



**COA Contact Us: New City Budget - Don't Increase It**

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

**Tom Slayton** to: alicia.hughes, council, delpepper, paulcsmedberg,  
rose.boyd, jackie.henderson, elaine.scott, rob.krupicka

04/30/2010 06:08 PM

**Please respond to Tom Slayton**

2f  
3-10-10

**Time: [Fri Apr 30, 2010 18:08:44] Message ID: [21218]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Tom  
**Last Name:** Slayton  
**Street Address:** 628 Pullman Place  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22305  
**Phone:** 549-1199  
**Email Address:** ricetrader@aol.com  
**Subject:** New City Budget - Don't Increase It  
Press reports indicate that you have ruled out key proposals to keep City labor costs flat, including continuing the so-called "merit" pay increase - which virtually every employee receives (how much merit measuring is that?) - and furloughing. Why? How can you hope to contain costs if these decisions are left to stand?  
In addition to raising both property tax rates and actual real estate taxes, it is also being reported that you plan to institute a "storm water management" tax. I protest. Our last water billed was 75% fees and only 25% for the actual water used.  
**Comments:**  
While it is true that the ACPS has met their 2% target, they were able to do this because of a windfall from Richmond allows them to continue to over-spend, including unneeded artificial turf fields and a bloated bureaucracy.  
Balance the budget without further raising our already too high taxes.



**COA Contact Us: Proposed taxation**

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

05/03/2010 02:06 PM

**Please respond to Dean Grumlose**

**Time: [Mon May 03, 2010 14:06:12] Message ID: [21284]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Dean  
**Last Name:** Grumlose  
**Street Address:** 700 Lyles Lane  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** Virginia  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 703-412-0168  
**Email Address:** dgrumlose@aol.com  
**Subject:** Proposed taxation

Dear City Council: I am writing to you in opposition to the proposal for taxing homeowners of the Potomac Greens neighborhood at the eventual rate of 20 cents per \$100 in assessed property value for the purpose of financing a metro stop.

This tax is onerous and unfair. It is onerous, as the proposed tax will cost between an extra \$1000 and \$2000 per year for many homeowners in Potomac Greens. Many of us struggle to pay what is quite possibly some of the highest property taxes in the city already.

Under the current iteration of the plan for the new metro station, the stop would be built three football fields north of the northern tip of our neighborhood. That puts the new station at a point almost equidistant from our neighborhood and the Del Ray neighborhood. Nevertheless, the tax burden falls almost exclusively on our neighborhood, even though the use and benefit of the metro stop would be widespread. It is unfair that we

**Comments:** are the only homeowners to be taxed under the city's proposal.

Furthermore, the new metro stop will bring a much higher volume of both foot and automobile traffic into our neighborhood, meaning more congestion, more parking problems, more litter, more noise, more crime etc. In other words, the new metro stop may not necessarily be the boon to property values that city planners predict it will be.

The majority of my neighbors in the Potomac Greens neighborhood feel similarly about this tax--that we are being taxed unfairly. I ask that the city council reconsider levying this tax on our neighborhood. If possible I would like to discuss this issue in person with everyone on the city council. I can be reached at 703-412-0168.

FW: Statement Concerning Green Roof  
Rose Dawson  
to:  
Jackie.henderson  
05/03/2010 12:54 PM  
Show Details

Jackie,

The Library Board asked that this be shared with the Council. Thanks.

Rose

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Rose Dawson [mailto:rdawson@alexandria.lib.va.us]

**Sent:** Thursday, April 29, 2010 5:15 PM

**To:** Richard Hobson; Anne Paul; Councilman Fannon; Dorothy "Brooksie Koopman; Gwen Day Fuller; Kathleen Schloeder; Oscar Fitzgerald

**Cc:** 'Rose Dawson'; 'Irenner@alexandria.lib.va.us'

**Subject:** Statement Concerning Green Roof

Good afternoon,

Attached is a copy of the statement composed and voted on at the April 19th Board meeting concerning the Burke green roof. The memo is addressed to the City Manager with the City Council being copied.

Rose

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|---|
| <p><b>Rose T. Dawson</b><br/><b>Director of Libraries</b><br/>Alexandria Library<br/>5005 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22304<br/>rdawson@alexandria.lib.va.us<br/>Ph: 703-746-1701 Fax: 703-519-5916</p> |
|---|

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*City of Alexandria, Virginia*

*Alexandria Library*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 29, 2010

TO: JAMES HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER

FROM: ROSE T. DAWSON, DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES

SUBJECT: LIBRARY BOARD STATEMENT REGARDING BURKE BRANCH GREEN  
ROOF AND FUTURE CIP PROJECTS

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On Monday, April 19, 2010, the Alexandria Library Board met at their regularly scheduled meeting. During that time, the Library Board discussed the issue of installing a green roof on the Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library.

The Board requested that the following statement be made: "We understand that the project is and will go forward and we request that in the future the Library Director and/or Library Board should be consulted on any capital improvement projects which affect library buildings."

c: Library Board  
City Council

RECEIVED

Friends of the Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library  
5005 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22304-2903

APR 22 2010

April 20, 2010

Alexandria City Council  
301 King Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314-3211

RE: Budget cuts to Alexandria Beatley Central Library

To whom it may concern:

As a resident of Alexandria, I can appreciate the difficult economic times in which we live. However, as a library user, I urge you not to undertake to close the Beatley Library on Sundays.

If you have ever visited the library on a Sunday, the first thing that strikes you is the line of people waiting for the doors to open. As many as 1,200 people can come through the Beatley's doors, open from 1pm to 5 pm, on any given Sunday. Closing the Beatley Library on Sundays would have the greatest negative impact on the most people during a time of great economic hardship in our city and country.

Have you ever used the library on Sundays? If so, you have seen the lines of people waiting to check out library materials, or simply returning them. Better still, you have seen the groups of people waiting for assistance from the librarian, or waiting their turn to use the computers. Not to mention those who rush in to get a seat near an electrical outlet so that they can use the library's Wi-Fi, since they do not have, often because they cannot afford, high speed Internet at home. According to ACPS, 58% of Alexandria households do not have Internet access. And, during these hard economic times, some families have given up home Internet access due to cost.

During the school year, usage is higher as you see more students come in to finish their homework assignments. Alexandria cannot afford to curtail library access where our children are concerned. Further, Sunday is often the only day that families with two working parents can visit the library together.

Have you ever had to fill out a job application online? What about the new citizen, for who English is a second language, who is told to go to the public library and get on the computers to schedule a meeting, or to fill out his paperwork online?

I have included some comments from a new resident to the city regarding the value the library has offered to him and his family: "Our family recently moved to Alexandria, and have enjoyed the Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Library. Our 6 year old son even has his own library card, and is thrilled about using his card in order to check out books. We are very impressed with the library, and the resources that it provides. The atmosphere is perfect for reading, studying, and researching, and the workers there are very helpful, as well as friendly.

When I heard of the plans to have the doors of the library closed on Sundays, I was very concerned. As I have seen with other businesses and institutions during this recession, once one door is closed, yet another is closed soon after that. I understand that there are times when some budget items require cutting, but when you have a library that is providing intellectual resource services to a city such as Alexandria, that budget item should never be cut. Will the next cut require that the doors of the library be closed on Saturdays as well? I would hope that the voices of Alexandria avert such a tragedy.” – *Mr. Mike Granderson, April 19, 2010*

Please note from a recent article in the Boston Globe by Derrick Jackson, 1/3/09 regarding the upturn in usage during these economic times by users:

“Library systems across the nation face cuts and closures at the very moment they have become recession sanctuaries.

“Checkouts of books, CDs, and DVDs are up 15 percent at the main library in Modesto, Calif. In Boulder, Colo., circulation of job-hunting materials is up 14 percent. Usage of the Newark Public Library in New Jersey is up 17 percent. Library card requests have increased 27 percent in the last half of 2008 in San Francisco. The Boise Public Library reported a 61 percent increase in new library cards in 2008. In Brantley County, Georgia, library computer usage was up 26 percent in the last quarter.”

"Some have said their computer at home was all torn up," Brantley library manager Kathy Moody told the Florida Times-Union. "Others have said they don't have Internet service or they had to drop their service."

“In Washoe County, Nevada, library director Arnold Maurins credited early voting for a 9 percent or 10 percent increase in library usage that has stuck. "I think it's kind of a common-sense conclusion that people are looking for less expensive ways to meet their reading or recreation needs," Maurins told the Associated Press. "They can go to a program that's free instead of paying \$20 to go to the movies."

“In Kern County, California, where Diane Duquette has been library director for 22 years, library checkouts were up 19 percent in the last quarter. She told the Bakersfield Californian, "We've never had that kind of increase before. Wow. In my time here, we've maybe had a 1 percent or 2 percent increase in good years."

“The Boston Public Library is no different. New library cards are up 32.7 percent from July to November of 2008, compared with the same period in 2007. Visits are up 13 percent, from 1.4 million visits to 1.6 million. Checkouts of books, CDs, and DVDs are up 7.2 percent overall over the last fiscal year. More telling is that checkouts have soared between 27 percent and 37 percent at the Egleston Square, Fields Corner, Jamaica Plain, and Orient Heights branches.”

New BPL president Amy Ryan said a baby story program at the Copley library has grown from fluctuating between 60 and 80 families to well over 100. Monthly visits to a free Internet homework tutoring service have doubled from 300 to 600. Ryan said anecdotal reports indicate a

spike in people using branch libraries to research new careers or returning to school. This is despite the BPL probably facing cuts, too.”

I understand that the city has to make some hard decisions. But, do you want the city of Alexandria to be the only jurisdiction in the Washington D. C. metro area to have no Sunday library hours for their residents? Fairfax, Falls Church, and Arlington all offer Sunday hours. This cut comes at a time when statistics prove out those libraries serve an even larger role during economic downturns for people who do not have access to information, computers, or the Internet. I ask that your budget decisions ensure that the Beatley Central Library remains open on Sundays.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara R. Maxwell".

Barbara R. Maxwell

Member, Friends of the Charles Beatley Central Library

Home Address:

5800 Quantrell Ave., Apt. 1512

Alexandria, VA 22312





**COA Contact Us: Our Library System Hours**

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

04/15/2010 02:45 PM

**Please respond to "Barbara V. Green"**

**Time: [Thu Apr 15, 2010 14:44:44] Message ID: [20817]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Barbara V.  
**Last Name:** Green  
**Street Address:** 1530 Mt. Eagle Place  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22302  
**Phone:** 703,845,7880  
**Email Address:** barbaravgreen@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Our Library System Hours

as a City resident and active participant in the life and well-being of our community, I served as advocate for the establishment of a branch library in Del Ray, for the expansion of the branch and the continuation of library hours ..My involvement dates to 1960. - during the last cut back, it was saturday closing at risk...

The civility of life is made possible by an excellent library system and I imagine that the attachment of

**Comments:** facts and figures come as a surprise....

Please leave our libraries alone, support any request our librarians make, and do all you can to maintain and enhance the system...

thank you

Barbara V. Green

previous address:  
8 00 Chalfonte Dr

22305