



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

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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

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**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.