is dedicated to creating affordable housing. Thank you.



**COA Contact Us: Duncan Library Hours**

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,  
**Christine Elder** to: alicia.hughes, council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg,  
rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

03/10/2010 03:52 PM

**Please respond to Christine Elder**

---

**Time: [Wed Mar 10, 2010 15:36:36] Message ID: [19948]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Christine  
**Last Name:** Elder  
**Street Address:** 26 East Masonic View Ave  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22301  
**Phone:** 703-842-1341  
**Email Address:** elderc@mac.com  
**Subject:** Duncan Library Hours

As we are a few years into the economic downturn, I can understand there is no easy fat left to target in the city's budget, but I urge you to consider carefully any proposal to reduce the hours or operating budget of the Duncan library in Del Ray. Libraries are an invaluable resource and serve an important leveling role in our community. It is the symbol of diversity and provides a place where anyone can access information to enrich, retrain, or inspire young and old. I use the library about every 10 days, and am proud to see each time people of all ages and backgrounds enjoying this gift.

The concept of small town american libraries where people can spend hours in the stacks diving into any book they want is a revered icon of freedom of access to information well-known in every corner of the world. We are indeed fortunate to have these services and should

**Comments:**

work hard to maintain them, even if it means other difficult decisions. I

have now joined the friends  
of the library, as have several of my

neighbors, but we need the city to maintain its support. Few city

institutions serve such a  
broad range of constituents.

thank you for

your consideration of this difficult issue.

respectfully,  
Christine

Elder



**COA Contact Us: Alexandria Libraries**

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley, alicia.hughes,

**Kira Lopez** to: council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg, rose.boyd,  
jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

03/10/2010 03:50 PM

**Please respond to Kira Lopez**

**Time: [Wed Mar 10, 2010 15:34:44] Message ID: [19946]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

**First Name:** Kira

**Last Name:** Lopez

**Street Address:** 712 Miller Lane

**City:** Alexandria

**State:** VA

**Zip:** 22314

**Phone:** 703-549-0163

**Email Address:** kiralopez@gmail.com

**Subject:** Alexandria Libraries

Just a note to say I use the libraries all the time. I find them to be invaluable. I take my 2 year old triplet girls to story time as often as possible. Lisa at the Children's section in the Barret branch is the most amazing librarian I have ever encountered (fancy, expensive, private schools included!).

**Comments:**

Please, please don't let the libraries fall by the wayside. I use them for myself as well as my kids, and plan to for at least the next 16 years!

Thanks,  
Kira E. Lopez





**COA Contact Us: concern regarding proposed library opening time changes**

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,

**Rachel Haws** to: alicia.hughes, council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg,  
rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

03/10/2010 02:58 PM

**Please respond to Rachel Haws**

**Time: [Wed Mar 10, 2010 14:58:30] Message ID: [19945]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

**First Name:** Rachel

**Last Name:** Haws

**Street Address:**

**City:** Alexandria

**State:** VA

**Zip:** 22303

**Phone:**

**Email Address:** rachel\_a\_park@yahoo.com

**Subject:** concern regarding proposed library opening time changes  
To the Alexandria City Government:

I am concerned about the proposed cuts to the Barrett, Burke, and Duncan Library's operating hours. This plan is both short-sighted and offers little bang for the buck, particularly considering the current heightened demand for library resources.

I am a mother of a two-year-old who has benefited immensely from regular visits to the Barrett library and participation in morning song and storytime programs. A 10 o'clock opening time would mean that morning programs and storytimes would be delayed or cut, and evening storytimes would be eliminated. We have the luxury of using the library during late morning

**Comments:** and afternoon hours, but for working families, the reduced hours would make the libraries virtually inaccessible during the week.

All this

amounts to disincentives to use any of the Alexandria neighborhood library

branches, at a savings of only \$173,000  
annually. Our libraries are a

central part of our community and an invaluable City service. Please keep

the library open in the  
evening -- the impact of the reduced hours is

extremely disproportionate to the amount of the budget cut achieved.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the FY 2011

Budget.

Sincerely,  
Rachel Haws



**COA Contact Us: Budget Cuts/Reform**

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley, alicia.hughes,

**Bud Miller** to: council, delpepper, paulcsmberg, rose.boyd,  
jackie.henderson, elaine.scott

03/11/2010 10:02 AM

**Please respond to Bud Miller**

1 attachment



56912e783bba4a3afd9aef624ed96c1.pdf

**Time: [Thu Mar 11, 2010 10:02:00] Message ID: [19973]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Bud  
**Last Name:** Miller  
**Street Address:** 115-D South Saint Asaph Street  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 703 684-5312  
**Email Address:** ersalexandria@msn.com  
**Subject:** Budget Cuts/Reform  
Mr. Mayor, Vice Mayor, and City Council Members,

I have attached my

comments from the March 10, 2010 hearing on the proposed budget in an electronic format for your records.

Please recall the last time City

Council considered the issue, more than 200 local business owners and residents signed a petition opposing a piggyback raise in Commercial Property taxes. I trust the City Council will reach out to the local business community in the event such a proposal resurfaces.

Finally, I

would like to provide you with one, brief, personal example of why there is a public impression that the City bureaucracy's structure is inefficient.

We had to apply for a hearing to remove a nonhistoric wall in my backyard

which was severely damaged in the recent snows. Two City employees inspected the site and verified that the wall was nonhistoric. A relative of the former property owner also verified that the wall was built in the

**Comments:** mid 1970's.

We were then informed that we needed to apply for a permit to remove what remained of the wall. (Which I don't have a problem with, given the location of the house.) During the process, we were instructed to file 12 copies of our application. I can understand triplicate, but a dozen copies? This flies in the face of both basic efficiency and the stated desire of our City to go "Green". Please consider updating this process to allow people to file these materials electronically, saving time, money and preserving resources for all.

You have our best wishes

for the difficult choices ahead. I urge immediate action in the area of budget cutting and reform to prevent the necessity of making draconian decisions in the future. (i.e., Kansas City, Mo which just announced the closure of almost 50% of its schools.)

Better some pain now, than

terrible pain in the future. Time is running out to change course.

**Attachment:** 56912e783bba4a3afdc9aef624ed96c1.pdf

Alexandrian Taxpayers are now being asked to accept a substantial tax increase on devalued properties for reduced services in the midst of the worst recession in 80 years. This is what our City Manager calls a "status Quo" budget.

Regardless of one's Party or personal ideology, we simply can't continue down this path. It simply won't hold up much longer.

Our schools recently ranked LAST in the country in terms of bang for the buck. Taxpayers are now paying more than \$18,000 a year for students to attend a \$100 million+ high school.

The City's debt service to pay for the past projects cost taxpayers \$37.1 million this year alone. This debt service has grown by an astounding 322% over the last ten years. The City projects our debt service to rise to more than \$68 million within nine years-- creating additional stresses on future budgets, regardless of the state of the economy.

While private industry has taken advantage of cheaper and more efficient technologies to streamline their bureaucracies, the number of full-time employees working for the city has grown by 9.8%. This must stop. There must be real reductions in City staff, and not the Smoke & Mirror games of simply eliminating empty positions.

Spending on the Planning and Zoning Department has grown by over 203% over the last ten years. With new development at a virtual standstill in these challenging times, the time to prune this overgrown weed is now well overdue. Replacing the top leadership of this bloated department allow the City to control costs and revitalize King Street which is now increasingly populated with empty store fronts and adult specialty stores.

The City has allocated approximately \$3 million in assets towards a well meant, but poorly designed, program to assist as many as 12 "urban nomads" a year. Someday, ten City employees will be overseeing 12 troubled people. Think about that number. 10 highly paid City employees to oversee, at most, 12 people. Not exactly a model of efficiency.

To make matters worse, as of this date, this gold plated monument to waste has failed to provide our most needy citizens with a single meal, a single night's shelter or even a blanket. Indeed, if you walk by the location today, just a few blocks up King Street, you will see an empty building plastered with expired permits and few signs of progress. This program should be eliminated and the building sold to private interests so it can generate additional tax revenue. The Community Services Board, which is in charge of this project, should also be audited, have all of its programs re-evaluated and its leadership replaced.

We must also avoid the professional politicians' jaded trick of budget cutting where it will do the most visible damage in order to intimidate our citizens to support yet more tax increases.

Budget cuts should focus on waste, inefficiency, and nonproductive bureaucratic exercises--not the street cop, EMTs or fire fighters who put themselves at risk to protect us.

In addition to the above, we have a few proposals for you to consider. These proposals will save substantial funds while having a minimal impact on City Services.:

**1. Immediate Savings: \$300,000 to \$1.45 million per year.**

- a. Modest pay reductions for all City Employees earning more than \$100,000 per year.
  - i. 1 percent = \$290,000
  - ii. 3 percent = \$870,000
  - iii. 5 percent = \$1,451,000

Note: This would impact a total of 246 of the City's highest paid employees, but the average City Employee, including the cops & firefighters on the street would not be touched.

**2. \$2 million**

- a. Reduce the Planning & Zoning Department staffing to 2000 levels.

City Council should also immediately let the well meaning volunteers of the Alexandria Street Car Coalition know it's not going to happen. The City doesn't have hundreds of millions of dollars for their projects.

We have already sent you several other reasonable budget cuts proposals for your condition. More are on the way. We're also developing proposals for an overall reform effort to reduce the City's inefficiencies and to fundamentally change how our budgets are written.

Folks, if you think the current budget is a challenge, just wait until our debt service doubles, change course now, institute real budget cuts and right sizing of City staff while you can.

Bud Miller  
Alexandria Taxpayers United  
703.684-5312



**Statement by John Porter, Executive Director at the City of Alexandria Public Hearing on the Budget—Wednesday, March 10, 2010**

A special thank you to each of you for what you do for our community. It certainly is an important yet thankless job at times. Understanding what you are facing with state and local budget constraints and understanding that most of us speaking to you today are asking to either maintain or increase funding for various programs and services, I encourage you to look closely at what makes Alexandria the great place that it is—the people.

As you are aware, ACT for Alexandria takes seriously its role as convener of and collaborator with other organizations in the city on behalf of youth and families. I commend the city for its past attention to these constituents and for looking at better ways to increase efficiencies of operation and provide cost savings for the city. Your work in the ever growing public/private/nonprofit partnering arena is both noteworthy and forward thinking. The end result of continued attention to this area will serve our community well as we all look deeply at how we might better work in concert to address matters crucial to the citizens of Alexandria.

I also commend the city for its continued support, financial and otherwise, of the nonprofit sector. This is a true indication of the understanding you have of the level of assistance needed by our citizens. While it is much appreciated that you heard us in the fall when we asked that you not further reduce funding in the human services arena in the budget before you, it is important to note that the decrease last year, coupled with the increase in need, is making it extremely difficult for the organizations addressing basic human needs to keep up with the demand. The support for human services is more critical now than at any time in my memory. While again stating that I understand the dilemma you face, I encourage serious consideration of restoring human services funding to the FY 2009 level. And as I said in October, if this requires a tax increase let me be one citizen who encourages that you to do it.

Our community is known for our caring and concern for others, particularly those residents who are struggling during this difficult recessionary time. While things seem to slowly be moving in the right direction and we can see a little bit of “light on the horizon,” many are struggling daily to meet their family’s basic needs. Let’s not forget them. Let’s do what we should to insure that they have the opportunity to come through this difficult period as whole as possible.

Thank you.



**COA Contact Us: Budget Hearing - Black History Museum**

**Lillian S. Patterson** to: william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,  
alicia.hughes, council, delpepper,  
paulcsmberg, rose.boyd, jackie.henderson,  
elaine.scott, rob.krupicka

03/11/2010 12:40 PM

Please respond to "Lillian S. Patterson"

**Time: [Thu Mar 11, 2010 12:40:35] Message ID: [19977]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Lillian S.  
**Last Name:** Patterson  
**Street Address:** 1034 Woods Place  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22302  
**Phone:** 703-578-0632  
**Email Address:** lylpat@verizon.net  
**Subject:** Budget Hearing - Black History Museum  
Mr. Mayor and Members of Council, Good evening -  
I am Lillian Patterson,

a recently retired curator in the Office of Historic Alexandria, at the  
Alexandria Black History Museum, now Private Citizen Lillian Patterson.

I  
speak because I am distressed at the non-funding of my former curator  
position at the Alexandria Black History Museum.  
The museum staff was

made up of 2 full time, 2 part time, and 4 or 5 seasonal staff allowing  
them to serve the public 6 days a week plus all special events in an  
outstanding and gracious manner. The reduction of the seasonal staff left  
the museum short staffed. The museum volunteers are our treasure, but they  
cannot be in the building without the professional staff.  
Alexandria's

**Comments:** advertised diversity of cultures and dissemination of education pertaining  
thereto is jeopardized when institutions like the Alexandria Black  
History Museum are under-funded or non-funded. With its reduced staff, the



museum is in a highly stressed position to continue producing the excellent quality exhibitions, dynamic cultural, educational (including tutoring), and challenging programs and events.  
I am a graduate of the old Parker-Gray High School. I remember when it was an under-funded school, then a non-funded school, then a NO-school. I don't want to see the same thing happen to another of our legacies.  
I ask you to keep this curator position in the budget. Life is tough sometimes and we need the calming things, like museums, to soothe our weary minds from the painful things that exist.  
I thank you for your consideration.

**Fw: COA Contact Us: March 10 Comments at Budget Hearing**

**Derek Schultz** to: Jackie Henderson

03/11/2010 01:46 PM

Cc: Gloria Sitton

Jackie,

This got sent to use. Attached is a copy of comments made at the public hearing. I thought you may want to include this.

Thanks,

Derek Schultz  
City of Alexandria  
Office of Management and Budget  
(703) 746-3738 (voice)  
(703) 706-3991 (fax)

----- Forwarded by Derek Schultz/Alex on 03/11/2010 01:48 PM -----

From: Donald Buch <dnbuch@hotmail.com>  
To: bruce.johnson@alexandriava.gov, dawn.webster@alexandriava.gov, derek.schultz@alexandriava.gov  
Date: 03/11/2010 01:26 PM  
Subject: COA Contact Us: March 10 Comments at Budget Hearing

**Time: [Thu Mar 11, 2010 13:26:48] Message ID: [19983]**

**Issue Type:** Budget  
**First Name:** Donald  
**Last Name:** Buch  
**Street Address:** 389 Livermore Lane  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22304  
**Phone:** 7036479132  
**Email Address:** dnbuch@hotmail.com

**Subject:** March 10 Comments at Budget Hearing

I was requested to submit a written copy of the comments I made at yesterday's budget hearing. I trust the attached will serve your needs.

If not, kindly let me know.

**Comments:** Thank you for your time and trouble.

Donald N. Buch

**Attachment:** a878e58538ce6dde678dcaaf5b409c45.docx



a878e58538ce6dde678dcaaf5b409c45.docx

**City of Alexandria - Budget Public Hearing**  
**4:00 pm, Wednesday, March 10, 2010, Council Chambers**

**Comments of Donald N. Buch**  
**389 Livermore Lane, Alexandria, VA**

Thank you Mr. Mayor. I have three issues with respect to the proposed storm water fees.

(#1): I understand that the City was contemplating assessing storm water fees on common areas of communities such as Cameron Station but that is now off the table. If my understanding is correct I'll gladly move on. However, if the concept returns to the table I would hope the public would have an opportunity to comment on it at that time.

*Comment Withheld Assuming Confirmation that the Common Area Charge is "Off the Table": As I understand it, most City residents will pay one storm water fee covering both their residence and their share of the costs of providing storm water services for common areas such as streets and parks. I will pay the same fee, - however I am already, through my homeowner fees, paying for the on-site storm water systems serving the streets and parks of Cameron Station. So, I'll be paying double with the second portion effectively being a contribution to the City for a service which, in large measure, they are not providing. Moreover, if you now levy another storm water fee on the common areas of my community I will (through additional homeowners' fees) be paying a third time. I do not perceive that as fair and I would ask that you consider that perspective.*

(#2): My second request is that Council explain to the community what this new arrangement has, and will, cost us to develop and administer. I understand the average homeowner is projected to pay roughly \$20 a year. If I'm already paying \$4,000 in property taxes why not simply increase my tax rate by 1/2% and bill me \$4,020 in property taxes? (I gather the storm water fee is intended to simply be a separate line on my tax bill. I'm going to write the same \$4,020 check to the City whether you list my charges on one line or two.)

However, it appears to many of us that you have chosen to pursue a course which will appreciably expand the government bureaucracy in this City. What has already been spent to develop this concept? I note the City Manager's February 26th memo which concludes "Most of calendar year 2010 will be needed to develop the database, software and procedures for implementation." Then we'll have a whole administrative process and apparently some complex process of credits and partial credits to address all manner of eventualities. Not to mention an appeal process.

We deserve to clearly understand what the development of this new bureaucracy will ultimately cost us. I would like to see that compared to the cost of changing the tax rate from say \$0.97 to \$0.975 which I would suggest would take nothing more than a minute or two of a computer programmer's time to implement, putting you roughly a year ahead of the City Manager's schedule with a savings of many tens, if not hundreds, of thousands of dollars in development and implementation costs. Please - just add the charge to our property tax bill.

(#3): Finally, in terms of the IRS, I understand property taxes are deductible expenses whereas a storm water fee is not and I would ask that you confirm if my understanding is correct. If it is

and the average marginal tax rate in Alexandria is say 20%, then the residents of this City will be paying an extra \$500,000 in taxes if you choose to impose this as a fee rather than include it in our property taxes. We ought to avoid that additional burden.

Thank you.



**COA Contact Us: Proposed Reduction of Alexandria Library Hours**

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,  
**Kim Burstein** to: alicia.hughes, council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg,  
rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott,  
rob.krupicka

03/11/2010 02:07 PM

**Please respond to Kim Burstein**

**Time: [Thu Mar 11, 2010 14:07:00] Message ID: [19986]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Kim  
**Last Name:** Burstein  
**Street Address:** 526 S. Alfred St.  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 703-474-9889  
**Email Address:** kimburstein@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Proposed Reduction of Alexandria Library Hours

Dear Sir or Madam:  
I am concerned that the Library Board and the City

Manager  
have proposed cutting the Barrett, Burke, and Duncan Library's

operating hours. This is alarming,  
particularly considering that, during

an economic  
downturn, library resources are in greater demand.

For

working families, the reduced hours would make the libraries  
virtually

inaccessible during the week. For children, these  
shortened hours would

mean morning programs and storytimes would be  
delayed or cut, and evening

storytimes would be eliminated. For  
adults, evening programs -- such as

book clubs and author talks --  
would likely be eliminated, and the

meeting rooms would be

**Comments:** inaccessible for community groups and library

events, as all these  
typically begin at or after 7pm.

Is this worth a

savings of just \$173,000 annually, when the cost is reducing access to all

of  
Alexandria's neighborhood branches?

Our libraries are a central

part of our community and an invaluable  
City service. Please keep the

library open in the evening -- the  
impact of the reduced hours is

extremely disproportionate to the amount of the budget cut

achieved.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the FY 2011

Budget.

Sincerely,  
Kim Burstein



**COA Contact Us: Library Hours**

william.euille, frank.fannon, kerry.donley,  
**Jeffrey Bier** to: alicia.hughes, council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg,  
rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott, rob.krupicka

03/11/2010 03:37 PM

**Please respond to Jeffrey Bier**

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**Time: [Thu Mar 11, 2010 15:37:39] Message ID: [19990]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Jeffrey  
**Last Name:** Bier  
**Street Address:** 413 E. Custis Ave.  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22301  
**Phone:** 703 548 1349  
**Email Address:** mjbier@comcast.net  
**Subject:** Library Hours  
Dear Sirs;  
I would like to recommend that the library hours be maintained  
**Comments:** as they are now. I visit the library at at least three times a week and it  
is quite busy each time I go.





**COA Contact Us: RPO/COPS in Arlandria**

william.euille, frank.fannon,  
kerry.donley, alicia.hughes, council,  
**Steve.Weinstock; Manager** to: delpepper, paulcsmedberg, rose.boyd,  
jackie.henderson, elaine.scott,  
rob.krupicka

03/11/2010 04:35 PM

**Please respond to Steve.Weinstock, Manager**

**Time: [Thu Mar 11, 2010 16:35:40] Message ID: [19991]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Steve  
**Last Name:** Weinstock, Manager  
c/o Finmarc Management Co  
4733 Bethesda Avenue  
**Street Address:** Suite 650  
  
**City:** Bethesda  
**State:** MD  
**Zip:** 20814  
**Phone:**  
**Email Address:** weinstoc@his.com  
**Subject:** RPO/COPS in Arlandria  
We own the Mount Vernon Village Shopping Center in the 3800 block of Mount  
**Comments:** Vernon Avenue and support the retention of the Residential Police Officers  
(RPO's) and the Community Officers (COPS) programs.