

2L  
4-17-10

Kim Kaplan  
418 Queen Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Good morning.

I had the opportunity to attend your budget worksession earlier this month on transportation. What I thought was remarkable about the worksession was that members of Council acknowledged for the first time that a single cut to a single City service -- the elimination of off-peak and Saturday AT 4 service -- would displace city residents from their homes.

For a transit-dependent person served by one bus route, the loss of that route means the loss of independence. Our City's transit-dependent residents include many seniors, people with low incomes, and individuals with disabilities. Several transit-dependent AT 4 riders testified at your budget hearing in March. They live where they do because it is one of the more affordable areas in the City. And I don't think that it is unreasonable to expect that there will be transit along a street less than a mile from a Metro Station. When you go to the website for Mason Hall, an apartment complex at Slaters and Abington, the first line of text a prospective tenant sees is QUOTE "Located in Old Town Alexandria with a DASH bus at your front door."

I know DASH shared the per-hour usage figure of this route with you. And I acknowledge that it is the least productive route in the system at this time. Yet, in fiscal year 2009, 12,000 rides were taken during the times when we are eliminating service -- 9,100 during the week and about 3,000 on Saturdays. This route runs just once per hour in each direction. And many of those 12,000 trips were trips to local retailers. It's important to remember that transit-dependent riders spend money in this City too. They buy groceries, clothes, and furnishings like everyone else.

You also have the growing Potomac Greens neighborhood. The AT 4 does very well during rush hour because people use it to get to Braddock Station. We built this neighborhood with the intention that there would be transit. People moving in will not see the bus as a viable commuting option if they can't get to work after 9:30 am or come home after 7:45 pm. We need to at least save the weekday service. Cutting it will hurt rush hour ridership. Saving it would give transit-dependent people enough of an option that they will not have to move out of their home -- the place that, whether you own or rent, is most sacred.

This budget forces us to decide what our core values are. When our strategic plan and everything the City does on transportation says we will encourage transit use, you lose credibility by not affirmatively saying that allowing transit-dependent riders to stay in their homes and travel with some measure of safety and dignity is a priority this year.



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APARTMENT HOMES COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

APARTMENT HOMES

COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

Home / Residential Properties / Mason Hall

## Mason Hall

1420 W. Abingdon Drive  
 Alexandria, VA 22314  
 888-821-5257

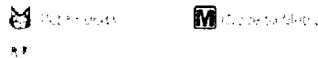
Contact:  
 Donna Wayne

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- » Overview
- » Floorplans & Rental Rates
- » Property Photos
- » Detailed Map & Directions
- » Applications and Brochure/Information

RESIDENT SERVICES PRINT BROCHURE

Located in Old Town Alexandria with Dash Bus at your front door and the Braddock Road Metro Station comfortably within walking distance, Mason Hall provides residents the opportunity to explore and enjoy Old Town Alexandria, the Fashion Centre at Pentagon City, downtown DC and Reagan National Airport, all just minutes away. Enjoy the bike and jogging trails along the Potomac River. A well-maintained, mid-rise apartment community on lushly manicured grounds, Mason Hall is positioned to allow easy access to downtown DC with its world-class sights and employment base.

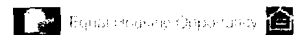


- Spacious efficiencies, one and two-bedrooms
- Extra large closets
- High-speed Internet access available
- Beautiful wood floors
- Controlled access
- Elevator building with laundry on-site
- All utilities included



- Fitness center on-site
- Game room
- Resident library
- Storage facilities available
- On-site parking available
- BBQ picnic area

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# SPEAKER'S FORM

DOCKET ITEM NO. 2 L

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:** Kimberley Kaplan
- 2. **ADDRESS:** 418 Queen Street Alexandria, VA 22314  
**TELEPHONE NO.** (703) 535-3189 **E-MAIL:** kdherter@yahoo.com
- 3. **WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT, IF OTHER THAN YOURSELF?**  
N/A
- 4. **WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ITEM?**
- 5. **NATURE OF YOUR INTEREST IN ITEM (PROPERTY OWNER, ATTORNEY, LOBBYIST, CIVIC INTEREST, ETC.):**  
Private Citizen
- 6. **ARE YOU RECEIVING COMPENSATION FOR THIS APPEARANCE BEFORE COUNCIL?**  
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.