

SPEAKER'S FORM

DOCKET ITEM NO. 25

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND GIVE IT TO THE CITY CLERK BEFORE YOU SPEAK ON A DOCKET ITEM

PLEASE ANNOUNCE THE INFORMATION SPECIFIED BELOW PRIOR TO SPEAKING.

1. NAME: Jean Antone

2. ADDRESS: 704 S. Fairfax Street

TELEPHONE NO. 703-298-4420 E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

3. WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT, IF OTHER THAN YOURSELF? myself

4. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ITEM?  
FOR: \_\_\_\_\_ AGAINST: \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

5. NATURE OF YOUR INTEREST IN ITEM (PROPERTY OWNER, ATTORNEY, LOBBYIST, CIVIC INTEREST, ETC.):  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. ARE YOU RECEIVING COMPENSATION FOR THIS APPEARANCE BEFORE COUNCIL?  
YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

This form shall be kept as a part of the permanent record in those instances where financial interest or compensation is indicated by the speaker.

A maximum of three minutes will be allowed for your presentation, except that one officer or other designated member speaking on behalf of each *bona fide* neighborhood civic association or unit owners' association desiring to be heard on a docket item shall be allowed five minutes. In order to obtain five minutes, you must identify yourself as a designated speaker, and identify the neighborhood civic association or unit owners' association you represent, at the start of your presentation. If you have a prepared statement, please leave a copy with the Clerk.

Additional time not to exceed 15 minutes may be obtained with the consent of the majority of the council present; provided notice requesting additional time with reasons stated is filed with the City Clerk in writing before 5:00 p.m. of the day preceding the meeting.

The public normally may speak on docket items only at public hearing meetings, and not at regular legislative meetings. Public hearing meetings are usually held on the Saturday following the second Tuesday in each month; regular legislative meetings on the second and fourth Tuesdays in each month. The rule with respect to when a person may speak to a docket item at a legislative meeting can be waived by a majority vote of council members present but such a waiver is not normal practice. When a speaker is recognized, the rules of procedures for speakers at public hearing meetings shall apply. If an item is docketed *for public hearing* at a regular legislative meeting, the public may speak to that item, and the rules of procedures for speakers at public hearing meetings shall apply.

In addition, the public may speak on matters which are not on the docket during the Public Discussion Period at public hearing meetings. The mayor may grant permission to a person, who is unable to participate in public discussion at a public hearing meeting for medical, religious, family emergency or other similarly substantial reasons, to speak at a regular legislative meeting. When such permission is granted, the rules of procedures for public discussion at public hearing meetings shall apply.

Guidelines for the Public Discussion Period

(a) All speaker request forms for the public discussion period must be submitted by the time the item is called by the city clerk.

(b) No speaker will be allowed more than three minutes; except that one officer or other designated member speaking on behalf of each *bona fide* neighborhood civic association or unit owners' association desiring to be heard during the public discussion period shall be allowed five minutes. In order to obtain five minutes, you must identify yourself as a designated speaker, and identify the neighborhood civic association or unit owners' association you represent, at the start of your presentation.

(c) If more speakers are signed up than would be allotted for in 30 minutes, the mayor will organize speaker requests by subject or position, and allocated appropriate times, trying to ensure that speakers on unrelated subjects will also be allowed to speak during the 30 minute public discussion period.

(d) If speakers seeking to address council on the same subject cannot agree on a particular order or method that they would like the speakers to be called on, the speakers shall be called in the chronological order of their request forms' submission.

(e) Any speakers not called during the public discussion period will have the option to speak at the conclusion of the meeting, after all docketed items have been heard.

2j  
4-17-10

From: jean antone <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: **Presentation to City Council at Public Hearing on April 17,2010 by Jean Antone, Alexandria resident**  
Date: April 17, 2010 6:05:41 PM EDT  
To: TWIGSDRK@AOL.com

I was not able to attend the March 13 hearing on the budget to express my concerns, so I am doing so this morning.

From 2000 to 2009 the City budget more than doubled to its present \$534 million, while the City's population remained the same at 140,000.

However, during this same period City staff increased by 35%; the City payroll increased by 41%. City employees now earn 10 % more than the taxpayers who fund their salaries and benefits.

The school payroll increased 41% and the School Superintendant, who currently earns more than the Chairman of the Federal Reserve, continues to hire personnel for an already bloated Central Office.

We spent \$100 million for a high school with a roof top garden that now has the new distinction as one of the lowest achieving schools in the nation with students who cannot read at grade level and 18 and 20 year olds attending this school at taxpayer expense when they should be attending adult education progeron Rec Centrams.

In 2009 the Charles Houston Rec Center had a cost overrun of \$11.3 million and the City spent \$3 million to rennovate a building for 12 homeless people that will cost \$600,000 per year for salaries to provide 24/7 care. Senior citizens have to pay \$6,000 to \$7,000 a month for this type of care in private nursing homes.

The tax base is eroding as we speak; assessments are down, commercial property has a 16% vacancy rate that continues to rise and the federal spigot is going to run dry. This tax base can no longer support a bloated City bureaucracy and over-the-top spending.

Before new taxes are levied against the City's residents, a freeze on hiring, a cap on spending, a serious reduction in City staff and the school's Central Office should be implemented; don't just move the deck chairs around and change job titles to create the illusion of change. Eliminate any salary increases and require higher contributions for health and pension benefits.

Also, it is essential to institute a vigorous enforcement policy for residency for all Alexandria students on an annual basis. A utility bill is not sufficient proof of residency.

And finally, cease and desist the hiring of all consultants.

Other jurisdictions are making serious cuts in their budgets, but the City Council seems incapable of facing the new economic reality that will continue for years. Spending must be prioritized We don't need new trolleys; we need to have our potholes repaired, streets cleaned and paved, and enough law enforcement to keep them safe.

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