

From: Fay D. Slotnick on behalf of ACHSO, PLTI and herself

To: Mayor and City Council
Budget Public Hearing
3/5/12

Good afternoon Mayor and Council Members, City Manager and staff, and all of you who care about Alexandria's future. I am Fay Slotnick, 311 Second Street, here as a citizen and taxpayer, as Director of the Parent Leadership Training Institute of Alexandria, and as a member of the Alexandria Council of Human Service Organizations (ACHSO).

I have been saying much the same thing for a few years but it seems that not much has changed so I will say it again. When budgets are constrained, there is a greater not lesser need for human services. As the State of Virginia plans drastic cuts, do we take the risk of failing to provide medical and mental health services, early childhood intervention and education, teen pregnancy prevention programs, and other human services? Will we not create so much increased need that even if the economy regains strength, we won't be able to stem the tide of increased need?

As chair of the Education and Advocacy Committee of ACHSO, I would like you to take note of the many ACHSO representatives who are here to speak and to support our neediest residents. (Please stand.)

The Parent Leadership Training Institute of Alexandria is exclusively concerned with the welfare of children and families. It provides a safety net by expanding the network of those who will work for the welfare of Alexandrians. Our alumni continue to serve. A few examples- Chyrell Bucksell, class of 2010, won the Rising Star Award from the Commission on Women, was appointed to the ARHA Board and may make a run this year for School Board from District B; Jennifer Murphy ('10) started and expanded an after-school financial literacy program and is about to launch a 501(c)(3) to make this an ongoing program; Jeff Murphy ('09), her husband, is chair of the parental engagement subcommittee of the Superintendent's Student Achievement Advisory committee while Edith Enriquez ('07) chairs the Student Empowerment subcommittee.

PLTI affects lives in so many ways, providing a safe place to learn and expand. Even our Children in their Training Institute have been learning about public policy and our local government.

I know that you all support PLTI, and I truly appreciate it. We have become part of the fiber of the City. Our needs and those of the other ACHSO member organizations have not diminished. We are grateful that the City Manager does not recommend cuts to our funding this year. As a taxpayer, I ask that you RAISE OUR TAXES to a level that will ensure the quality of life for ALL ALEXANDRIANS. Our money will be returned many times.

Thank you.



February 28, 2012

Dear Senator / Delegate:

The Alexandria Council of Human Service Organizations (ACHSO) was formed to improve human services through cross sector collaboration, bringing together high-level city and nonprofit agencies to benefit the entire Alexandria Community resulting in an innovative and integrated human services model.

Our nonprofit organizations urge you to improve the introduced budget to adequately fund investments in key areas where we benefit the state in creating jobs and helping grow the economy. Our nonprofit organizations provide job training; workforce development; education; health and mental health care; youth and family services; parent education and training; and provision of food, shelter and clothing. In answer to a recent survey, our nonprofit organizations reported that they spend 93% of their budgets (including in-kind) on direct program services, and receive an average of 15% of budget as in-kind contributions.

Given the difficult economy, our organizations have seen incredible growth in demand for our services in recent years. To meet this demand and to deliver value to our communities, we leverage public investments with private resources. This effective business model helps create a substantial return on investment for the state as each dollar of state funding gets multiplied many times over with private resources. Unfortunately, the introduced budget makes deep cuts in health and human service programs, which will weaken our ability to effectively continue creating jobs, delivering services, and helping Virginians meet the demands of the current challenging economy. State funding for nonprofit partner organizations that provide a wide array of human services is cut deeply. We urge you to restore these budget cuts that would damage our ability to continue to partner effectively with the state in creating jobs and rebuilding our economy. This short-term budgetary savings will result in Virginia continuing to struggle economically. In addition, we are also concerned about the harmful impacts of the proposals to divert sales and use tax revenue from the general fund to the transportation fund. General fund resources are critical to investments in the wide array of services that we partner with the state to provide. Demand for those services is increasing, not diminishing.

We thank you for the support that you have given to our human service organizations. We look forward to working with you to make sure that no Virginian is left behind in this challenging economy. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Fay

Fay D. Slotnick
Chair, ACHSO's Education & Advocacy Committee
....on behalf of the Over 50 Members of Alexandria Council of Human Service Organizations

Please reply to: Fay D. Slotnick, Executive Director, Parent Leadership Training Institute of Alexandria PO Box 26294,
Alexandria, VA 22313
703-739-0233 or 703-409-6872 (cell)
fay@PLTI-ALEX.org

The Alexandria Council of Human Service Organization's Purpose Statement

To improve human services through cross sector collaboration to benefit the entire Alexandria Community resulting in an innovative and integrated human services model.

Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden

Fact Sheet

Brief History:

Originally the property of General "Light Horse Harry" Lee, Revolutionary War Hero and father of General Robert E. Lee, the lot at the corner of Oronoco and Washington Streets was sold to his cousin Philip Fendall who built the wood frame house on that site. Philip Fendall was a friend and business partner with George Washington and a number of historic events, such as the Masons' planning of Washington's funeral, occurred in this house.

Over the course of the next 118 years, 37 members of the Lee family lived in the house.

With the departure of the last Lee family member in 1903, Robert Downham, prominent Alexandria haberdasher and liquor purveyor, resided in the house for the next 31 years. In 1937, Downham conveyed the house to John L. Lewis, President of the United Mine Workers, who lived in the house until his death in 1969.

In 1972, the property was acquired by the Virginia Trust for Historic Preservation (VTHP) which opened it to the public. Lee-Fendall House is the only property owned by the VTHP. The Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden and the VTHP are managed by a Board of Directors comprised of members of the Alexandria community who are committed to the mission of the museum.

Unique Importance to Alexandria:

Lee-Fendall House is a showcase of American history listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register. It is the city's **oldest** Lee family home (first Alexandria home of the historically significant Lees) and the **only** Lee family home in Alexandria that remains open to the public. It is the **only privately owned** historic house museum connecting more than 5,000 visitors annually with **three centuries** of our community's history. And it is the **only** house museum with an interpretive focus on our community's **Victorian Era traditions**. Lee-Fendall House is a vital and **valued partner in the historic community** in Alexandria, working with other museums in planning city-wide events, developing workshops, hosting social studies administrators, and other endeavors.

Lee-Fendall House is a venue for many valued community events. **Educational programs** focused on the area's history have been developed and are provided to school groups, Boy and Girl Scout troops, and other audiences of all ages. Gardening seminars and other programs are also provided. Interns in the George Washington University graduate program in museum science are supervised and trained at Lee-Fendall House. **Specialized tours** are provided to highlight the historical aspects of various events, e.g., Candlelight tours during the Christmas season feature Victorian Era holiday traditions. Ghost tours at Halloween inform of the mourning traditions of that time frame. Popular **community events** are provided such as wine receptions, garden parties, brunches, teas, Easter Egg hunts and Teddy Bear parades. Its **award winning garden** is one of the largest gardens in Old Town and the site of many community receptions.

Lee-Fendall House is a **unique and desirable rental location** for private events such as weddings, corporate board meetings, receptions, and holiday parties.

Very importantly, visitors to Lee-Fendall House patronize local businesses and bring dollars into the community. E.g., dozens of non-Alexandria residents participate in the Easter egg hunts and stay for

lunch in the area. Wedding guests stay in local hotels, eat at the local restaurants, and shop in the local shops.

The Financial Challenge:

Lee-Fendall House is owned by the Virginia Trust for Historic Preservation (VTHP) and receives **no public funding**. The VTHP's sole activity is to manage and restore the property, but has **no endowment** for its operation and maintenance. The Board's directions are executed by **one full-time employee** (Executive Director) and a staff of part-time volunteers.

Lee-Fendall House has been operating at a **financial loss**. Revenue sources are private donations, memberships, income from events, and rental fees. Annual revenue has averaged \$73,000 but due to aggressive efforts of the Board, revenue in 2011 approached \$100,000. But basic annual operating costs are approximately \$120,000 – 140,000 which does not include unanticipated repairs, storm damage, nor complete fulfillment of the museum's charter and mandates.

In 1999, the VTHP granted an easement on the Lee-Fendall House property to the Commonwealth of Virginia's Board of Historic Resources. In 2006, the VTHP granted an open space easement to the same entity for which it received a one-time tax credit of \$570,000. The easements came with the unfunded mandatory requirement to: (1) restore the Lee-Fendall House, preserve it, maintain it in good condition, and improve it as needed; (2) operate a modern, well-staffed museum interpreting life in the mid-nineteenth century; and (3) preserve and protect in perpetuity the open space and natural resource values of the property, as well as its historic value.

The tax credit was used to restore the structural failures of the house, saving it from collapse, and has been applied to cover budget shortfalls. I.e., the gap between revenue and operating costs has been paid for from the remaining tax credit resources. **This is not a sustainable business model and these funds will soon be exhausted.**

Lee-Fendall House has received several greatly appreciated small grants for restoration work in the house and garden which have been effectively applied, but are insufficient to the tasks. In some cases, matching funds were required and had to be raised.

Lee-Fendall faces special challenges in 2012. We had roof damage from last year's storms that caused leakage and necessitated emergency repairs and plaster damage restoration at a cost of about **\$10,000**. Deterioration of the two chimneys – severely exacerbated by last year's earthquake – must be addressed as an urgent safety issue and will cost approximately **\$30,000**. The rising cost of oil has brought our weekly heating bill up to about **\$700 per week**. And Alexandria Code Enforcement has notified us that we will be cited this spring for the deteriorated condition of our exterior paint. The cost of achieving compliance is not yet known.

Alternatives:

As the current business model is not sustainable, the Board of Directors has explored several alternatives to include aggressively seeking to increase revenues through donations and fund-raising events; dramatically cutting back on services including elimination of community and educational programs and reducing the hours of operation; closing the museum leading to eventual deterioration of the property; selling the property to a private owner; and transferring the property to a public entity. The Board has chosen at this time to pursue the first alternative and is **vigorously seeking to increase revenue while closely monitoring its financial status on a weekly basis**. This is especially challenging in the current economic environment, but deemed preferable to the other alternatives. **If not successful, however, another course of action will have to be followed.**

March 5, 2012
City Council Meeting – Budget Hearing
Testimony on behalf of Northern Virginia Urban League
By: Parent LaDonna Sanders

Good Evening my name is LaDonna Sanders and I am an Alexandria resident. I stand before you to oppose the cutting of \$104,000 from the Northern Virginia Urban League's youth programs. I am referring to the proposed budget page 15-34.(youth development)This program has provided hundreds of youth with the necessary skills to become leaders and successful members of society. As programs and families struggle across the city during these very tough economic times, it is my belief that cutting funding would be detrimental to underserved families and threaten the quality of life for our communities. There is documented research identifying the positive effects afterschool programs have on children's self-concept, educational outcomes, and community safety.

My niece Takeria Sanders is a current participant in the Northern Virginia's Urban League's Digital Connectors program and the Urban Leagues Incentives to Excel Program. Since being in these programs Takeria's study habits and time management skills have improved, resulting in a higher GPA. Takeria has expressed the various skills learned will be beneficial to her matriculation thru her final years in high school and college. When Takeria was asked what she would be doing if she wasn't a participant in either of these programs, her response was "I don't know what I would be doing, but I'm glad I'm doing something positive." The ability of the NULITES and NEW HORIZONS program to inspire and prepare youth to identify career goals, prepare for college, and provide mentorship opportunities is priceless . Supports for these programs are essential to the success of Takeria and many students just like her.

It is my thought with the recent focus on STEM programs in the media and the lack of minorities entering in these fields, funding for programs like digital connectors, which prepares youth to complete with other nations in the field of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics would be an asset to the City of Alexandria's communities. Did you know that currently, the US ranks second in countries leading in technological advances and fourteen in advances in science.

It is on you as city government officials and us as a community to prepare and provide our children with limitless possibilities, and any reduction in funding to programs geared to prepare and educate children would be catastrophic. Let's send the message to our children, that the adults were responsible in their decision making, and made their need to thrive a priority. **Do not cut the Urban League's funding, instead help to Empower Communities and Save Lives.**

Thank you for your time!

From: Fay D. Slotnick on behalf of ACHSO, PLTI and herself

To: Mayor and City Council
Budget Public Hearing
3/5/12

Good afternoon Mayor and Council Members, City Manager and staff, and all of you who care about Alexandria's future. I am Fay Slotnick, 311 Second Street, here as a citizen and taxpayer, as Director of the Parent Leadership Training Institute of Alexandria, and as a member of the Alexandria Council of Human Service Organizations (ACHSO).

I have been saying much the same thing for a few years but it seems that not much has changed so I will say it again. When budgets are constrained, there is a greater not lesser need for human services. As the State of Virginia plans drastic cuts, do we take the risk of failing to provide medical and mental health services, early childhood intervention and education, teen pregnancy prevention programs, and other human services? Will we not create so much increased need that even if the economy regains strength, we won't be able to stem the tide of increased need?

As chair of the Education and Advocacy Committee of ACHSO, I would like you to take note of the many ACHSO representatives who are here to speak and to support our neediest residents. (Please stand.)

The Parent Leadership Training Institute of Alexandria is exclusively concerned with the welfare of children and families. It provides a safety net by expanding the network of those who will work for the welfare of Alexandrians. Our alumni continue to serve. A few examples- Chyrell Bucksell, class of 2010, won the Rising Star Award from the Commission on Women, was appointed to the ARHA Board and may make a run this year for School Board from District B; Jennifer Murphy ('10) started and expanded an after-school financial literacy program and is about to launch a 501(c)(3) to make this an ongoing program; Jeff Murphy ('09), her husband, is chair of the parental engagement subcommittee of the Superintendent's Student Achievement Advisory committee while Edith Enriquez ('07) chairs the Student Empowerment subcommittee.

PLTI affects lives in so many ways, providing a safe place to learn and expand. Even our Children in their Training Institute have been learning about public policy and our local government.

I know that you all support PLTI, and I truly appreciate it. We have become part of the fiber of the City. Our needs and those of the other ACHSO member organizations have not diminished. We are grateful that the City Manager does not recommend cuts to our funding this year. As a taxpayer, I ask that you RAISE OUR TAXES to a level that will ensure the quality of life for ALL ALEXANDRIANS. Our money will be returned many times.

Thank you.

March 5, 2012



FRIENDS OF
GUEST HOUSE
ALEXANDRIA

My name is Kari Galloway and I am the Executive Director of Friends of Guest House, a nonprofit operating in Alexandria and serving residents of Northern Virginia and state-wide.

My thanks to the City Manager for retaining the Alexandria Fund for Human Services budget amount for FY13 and also thank you all for your ongoing support and understanding of the value of the nonprofit community that serves the City and all Alexandrians.

Friends of Guest House, a transitional facility providing support services for women ex-offenders in our community for nearly 40 years, has experienced a BOOM in requests for our services.

Because we are the only facility providing the kind of services, which we do in Northern Virginia, and because there has been a huge increase in the numbers of women incarcerated throughout the country, not to mention in our area, women have long been neglected when it comes to providing for their needs when released from jail and prison.

Because our Residential Facility is limited to 10 beds, four years ago we formally began our Outreach program to help women that either didn't qualify, need or could not wait for room in Residential, but who badly needed access to the same support and services. This program is poised to expand exponentially as we oversee 6 additional units of housing in Fairfax County for our Aftercare and Outreach clients. Sadly we are unable to obtain the same housing opportunities in the City of Alexandria.

Less than 2 years ago we commonly said "not a week goes by that we don't receive an application for our Residential program." Today, we say "rarely does a SINGLE day go by that we don't receive an application for our Residential program...some days we receive more than one." Currently there are 3 women waiting for a bed to open in Guest House. Two of the women are in jails waiting for bed-to-bed transfer and one is with family. Sometimes a woman must sleep on the couch in our basement for several days until a bed became available. Again, the need is HUGE and the stories go on and on!

I am here not just representing Guest House, but also because I am part of several other organizations helping Alexandria's neediest citizens, specifically the Homeless Services Coordinating Committee (HSCC) and the Alexandria Coalition of Human Service Organizations (ACHSO). The HSCC represents Alexandria nonprofit organizations and other advocates unified by our desire to improve the lives and the stability of all Alexandria residents, through access to a continuum of affordable housing resources and safety-net services. We believe that the city's policies and our priorities should support a unified vision for a truly healthy, sustainable Alexandria. Healthy communities stem from healthy families, all of whom have access to stable, secure resources to meet their daily needs. ACHSO is a public/private partnership that allows for those of us working in the human services sector to better serve our increasingly larger client base with more collaborative resources. Together, we are the safety net that Alexandrians most vulnerable need to sustain them and allow them to remain healthy, contributing citizens. Among the nonprofits, the cost to the City relative to the services is quite low.

Thank you, Kari Galloway, Director

Testimony of Dr. Patricia Sanders

Virginia Trust for Historic Preservation – The Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden

Public Hearing: City of Alexandria's 2013 Proposed Operating Budget

5 March 2012

My name is Patricia Sanders and I am speaking to you this evening as the Board President of the Virginia Trust for Historic Preservation and a citizen of Alexandria. The Virginia Trust for Historic Preservation is a non-profit educational foundation whose sole function is the ownership and operation of Alexandria's only privately held historic house museum and its only remaining Lee Family property open to the public – the Lee-Fendall House.

The Lee-Fendall House is a showcase of Alexandria and American history. Since the early 70s, our museum has served the community as a dynamic historical, educational and cultural resource. It is our City's only historic house museum connecting thousands of visitors annually with three centuries of our community's family history - it is Alexandria's oldest Lee family home, as well as home to the prominent Downham family and the nationally recognized labor leader John L. Lewis.

Thus, it is a contributing feature to our City's attraction as a tourist destination, which directly impacts City revenue in the form of retail, restaurant and lodging taxes. Most importantly, it is an example of the significance of grass roots historic preservation in Alexandria, first exemplified when a group of community activists formed our foundation, specifically to raise the funds needed to save the house from demolition in the early 1970s, and provide stewardship for this historic resource...a stewardship that has continued for well over thirty years and, with the support of our community, will continue for many more to come.

But we have a significant financial challenge. Our revenue sources are donations, entrance fees, income from events, and rental fees – we have no endowment. Basic operating and maintenance costs are \$120,000-140,000 annually. This does not include funding for restorations, preservation, staffing beyond one full-time employee, nor unanticipated expenses. We struggle to meet these expenses and have ended many years with a sizable negative gap between revenue and costs.

Our Board is committed to meeting this challenge rather than face the alternatives – closing the museum and seeing the property deteriorate, selling to a private owner, or seeking a transfer to a public entity. We have been pursuing every funding opportunity. But we currently face an exceptionally difficult period. The current tough economy has stressed donations. Our heating bill – even in a mild winter – has been about \$700 a week due to the rising cost of oil. We sustained storm damage to the roof which has caused leaking and plaster deterioration which had to be addressed. This cost \$10,000. Aging and earthquake related damage to the house's two chimneys requires repairs that must be dealt with for safety reasons. The estimated cost is over \$30,000. And Alexandria Code Enforcement has notified us that we will be cited this spring for the deteriorated condition of our exterior paint. The cost of coming into compliance is not yet known.

The City of Alexandria was generous to us in the past when the Lee-Fendall House was threatened with the failure of the primary structural beam that supports the main block of the house. We are requesting that you consider supporting us again and appropriate \$50,000 to help us deal with the major expenses we are currently experiencing. We believe the City will realize a return on this investment through the contributions the Lee-Fendall House makes to the community and the visitors it brings to Alexandria.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and continuing commitment to the Lee-Fendall House.

Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden

Fact Sheet

Brief History:

Originally the property of General "Light Horse Harry" Lee, Revolutionary War Hero and father of General Robert E. Lee, the lot at the corner of Oronoco and Washington Streets was sold to his cousin Philip Fendall who built the wood frame house on that site. Philip Fendall was a friend and business partner with George Washington and a number of historic events, such as the Masons' planning of Washington's funeral, occurred in this house.

Over the course of the next 118 years, 37 members of the Lee family lived in the house.

With the departure of the last Lee family member in 1903, Robert Downham, prominent Alexandria haberdasher and liquor purveyor, resided in the house for the next 31 years. In 1937, Downham conveyed the house to John. L. Lewis, President of the United Mine Workers, who lived in the house until his death in 1969.

In 1972, the property was acquired by the Virginia Trust for Historic Preservation (VTHP) which opened it to the public. Lee-Fendall House is the only property owned by the VTHP. The Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden and the VTHP are managed by a Board of Directors comprised of members of the Alexandria community who are committed to the mission of the museum.

Unique Importance to Alexandria:

Lee-Fendall House is a showcase of American history listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register. It is the city's **oldest** Lee family home (first Alexandria home of the historically significant Lees) and the **only** Lee family home in Alexandria that remains open to the public. It is the **only privately owned** historic house museum connecting more than 5,000 visitors annually with **three centuries** of our community's history. And it is the **only** house museum with an interpretive focus on our community's **Victorian Era traditions**. Lee-Fendall House is a vital and **valued partner in the historic community** in Alexandria, working with other museums in planning city-wide events, developing workshops, hosting social studies administrators, and other endeavors.

Lee-Fendall House is a venue for many valued community events. **Educational programs** focused on the area's history have been developed and are provided to school groups, Boy and Girl Scout troops, and other audiences of all ages. Gardening seminars and other programs are also provided. Interns in the George Washington University graduate program in museum science are supervised and trained at Lee-Fendall House. **Specialized tours** are provided to highlight the historical aspects of various events, e.g., Candlelight tours during the Christmas season feature Victorian Era holiday traditions. Ghost tours at Halloween inform of the mourning traditions of that time frame. Popular **community events** are provided such as wine receptions, garden parties, brunches, teas, Easter Egg hunts and Teddy Bear parades. Its **award winning garden** is one of the largest gardens in Old Town and the site of many community receptions.

Lee-Fendall House is a **unique and desirable rental location** for private events such as weddings, corporate board meetings, receptions, and holiday parties.

Very importantly, visitors to Lee-Fendall House patronize local businesses and bring dollars into the community. E.g., dozens of non-Alexandria residents participate in the Easter egg hunts and stay for

lunch in the area. Wedding guests stay in local hotels, eat at the local restaurants, and shop in the local shops.

The Financial Challenge:

Lee-Fendall House is owned by the Virginia Trust for Historic Preservation (VTHP) and receives **no public funding**. The VTHP's sole activity is to manage and restore the property, but has **no endowment** for its operation and maintenance. The Board's directions are executed by **one full-time employee** (Executive Director) and a staff of part-time volunteers.

Lee-Fendall House has been operating at a **financial loss**. Revenue sources are private donations, memberships, income from events, and rental fees. Annual revenue has averaged \$73,000 but due to aggressive efforts of the Board, revenue in 2011 approached \$100,000. But basic annual operating costs are approximately \$120,000 – 140,000 which does not include unanticipated repairs, storm damage, nor complete fulfillment of the museum's charter and mandates.

In 1999, the VTHP granted an easement on the Lee-Fendall House property to the Commonwealth of Virginia's Board of Historic Resources. In 2006, the VTHP granted an open space easement to the same entity for which it received a one-time tax credit of \$570,000. The easements came with the unfunded mandatory requirement to: (1) restore the Lee-Fendall House, preserve it, maintain it in good condition, and improve it as needed; (2) operate a modern, well-staffed museum interpreting life in the mid-nineteenth century; and (3) preserve and protect in perpetuity the open space and natural resource values of the property, as well as its historic value.

The tax credit was used to restore the structural failures of the house, saving it from collapse, and has been applied to cover budget shortfalls. I.e., the gap between revenue and operating costs has been paid for from the remaining tax credit resources. **This is not a sustainable business model and these funds will soon be exhausted.**

Lee-Fendall House has received several greatly appreciated small grants for restoration work in the house and garden which have been effectively applied, but are insufficient to the tasks. In some cases, matching funds were required and had to be raised.

Lee-Fendall faces special challenges in 2012. We had roof damage from last year's storms that caused leakage and necessitated emergency repairs and plaster damage restoration at a cost of about **\$10,000**. Deterioration of the two chimneys – severely exacerbated by last year's earthquake – must be addressed as an urgent safety issue and will cost approximately **\$30,000**. The rising cost of oil has brought our weekly heating bill up to about **\$700 per week**. And Alexandria Code Enforcement has notified us that we will be cited this spring for the deteriorated condition of our exterior paint. The cost of achieving compliance is not yet known.

Alternatives:

As the current business model is not sustainable, the Board of Directors has explored several alternatives to include aggressively seeking to increase revenues through donations and fund-raising events; dramatically cutting back on services including elimination of community and educational programs and reducing the hours of operation; closing the museum leading to eventual deterioration of the property; selling the property to a private owner; and transferring the property to a public entity. The Board has chosen at this time to pursue the first alternative and is **vigorously seeking to increase revenue while closely monitoring its financial status on a weekly basis**. This is especially challenging in the current economic environment, but deemed preferable to the other alternatives. **If not successful, however, another course of action will have to be followed.**



NORTHERN VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Testimony of Mr. Jason Middough to the Alexandria City Council

March 5, 2012

Mayor Euille and Council members, thank you for this opportunity to speak. My name is Jason Middough and I have the honor of representing you and the City on the Northern Virginia Community College Board.

All of us at NOVA are grateful for the City's long-standing support of the College. This year, we welcome the arrival of Rashad Young as City Manager. As you consider Mr. Young's proposed budget, we wish to thank the Manager for his support of NOVA's capital plan and ask that you embrace his recommendation.

Each year, Alexandria provides local capital match dollars to help NOVA leverage a significant return in State general fund support. Each local dollar you commit returns an average of \$29 in state capital dollars. We need to keep a steady flow of capital investments to keep pace with our steady enrollment growth. While currently our second largest campus, your Alexandria Campus is rapidly catching up with Annandale. The Alexandria Campus is serving almost 18,000 students annually.

In fact, as many of you are already aware, every fall we accept as new students approximately 20% of each T. C. Williams graduating class. We are currently serving close to 4,500 Alexandria residents in our credit classes, another 2,500 in workforce development training and some 100 of the City's high school students are dual enrolled at NOVA and T.C. to get a jump on their college education. In fact, one of the few things state senators and delegates have been able to agree upon this session of the General Assembly is the need to increase the opportunity for dual enrollment!

We are proud of our partnerships with Alexandria-based non-profit organizations such as Hopkins House. For example, our partnership with Hopkins House allows us to provide education and training to low-income students. This partnership creates gateways of opportunities to higher education, better jobs and increased earnings for Alexandria citizens.

COLLEGE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

4001 Wakefield Chapel Road, Annandale, Virginia 22003-3796
Phone: 703-323-3753 Fax: 703-323-3100 www.nvcc.edu

In partnership with the Northern Virginia Black Chamber of Commerce and other small businesses, we are also working on the first annual Small Business Conference. This conference will target small and minority owned business owners to help them acquire expertise and knowledge on how to gain contracts with local and federal government agencies.

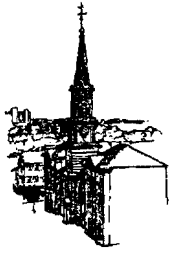
Looking forward, we are partnering with the Alexandria Workforce Investment Board to explore how NOVA can best respond to the opportunities presented by the recent move of BRAC from Crystal City to the neighboring Mark Center.

The Alexandria Campus is proud of its partnership with the Charles Barrette Elementary school. Through this partnership, we are providing free basic computer knowledge and skills to low-income parents.

Finally, the Alexandria Campus is exploring partnership opportunities with the Carpenter's Shelter program. We are considering how this partnership might assist clients to finish degrees and/or take vocational courses at NOVA.

In closing, our success in serving the City is beginning to stretch the limits of our facilities. Classes at our Alexandria campus start at 6:30 in the morning and run through 11:00 at night, with classes offered seven days a week. Accordingly, your continued support for NOVA's capital plan is critical. NOVA's main focus is and will remain to help connect City residents with the education they need to secure viable, living-wage employment.

Again, on behalf of the college, I thank you for your time and for your strong support for NOVA.



City Hall
Alexandria, Virginia

Alexandria Waterfront Committee
Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities
1108 Jefferson Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314



February 27, 2012

The Honorable William D. Euille
Mayor of Alexandria
City Hall
301 King Street, Room 2300
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mayor Euille:

At its meeting on February 21, 2012, the Alexandria Waterfront Committee reviewed items in the City Manager's proposed Fiscal Year 2013 Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program (CIP) that specifically impact the Waterfront. This letter summarizes recommendations of the Waterfront Committee regarding those proposed expenditures. We begin by addressing the proposed operating budget, followed by capital improvements.

Proposed Operating Budget Items

The Waterfront Committee strongly endorses the following expenditures as outlined in the City Manager's proposed FY13 General Fund Operating Budget:

- **Office of Project Implementation:** The Waterfront Committee strongly supports the creation of this office to facilitate implementation of high-priority capital projects, including the Waterfront Plan. We are eager to see capital improvements to the Alexandria Waterfront in the near-term horizon, and appointing an office tasked with implementing these changes is critical to accomplishing the goals and objectives of the recently-adopted Waterfront Small Area Plan. As noted below, however, this office should not serve as a substitute for centralized City management of Waterfront operations.
- **Union Street Traffic Study:** One-time operating funding of \$300,000. This study is a crucial element of Waterfront Plan implementation, and is urgently required prior to Council consideration of any redevelopment proposals for the Waterfront area.
- **Valet Parking Pilot Program:** One-time operating funding of \$25,000. The Waterfront Committee has long advocated for applying new and innovative concepts to alleviate parking concerns in the core area of the Waterfront. The valet parking pilot program will provide an important test case to address this issue.
- **Waterfront Plan Study/Implementation Contingency:** One-time operating funding of \$100,000. This is an important set-aside to ensure smooth implementation of the Waterfront Small Area Plan.

The Waterfront Committee recommends that staff and Council reexamine two budget issues that remain concerns of the Committee:

- **Centralized Management of Waterfront Operations:** Currently, responsibility for Waterfront maintenance and Operations is fractured across several City departments including the departments of

Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Activities; Transportation and Environmental Services; and General Services. A central recommendation of the Waterfront Plan Work Group, endorsed by the Waterfront Committee and by City Council in its adoption of the Waterfront Small Area Plan, is the appointment of a senior director within City government accountable for integrated management of the Waterfront, coordination of the activities of City agencies, public entities, and commercial interests, and achievement of the Waterfront Plan vision. According to page 20 of the Final Report of the Work Group, this senior director should be tasked with preparing and defending an integrated budget for Waterfront needs. Other responsibilities may include coordination of operation of the Marina, programming, maintenance of parks and public space, security, facilities maintenance, budget and funds administration, and planning of future needs. These roles are distinct from the implementation of capital improvement projects, to be led by the newly-proposed Office of Project Implementation.

The Waterfront Committee recommends that staff to develop a plan to implement centralized management of Waterfront operations during the next fiscal year, for implementation in FY14.

- **Marina Security Improvements:** The Waterfront Committee recommends reinstatement of a second Marina security guard as funding permits. The Committee further recommends that the City consider staffing Marina security with Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Affairs (RPCA) staff directly employed by City in lieu of a private contractor. This would shift responsibility for overnight Marina security from the Department of General Services to RPCA, the entity responsible for management of the Marina and daytime operations. This arrangement would facilitate interaction between existing Dockmaster staff and overnight security and provide continuity of operations around the clock.

Proposed Capital Improvements

As described in a November 16, 2012 letter to Council, on September 20, 2011 the Alexandria Waterfront Committee voted to prioritize several capital improvement projects, including Windmill Hill Park bulkhead repairs, City Marina seawall maintenance, and a City Marina utility upgrade. We note that all of these issues are addressed in the City Manager's proposed FY13-FY22 CIP; however, the Waterfront Committee recommends advancing the scheduled timeframe of these proposed improvements:

- **Windmill Hill Park Bulkhead Repairs:** This \$4.0 million project consists of renovation and construction work on the bulkhead at Windmill Hill Park, which is in a state of advanced deterioration and collapse. A January 2009 inspection by the City's engineering consultants found the bulkhead to be in "critical" condition, and was noted as a significant safety hazard to the public (RK&K 2009). *We strongly encourage members of Council to visit Windmill Hill Park and inspect the deleterious condition of the bulkhead first-hand.*

The Waterfront Committee urges the City to continue to identify Commonwealth or Federal funding for bulkhead repairs that could expedite the timeframe for completion of this project. The Waterfront Committee also urges consideration of less-costly yet aesthetically-appropriate approaches to replacing the existing bulkhead, which may make the project more affordable and able to be implemented earlier than the currently-programmed FY16/FY17 project delivery timeframe.

- **City Marina Seawall Maintenance:** This \$1.7 million project would repair damage to existing seawalls at the Alexandria City Marina. Given the dangerous conditions and the operational impacts on the Marina of this damaged infrastructure, the Waterfront Committee recommends that repair be prioritized and funded earlier than FY16 and FY17.
- **City Marina Utility Upgrade:** This \$1.25 million project would upgrade facilities at the Alexandria City Marina to facilitate utility requirements for modern vessels. In order to provide a modern facility for boaters using the Marina, the Waterfront Committee recommends prioritization of improvements as funding

permits, preferably earlier than the FY16 and FY17 timeframe currently proposed, and in coordination with the City Marina Seawall Maintenance project.

In addition, the Committee supports expenditures for the following projects as outlined in the City Manager's proposed FY13-FY22 CIP:

- **Waterfront Small Area Plan implementation:** Capital funding of \$750,000 in FY13 for design and engineering for flood mitigation and a Waterfront Small Area Plan Preliminary Design and Engineering plan, two critical elements to kick off plan implementation.
- **Marina Dredging:** Capital funding of \$3.1 million in FY14/ FY15 and \$3.1 million again FY19/FY20. Regular dredging provides for open waterways required for continued operation of the City Marina.
- **City Marina Maintenance:** Capital funding of \$90,000 annually through FY22. This provides basic funding for routine repairs and other expenditures to maintain the infrastructure of the City Marina.

* * * * *

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on Alexandria's FY13 budget priorities. On behalf of the Alexandria Waterfront Committee and the broad Citywide constituencies that we represent, thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Nathan M. Macek, Chair
Alexandria Waterfront Committee

- CC: Alexandria City Council
Rashad Young, City Manager
Bruce Johnson, Chief of Staff
Mark Jinks, Deputy City Manager
Faroll Hamer, Director, Department of Planning and Zoning
Jeremy McPike, Director, Department of General Services
Jim Spengler, Director, Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities
Morgan Routt, Acting Director, Department of Management and Budget
Jack Browand, Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities
Cheryl Lawrence, Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities
Jim Hixon, Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities
Alexandria Waterfront Committee

**Testimony of Robert C. Eiffert, on behalf of the
Alexandria Commission on Aging
Budget Public Hearing
March 5, 2012**

To the Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council: My name is Bob Eiffert. I am a resident of the West End and am here today representing the Alexandria Commission on Aging, of which I am a member.

Let me begin by thanking you for your years of support of older adults in Alexandria. As our older adult population ages in place, you have allowed the service levels to remain fairly intact in these very bad budget years. We recognize your efforts and sincerely appreciate them.

However, I am here today to request that you reconsider a request to add one licensed Senior Therapist to the Geriatric Mental Health team, which was requested but not included in the City manager's proposed budget. The cost of this position is estimated at \$62,000.

There has been a marked increase in the number of overall referrals for geriatric mental health over the last three years, largely consistent with the increase in the over age 65 population in the city. Of significant importance is the number of referrals for competency evaluations, which are labor intensive and have high urgency. In the past 3 years this number has increased significantly. In FY09 there were 67 urgent competency evaluations, while in FY11 there were 87, a nearly 30% increase (there has been a 20% increase in all referrals during the same time period). All of these assessments are very complex and require an average of 6 staff hours per evaluation, not counting travel time to and from the assessment site.

In addition, this new position is needed to provide what are called "emergent" clinical assessments for Emergency Custody Orders, Temporary Detention Orders, or crisis interventions in the community prior to an individual being hospitalized. The increase in these types of interventions has resulted in fewer staff hours available for ongoing outpatient treatment of the geriatric clients, impacting the number of hours currently available for less urgent referrals and persons requiring ongoing treatment. Community agencies report that they rarely refer persons for treatment until they have met the emergent level, because they are aware of the waiting time for a non urgent case. There are currently 143 ongoing cases that require treatment with another 17 on the waiting list. The agency currently has two licensed Senior Therapists and one Therapist Supervisor, who divides her time between direct service to clients and supervisory responsibilities.

I urge you to consider this request for another staff position to help meet the critical mental health needs of our older residents. Thank you for your time today.

[Statistics on Reverse]

Total Number of Referrals: FY09	118	Emergent	67
Total Number of Referrals: FY10	131	Emergent	75
Total Number of Referrals: FY11	142	Emergent	87

Year to date FY 12 As of Feb 21, 2012

Referrals Mid FY12: **78** Emergent **69, 88% of all geriatric mental health referrals**

Total Number on waiting list **17**

Total Number of persons over age 62 currently open to ACSB programs **143**

BUDGET MEETING COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS 3-5-2012

- 1. Eliminate Alexandria 5% tax on groceries – very regressive**
- 2. Consultants – Budget doesn't list amount of money for various depts.**
- 3. Personnel Compensation/salaries: Proposed increase for 2013 is 3.3% - \$14.3 million dollars or 5.6%. Any proposed salary increase for City Manager in 2013 budget should be eliminated as he is currently earning \$245,000 dollars plus a generous benefit package. Mr. Young is proposing a new position for a Capital Projects Manager. How much is this going to cost and don't we already have employees in City Manager's office that can do this job? Support staff needs a raise and I could find nothing in the budget that indicated any reduction in pay for senior staff employees earning over \$100,000+ dollars that should have a reduction in pay or plan to take early retirement.**
- 4. Proposed budget recommends eliminating 27 f/t & p/t positions, 8 currently filled, yet offsetting this reduction by addition of 29 new positions. Am I missing something here?**
- 5. Alexandria Public Schools: Once again council members complain about the increase in ACPS budget, lack of oversight, and though I understand you have no control over school board's request for more money nor the high salary paid to Superintendent Sherman, wherein the school board just approved a 3 yr. contract for Mr. Sherman and increase in salary to \$250,000 dollars plus his large compensation package and school board has gone so far as to increase many senior staff in administrative office's compensation package of about \$160,000 plus contributions to their Tax Sheltered Annuity accounts of about \$20,000+ p/person. You can only vote on the school's request for CIP projects, which you will do again despite your concerns. I believe it is time for you to send a message to the school board and Mr. Sherman that an increase in their request of 5.6% or \$14.3 million dollars will not be approved. Furthermore, since the school board continues to make financial decisions for Superintendent Sherman and his Administrative staff, I believe you should now implement a policy the school board members will not be paid and save**

Alexandria taxpayers some money. We can no longer afford our high-price superintendent, his continued increase of monies for consultants, high paying administrative staff that appears to be padding their pockets with money rather than putting this money into the schools for the children. Alexandrianews.org had an excellent editorial about ACPS and the budget and proposed a way for council to monitor the expenditures of ACPS. I am attaching a copy of their editorial to my comments and suggest you read and implement this policy.

- 6. Parking ticket appeals: So you have now instituted a new adjudicated plan that still costs Alexandria taxpayers money whether or not they appeal a parking ticket since you contract for a vendor to provide this service. Yes, I did contact Arlington County and I was told by the police officer familiar with their program that in 2009 state law provides funding for every local jurisdiction district court judge to hear parking ticket appeals. Arlington does not have a full time person; they do contract out for collection of monies via Duncan Solutions and now Alex. Is establishing a similar system for a person to appeal a parking ticket. However, since state law now states that every local jurisdiction receives funding from the state for District Court, why are we still continuing to contract out for person(s) to hear a parking ticket appeal?**

Thank you for listening and reading my comments.

Annabelle Fisher

Very generous City Councils have always given ACPS a lump sum appropriation meaning that all of the money going to the schools is available on July 1, the very start of the fiscal year.

Perhaps this year City Council should avail themselves of provisions under State law that allow them to appropriate the funds quarterly. That would be more complicated for the city and school staff but would force ACPS to come back to the City every 3 months to justify its request for the next installment of funds. Council could make the Superintendent and Board pay attention to administrative matters. A lecture from those who control the purse strings is more effective than letters to the editor or even editorials.

What this City does not need in the fall election campaign is one more issue of failing governance. If City Council does not step in they will be complicit in the poor administration of the schools and we deserve better than that in Alexandria. We have had it in the past and we should have it now.



Article printed from AlexandriaNews: <http://www.alexandrianews.org>

URL to article: <http://www.alexandrianews.org/2012/02/the-uncivil-service/>

Copyright © 2009 AlexandriaNews. All rights reserved.

- AlexandriaNews - <http://www.alexandrianews.org> -

The Uncivil Service

Posted By [jamie](#) On February 28, 2012 @ 2:56 pm In [Editorials](#) | [Comments Disabled](#)

Recently the Educational Association of Alexandria published on its web site salary and benefit information for senior staff of the Alexandria City Public Schools. The figures showed that they are extremely well paid, which we all knew. What we all did not know is that some of them besides the Superintendent were receiving very large contributions to tax sheltered annuity accounts as a benefit.

This practice started under former Superintendent Rebecca Perry who does not seem to have brought it to the School Board's attention. Interim Superintendent William Symons discovered it and did alert the Board but in the transition to Superintendent Morton Sherman and turnover in Board Members, the issue was forgotten. The annuity contributions now are much, much larger than those reported by Dr. Symons.

We have become accustomed to stories of poor administrative practices in ACPS. The community is still waiting for the results of a supposedly independent audit of the school's spending on capital items. The revelation about annuities raises our concerns to an entirely new level.

School systems, like almost all governmental authorities, are administered under a set of fairly rigid guidelines known loosely as civil service rules. This system emerged at the federal level in the United States in 1871 and replaced the system of political patronage that existed. Gradually the system spread to states and localities and local school districts stopped replacing school teachers when the party in power in the county or city changed. Today the merit system and rules of civil service are almost universally applied in the United States for public employees.

Civil Service rules have their drawbacks. The rigid framework is not well suited to officers at the top rungs of administration. It is often difficult for public bodies including school systems to compete for top executives because they cannot offer them the same compensation and benefits as the private sector.

That argument, however, does not allow the senior administrators of a public agency to throw civil service rules and procedures in the waste basket.

The central purpose of civil service is that all employees are treated alike and that merit is rewarded. Bestowing benefits at the whim of the Superintendent is directly counter to everything that governmental reform has stood for in the last hundred and fifty years!

If the School System wants to provide annuities to very senior staff on top of the very generous Virginia Retirement System benefits, there is a process for that. The Superintendent would propose a policy in accordance with Virginia law that would be debated and adopted by the School Board after a public hearing. The Superintendent would prepare implementing regulations. Without an explicitly approved School Board policy, it is not clear that these annuity payments are legal.

Other issues are appearing in ACPS including assertions that some staff members are given credit or cash in other areas for benefits not taken. Again if this is true, there is no policy governing it. If one employee gets other benefits in lieu of health insurance not taken why should this not apply to all members of the ACPS staff.

We are growing impatient with the poor management and lack of proper administration within ACPS. Perhaps the upcoming City Council Budget process is the place to settle this issue.

**Alexandria Community Services Board Testimony
City of Alexandria Public Hearing on the FY 2012 Budget
March 5, 2012**

Speaker: Mary Anne Weber, Chair, Alexandria Community Services Board

I come here today to express concerns over the City Manager's proposed FY 2013 budget. The budget guidance of not raising taxes while preserving the budgets for education and public safety left the City Manager with little choice but to concentrate reductions on programs serving the most vulnerable. The proposed budget contains reductions totaling more than \$600,000 for the Alexandria Community Services Board. If the FY13 reductions are approved, the ACSB would have had reductions totaling \$2.5 million since FY 2010. It is difficult for Board members and the community to reconcile the City's Strategic Plan vision of being a caring community with constant reductions in Board programs.

There are three critical needs for the Board: The addition of a therapist for youth with intellectual disabilities, the addition of a therapist for older adults, and the restoration of an IT position.

The youth therapist would address the wait list of 57 children, 37 of whom have been waiting for at least a year. Just as important, the position ensures the continued collection of Medicaid Waiver revenues totaling more than \$2 million annually. This position works with families so they can be placed on the state's Medicaid Waiver waiting list, a list that currently has about 5,000 names. If fewer Alexandrians are placed on the wait list, individuals from other localities may receive the Waiver slots that could have been allocated to Alexandrians. Without the Waiver, families may seek less appropriate non-community based resources. The net cost to the City is only \$33,000.

The therapist serving older adults costs only \$62,000 and addresses the current and projected demographic needs that were discussed recently at the public hearing on the aging. Funding this position provides the team with increased ability to provide urgent competency evaluations, which are necessary to admit individuals who are in crisis and have dementia into hospitals. In addition all the services of this licensed clinical position are billable under Medicaid, ~~which could bring in more than a \$100,000 a year.~~

Finally, reductions to the Board over the past several years have crippled the agency's infrastructure. The proposed elimination of the IT position comes on top of a half-time reduction in FY 2010 and the reallocation of an IT position as a result of the merger. The IT position is critical to the Board's successful transformation stemming from the affordable care act and its requirements for electronic health records and information exchanges.

For many years, City Council has been a strong advocate for individuals with disabilities. While the Board recognizes the financial challenges the City faces and accepts budget reductions are part of the process, we urge you to reconsider the policy of targeting safety net services budgets to balance your budget.

SEAN CASEY 3/5/12

Mayor, members of city council, and city manager I come before you as the President of the Alexandria Committee of Police, local five, which is an employee group that represents numerous rank and file sworn members of the Alexandria Police Department. I am also speaking today as a lifelong resident, homeowner, and tax paying citizen of Alexandria.

I am very concerned and troubled about the lack of employee compensation in the proposed ~~2012~~ budget. While it is proposed that employees will be receiving merit increases, there will be no market rate adjustment and none of the benchmarking studies will be funded.

This is extremely hard for my members to stomach. With the rise in health care costs, a large amount of them will be seeing less money in their paycheck on July 1, 2012 because they will not receive their merit increase until later in the fiscal year, some not until June of 2013.

My second concern is there is nothing in the budget to address that fact that Alexandria, once again, has the lowest starting salary for a police officer amongst our five comparator jurisdictions. An Alexandria Police officer starts out on average making around \$2000.00 less than their counterparts. This is a

glaring problem which has serious implications as to the quality of police officers we are able to recruit and also retain. It is also important to point out that new employees who chose to stay with Alexandria will NOT recoup these lost wages on the back end of their career because our pay scale is designed in such a way that employees will never be able to reach the end of it.

I know that there is a proposal to address this issue for the general employee pay scale which involves cutting the first two steps of the pay scale out. This would push employees who are in those first two steps up to the new starting point and new employees would start at the same salary as an employee who has been with the city for three years.

This method of making the pay scale competitive is a slap in the face to current Alexandria employees because it financially devalues their experience, knowledge, skills, and abilities they have developed functioning in their position for several years. I oppose implementing this fix for the general scale employees and would ask for it never to be used to address the distressingly low starting salary for new police officers.

My third concern is that the city is moving towards pay for performance for all employees. I oppose this for all city employees especially police officers. If implemented for police officers it would take away officers discretion and force them to write every ticket, make every arrest, regardless of how petty they are. They would be forced to do this because it would be the only way for them to attach tangible results to their daily work activity. So, officers who once patrolled their beat relentlessly trying to PREVENT crime would be forced to go hunt for petty traffic and parking violations in order to obtain an outstanding evaluation which would procure them the highest monetary award possible. Not to mention the federal government tried this and it failed miserably.

In closing, in order to address these concerns I would please ask that you reassess this budget to put the employees first. If that requires a minor tax increase I believe our citizens would accept it knowing it is necessary to maintain the excellent quality of life that the officers of the Alexandria Police Department and other city employees provide them.

My name is Meredith MacNab and I live at 408 S. Royal St. My husband Bob and I have been paying taxes in Alexandria for over thirty years. As most of you on the city council know, we are committed Dash riders and avid supporters of public transportation. The ability to use Dash figured into our plans when we recently decided to commit a substantial amount of our personal savings towards a major home renovation – the idea being to stay in Old Town with built in support systems such as reliable local transportation. Like a lot of senior Alexandrians we hope to be able to maintain a decent quality of life and grow old together in the city. In our personal planning, we never considered that Dash would cut the AT7, our only Saturday service and connection to the Metro. In addition to the AT4 which is also slated for deep cuts, the northeast quadrant does have 3 other Saturday routes: the AT2, the 5 and the 3-4 Loop. Right now the southeast quadrant and the Lee Center neighborhoods have only the AT7 on Saturdays.

I understand that these routes have fewer riders but the availability and trust of a bus showing up during slow times is part of what makes the overall system work. And ridership on routes does change over time. Maybe if there were more coverage in our quadrant on weekends, folks would learn to rely on it more. I believe escalating gas prices have some of my neighbors rethinking their options. A functioning system must run buses in off peak periods when folks need to use it for a variety of reasons. Saturday is a busy day for shopping and getting errands done and the 7 makes the Safeway accessible to the city and also makes the farmers' market and beyond available to the southeast. But more important for us is that any daily bus will connect us to a Metro station and the larger world. I have a neighbor who is having surgery next week but will soon need to get back to work on S. Washington St. Once again, I gave her a Dash pass and am encouraging her to get onboard. She works fulltime in retail, especially on the weekends. She will need local reliable bus service to get to and from work when she won't be able to walk the distance as she usually does or operate her car. Not everyone works M-F or needs buses only during rush hour.

I am grateful to the city and glad for Dash and our whole transportation system that there are serious funds being allocated to this core service. I commend the council and our new city manager. My husband and I were some of the citizens who showed up over time to articulate these essential needs of our community. I only hope you can hear me now and help preserve our viability. If there is thought to extending the 3-4 loop to cover our end of town I would encourage Dash to consider taking it to Hunting Towers and not just the Safeway so folks like my neighbor can get to work on the weekends and others can shop locally and support our merchants. This would also cover the folks near Lee Center as well as the center itself. I know a number of folks taking classes there this summer. Thank you for listening.

2
3-5-12

March 3, 2012

Status Speech for City Council - March 5, 2012

Good evening, Mr. Mayor and members of the City Council. My name is Bill Rivers and I am here tonight as the Chair of the Miracle League of Alexandria. As you may recall, we entered into a partnership with the City to install a Miracle Field at the Lee Center in 2012.

Last May, you approved \$285,000 in the 2013 CIP as the City's share of the Miracle Field. We at the Miracle League pledged to raise \$135,000 in private sector funds to complete the \$420,000 needed for the Field. I'm here to tell you that we have made considerable progress in raising those funds and that we fully expect to have cash on hand or firm pledges for the entire amount by the time that you vote in May on the 2013 CIP.

To date we have approximately \$96,000 in cash on hand, checks being processed, or firm pledges as we start our Spring fund raising season. Part of that funding has been generously provided by individual Council members, so please accept our thanks. Other funds have come from the community – both businesses and private individuals. Our smallest donation has been \$2; our largest has been a donation and a pledge for \$40,000 from the Kelley Cares Foundation, a great group of people that support the Therapeutic Recreation community in Alexandria. Just a comment on the pledge – Kelley Cares hosts an annual Road Race in May of each year. This year, it will be on May 19th. \$30,000 from that Road Race will be donated to the Miracle Field – to go along with \$10,000 already donated. Like I say – they are a great group of people working on a great cause.

We just had a "Sock Hop" on February 25th to honor one of our special needs players – Ryan Bailey – and to raise funds for the Field. That dance raised \$7,000. We are now starting our restaurant month – we will have 4 Wednesdays in a row during March when one of the City's fine restaurants will be donating a portion of the proceeds from sales that day. We start with ZPizza on the 7th and go to Fuddruckers on the 14th, Baja Fresh on the 21st, and the Homemade Pizza Co. on the 28th.

A number of other fund raising activities are also going on, but time precludes me from mentioning them.

Other developments are:

- We continue to work with the Washington Nationals Baseball Club. They will host two Alexandria Days during the upcoming season and will create a special ordering website for tickets where part of the proceeds will go to the Miracle League.

- Our City staff has been great in working with us. Members of the Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities and of Transportation and Environmental Services donated their own time to develop the plans for the Field. Simpson Development will oversee the installation of the Field and they say that the plans are a quality product that they can already use for bidding purposes so that a Field can be completed by the Fall.
- We will work with you all and the City to set up a groundbreaking ceremony for late June.
- The Spring Miracle League season will be starting on April 21st on the dirt field at the Lee Center. The season will run through June – if you have a chance, come out to a game – Saturdays at 1:00.

As you can see, a lot is happening. We, as well as others, anticipate that all the funding will be available and expect to see a Field by next October. As that is only possible through your actions and support, we at the Miracle League of Alexandria and others throughout the therapeutic recreation community, thank you and look forward to seeing you at the groundbreaking in June and at the dedication in the Fall.

Eat and Run for a *Miracle Field*

Dinner For A Good Cause!

Helping the Miracle League is as simple as enjoying a good meal with your family. On Wednesdays throughout March, eat at designated restaurants and help fund a new, adaptive field for special needs kids in Alexandria. For more about the Miracle League, visit our web site:

www.miracleleagueofalexandria.com

Wednesday, March 7
5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

zpizza
the pure one

3217 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 2212
Dine in and pick up orders only.

Wednesday, March 14
5 p.m. to 9 p.m.



4141 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22304

Wednesday, March 21
10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

BAJA FRESH
MEXICAN GRILL

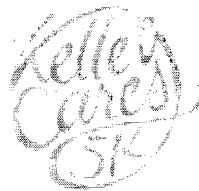
3231 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22304

Wednesday, March 28
1 p.m. to 9 p.m.

HOMEMADE PIZZA CO

2413 Mt Vernon, Alexandria, VA 22301
Miracle League will get **\$5 for every large pizza,**
plus donations on other items.

Run for A Good Cause!



After eating during March, run it off at the

Kelley Cares 5K Run/Walk on May 19th

Registration is open at: www.KelleyCares.org

Jackie Henderson

From: Graciela Maldonado-Collins <gcollinsmaldonado@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2012 8:36 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones; Princetta Williams
Subject: COA Contact Us: Adult Learning Center and Teachers
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Sun Feb 26, 2012 20:35:52] Message ID: [37396]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: Graciela

Last Name: Maldonado-Collins

Street Address: 710 N. Armistead Street

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Zip: 22312

Phone: 703-203-3572

Email Address: gcollinsmaldonado@gmail.com

Subject: Adult Learning Center and Teachers

My success in learning English in the ACPS Adult Learning Center is because

of the full time teachers, their experience and dedication, and all of us

having classes in the same building, the Adult Learning Center.
I have

attended many different programs in the Washington DC area from the Sanz

School to the Department of Agriculture and others. These programs are

boring, the teachers are not inspiring and in some case the teachers are

Comments: not experienced in teaching ELL.
With my teachers at ALC, every day I

learn something new about American history and life in the United States.

I can ask my teachers about any subject and they answer knowledgably and

make this the subject of a discussion.
Recent ACPS budget decisions will

eliminate full time teachers and replace them with "hourly"

teachers. As I stated above, my success is due to my teachers at the

Learning Center. Please consider alternatives that will keep our teachers.

This is very important to our community.
Thank you

Jackie Henderson

From: Maciej Krauze <maciej_krauze@wp.pl>
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2012 9:08 AM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones; Princetta Williams
Subject: COA Contact Us: To keep the Adult Learning Center Open
Attachments: 015ac33fe861ae130c1c00106bc8d54a.doc; ATT00001.txt

COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Fri Mar 02, 2012 09:08:02] Message ID: [37517]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Maciej
Last Name: Krauze
Street Address: Skarzynskiego 3/58
86-300 Grudziadz
Poland
City: Poland
State: Kujawsko-Pomorskie
Zip: 86-300
Phone: +48604873767
Email Address: maciej_krauze@wp.pl
Subject: To keep the Adult Learning Center Open
Please read the letter from the attachment.
Thank You so much.
Comments: Maciej
Krauze
Poland
Attachment: 015ac33fe861ae130c1c00106bc8d54a.doc

Maciej Krauze
Poland
Mobile +48604873767

03/02/2012

City Council

Dear Dr. Sherman

My name is Maciej Krauze and I come from Poland. I've been in Virginia, USA seven years ago. I've been working hard 15-16 hours per day, paying taxes and having fun in the Greatest United States of America. At that time I still have had a time for learning English! You ask: How was that possible (working 16 hours a day?), Why I did it?

The answer is simple:

Learning Center and ALL adult ESL -> they gave me a chance, they gave me a help hand, they have taught me American English, for me the greatest language!

Ms Jan Nell Bryant one of the teachers, the greatest Person and Teacher I've ever met, learned me a lot, a lot means that I can now write to You this message and ask You: "Please do not shut down the Adult Learning Center, ESL" cause we immigrants need this!!!

I am aware about the crisis, cutting budgets, and all that stuff but please remember that The Greatest America was built by the Immigrants, The Greatest America fundamentals are strong thanks to Immigrants!!!

The Adults Learning Center helped me understand what the America is, what the American English is, what is the different between American English and British English, helped me understand that we build the society, we build countries we are the power that gives the power to country and believe me teachers in the ALC are professional and have so many patience that You cannot even imagine!!!

The year I've spend in USA was the finest, the best from the best, most experienced in my life and I don't regret any of days I spend there and the big part of it is thanks to ADC and Ms Jan Nell!

With hope that You will be able to take a right decision.

Your Sincerely
Maciej Krauze

Jackie Henderson

From: Patricia Sanders <sanderspa@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2012 11:15 AM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones; Princetta Williams
Subject: COA Contact Us: Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden
Attachments: c12f83ea25a88509a76c70af6faae0fc.docx; ATT00001.txt

COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Wed Feb 22, 2012 11:14:37] Message ID: [37250]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Patricia
Last Name: Sanders
Street Address: 814 Bashfor Lane
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22314
Phone: 703-683-1526
Email Address: sanderspa@verizon.net
Subject: Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden
The Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden, is a historic property located on the corner of Washington Street and Oronoco in Alexandria – many of you have visited the property. The museum is owned and managed by the Virginia Trust for Historic Preservation (its sole property), has no endowment and no public funding. Annual operating costs are about \$120,000 – a challenge that must be met through tour fees, memberships, donations, and rental revenues. A fact sheet is attached that details the unique advantages provided to the community by the museum and garden as the last remaining Lee family property open to the public in Alexandria.
Lee-Fendall faces special challenges this year. We had roof damage from last year's storms that caused leakage and necessitated emergency repairs and plaster damage restoration at a cost of about \$10,000. Deterioration of the two chimneys – severely exacerbated by last year's earthquake – must be

addressed as an urgent safety issue and will cost approximately \$30,000.

And the rising cost of oil has brought our weekly heating bill up to about \$700 per week.

I plan to attend the City Council Hearing on Monday, 5

March, to discuss these issues with you and seek your support to enable

Lee-Fendall to continue to serve the Alexandria community.

Dr. Patricia

Sanders
Board President
Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden

Attachment: c12f83ea25a88509a76c70af6faae0fc.docx

Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden

Fact Sheet

Brief History:

Originally the property of General “Light Horse Harry” Lee, Revolutionary War Hero and father of General Robert E. Lee, the lot at the corner of Oronoco and Washington Streets was sold to his cousin Philip Fendall who built the wood frame house on that site. Over the course of the next 118 years, 37 members of the Lee family lived in the house.

With the departure of the last Lee family member in 1903, Robert Downham, prominent Alexandria haberdasher and liquor purveyor, resided in the house for the next 31 years. In 1937, Downham conveyed the house to John. L. Lewis, President of the United Mine Workers, who lived in the house until his death in 1969.

In 1972, the property was acquired by the Virginia Trust for Historic Preservation (VTHP) which opened it to the public. Lee-Fendall House is the only property owned by the VTHP. The Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden and the VTHP are managed by a Board of Directors comprised of members of the Alexandria community who are committed to the mission of the museum.

Unique Importance to Alexandria:

Lee-Fendall House is a showcase of American history listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register. It is the city’s **oldest** Lee family home (first Alexandria home of the historically significant Lees) and the **only** Lee family home in Alexandria that remains open to the public. It is the **only privately owned** historic house museum connecting more than 5,000 visitors annually with **three centuries** of our community’s history. And it is the **only** house museum with an interpretive focus on our community’s **Victorian Era traditions**.

Lee-Fendall House is a venue for many valued community events. **Educational programs** focused on the area’s history have been developed and are provided to school groups, Boy and Girl Scout troops, and other audiences of all ages. Gardening seminars and other programs are also provided. Interns in the George Washington University graduate program in museum science are supervised and trained at Lee-Fendall House. **Specialized tours** are provided to highlight the historical aspects of various events, e.g., Candlelight tours during the Christmas season feature Victorian Era holiday traditions. Ghost tours at Halloween inform of the mourning traditions of that time frame. Popular **community events** are provided such as wine receptions, garden parties, brunches, teas, Easter Egg hunts and Teddy Bear parades. Its **award winning garden** is one of the largest gardens in Old Town and the site of many community receptions.

Lee-Fendall House is a **unique and desirable rental location** for private events such as weddings, corporate board meetings, receptions, and holiday parties.

The Financial Challenge:

Lee-Fendall House is owned by the Virginia Trust for Historic Preservation (VTHP) and receives **no public funding**. The VTHP's sole activity is to manage and restore the property, but has **no endowment** for its operation and maintenance. The Board's directions are executed by **one full-time employee** (Executive Director) and a staff of part-time volunteers.

Lee-Fendall House has been operating at a **financial loss**. Revenue sources are private donations, memberships, income from events, and rental fees. Annual revenue has averaged \$73,000 but due to aggressive efforts of the Board, revenue in 2011 is expected to be in excess of \$90,000. But annual operating costs are approximately \$120,000.

In 1999, the VTHP granted an easement on the Lee-Fendall House property to the Commonwealth of Virginia's Board of Historic Resources. In 2006, the VTHP granted an open space easement to the same entity for which it received a one-time tax credit of \$570,000. The easements came with the unfunded mandatory requirement to: (1) restore the Lee-Fendall House, preserve it, maintain it in good condition, and improve it as needed; (2) operate a modern, well-staffed museum interpreting life in the mid-nineteenth century; and (3) preserve and protect in perpetuity the open space and natural resource values of the property, as well as its historic value.

The tax credit was used to restore the structural failures of the house, saving it from collapse, and has been applied to cover budget shortfalls. I.e., the gap between revenue and operating costs has been paid for from the remaining tax credit resources. **This is not a sustainable business model and these funds will soon be exhausted.**

Lee-Fendall House has received several greatly appreciated small grants for restoration work in the house and garden which have been effectively applied, but are insufficient to the tasks. In some cases, matching funds were required and had to be raised.

Alternatives:

As the current business model is not sustainable, the Board of Directors has explored several alternatives to include aggressively seeking to increase revenues through donations and fund-raising events; dramatically cutting back on services including elimination of community and educational programs and reducing the hours of operation; selling the property to a private owner; and transferring the property to a public entity. The Board has chosen at this time to pursue the first alternative and is **vigorously seeking to increase revenue while closely monitoring its financial status on a weekly basis**. This is especially challenging in the current economic environment, but deemed preferable to the other alternatives. **If not successful, however, another course of action will have to be followed.**

Jackie Henderson

From: Bill Rivers <rivers15@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2012 10:31 AM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones; Princetta Williams
Subject: COA Contact Us: Miracle Field update
Attachments: 2e6b65bf7131e9f95fdc781cda594d79.pdf; ATT00001.txt

COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Fri Feb 17, 2012 10:30:46] Message ID: [37166]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Bill
Last Name: Rivers
Street Address: 15 West Mount Ida Avenue
City: Alexandria
State: Virginia
Zip: 22305
Phone: 703-683-6526
Email Address: rivers15@comcast.net
Subject: Miracle Field update

Dear Mayor and City Council members: With the recent submission of the FY2013 budget, the Board of Directors of the Miracle League of Alexandria (MLA) asked me to update you all on where we stand in our fund raising efforts for the Miracle Field.

As a reminder, the City has proposed, in the FY 2013 CIP, funding \$285,000 of the cost for a Miracle Field at the Lee Center. The MLA has volunteered to collect \$135,000 in private sector funding to complete the total funding of \$420,000 for the Field.

To date, we have cash on hand and firm pledges for approximately \$90,000 (including donations from some Council members - thank you). We are just beginning our Spring fund raising season and expect to collect the balance of the \$135,000 by the beginning of May so that you can feel

confident in approving the
\$285,000 when the final budget is approved in

May. We have several grant applications coming due for a
decision in the

next few weeks and Donnie Simpson, our Fund Raising Chair, is kicking
off

the Spring
season with a letter to many of his peers and business
acquaintances.

We will also be having several public fund raising

events in the next month or so. Pat Miller will be sending
you an

invitation to a Sock Hop on February 25th at the Mount Vernon Recreation

Center (i have taken the
liberty of including a copy of the ad that was

in the Gazette this week). Not only will we be raising funds
there, but

we also will be honoring Ryan Bailey, one of the players participating in

the Miracle League.
Along with the Sock Hop, we will have restaurant

nights during March at local eateries with a portion of the
proceeds

going to the Miracle Field.

If your timing permits, we would love to see

you at any of the events. We will also keep you updated on
our fund

raising progress via e-mail and at least one appearance at a Council
meeting.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Bill

Rivers
Chair, Miracle League of Alexandria

Attachment: 2e6b65bf7131e9f95fdc781cda594d79.pdf

Jackie Henderson

From: Bob Eiffert <michaelandbob@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 9:54 AM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones; Princetta Williams
Subject: COA Contact Us: RIF Policy
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Thu Feb 16, 2012 09:53:33] Message ID: [37146]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Bob
Last Name: Eiffert
Street Address: 1418 Juliana Place
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22304
Phone: 703-212-7116
Email Address: michaelandbob@comcast.net
Subject: RIF Policy

Dear Mayor and Members of City Council: This is Bob Eiffert writing. I have reviewed the City Manager's proposed budget and notice that there are 7 filled positions designated for elimination. That is always a difficult situation, but I was stunned to learn that the City has abandoned its long-standing reduction in force policy and does not plan to actively assist employees in finding other City positions. In fact, the old reduction in force policy was rescinded soon after the new City Manager arrived. I am appalled. In 1993 when I began my position as director of the Alexandria Area Agency on Aging – its name at that time – we proposed and Council accepted the recommendation to close the commercial kitchen and contract for meals served at the various Aging meals sites, eliminating 3 full-time cook positions. The day after the City Manager's proposed budget was released, I went to work with the City's personnel director to identify possible alternate City placements. By July 1, all 3 full time cooks were placed in other vacant City positions: one an aide at a residential

facility, one a parking enforcement officer, and one in the Motor Equipment

Division – all VERY different positions than they previously held, but for which they were qualified. Fairfax County, my current employer, does the same. How can the City suddenly decide to offer no support to those who face separation? This reversal of policy is alarming and detrimental to all City employees. I urge you to reverse this policy and assist those who are affected to find alternate City employment for which they qualify before the end of this fiscal year. This is a basic tenant of fairness and decency that must be restored. Thank you for your consideration.

No

virus found in this message.

Jackie Henderson

From: Jon Rosenbaum <hrosenbaum@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 9:02 AM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones; Princetta Williams
Subject: COA Contact Us: Budget Cut for Economic Development
Attachments: ATT00003.txt

COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Thu Feb 16, 2012 09:01:48] Message ID: [37144]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: Jon

Last Name: Rosenbaum

Street Address: 421 North Saint Asaph

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Zip: 22314

Phone: 703-836-7877

Email Address: hrosenbaum@comcast.net

Subject: Budget Cut for Economic Development

The City Manager's proposes to cut \$87,000 from the Economic Development

Partnership's advertising budget used to attract and retain business

here. This is very short-sighted. We already are doing much less to

attract business than the surrounding jurisdictions and have not done well

in this competition. This is costing us tax revenue.

My entire career

Comments: has focused on international economic development. Alexandria cannot

afford to do anything in this area, for example, unlike Arlington and

Fairfax. The latter even maintains overseas offices to attract business.

But evidently we can "afford" three archeologists on the city staff!

Also, cutting funds for graffiti abatement at a time when

graffiti is increasing in the metro area is unwise. We do too little in

this area now.

Jackie Henderson

From: Anna Cheesman <cheesemananna@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2012 1:54 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: Occupation and Physical therapist proposed termination
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Thu Jan 19, 2012 13:54:22] Message ID: [36204]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Anna
Last Name: Cheesman
Street Address: 8523 Cyrus Place
City: Alexandria
State: Virginia
Zip: 22308
Phone: 703-975-5368
Email Address: cheesemananna@gmail.com
Subject: Occupation and Physical therapist proposed termination

Dear members of the City Council,
I

was very shocked to hear that there is a proposed termination of the employment of all of the Occupation Therapists and Physical Therapists of the school system soon and will be going to agencies instead. I know many of therapists and have first hand as a ACPS volunteer and substitute seeing the amazing job they do. The have won awards for there work and are loved

Comments: by the families of the students they serve. If you go forth with the proposed termination you will be damaging not only the families that the therapist service, but also there own families. Families that are proud to part of the Alexandria community. These therapists have worked for years for ACPS and I believe that terminating their employment would damage the relationships they have built with families and caliber of services the students receive. I urge you to review your decision very carefully when deciding on the budget.

Sincerely,

Anna Cheeseman

Jackie Henderson

From: Gwendolyn Hubbard Lewis <gblewis425@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, January 16, 2012 7:33 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: CCNA Formal Request Funding
Attachments: d85e225e6b8d965a4a2573df2eb9b650.doc; ATT00001.txt

COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Mon Jan 16, 2012 19:33:20] Message ID: [36049]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Gwendolyn Hubbard
Last Name: Lewis
Street Address: 4950 Brenman Park Dr. #110
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22304
Phone: 571-527-0399
Email Address: gblewis425@comcast.net
Subject: CCNA Formal Request Funding
Please find attached a Formal Request for funding for the Concern Citizens Network of Alexandria (CCNA) to support more struggling middle school students in their "Reach and Rise for Excellence" after school program at Hammond Middle School. Thank you, Gwendolyn Hubbard Lewis
Attachment: d85e225e6b8d965a4a2573df2eb9b650.doc



CONCERNED CITIZEN NETWORK OF ALEXANDRIA

A COMMUNITY WIDE INITIATIVE TO BUILD TOMORROW'S LEADERS TODAY

January 16, 2012

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Co-CHAIR

Gwendolyn Day-Fuller

Co-CHAIR/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Gwendolyn Hubbard Lewis

MEMBERS

Archie L. Alston II
Janet Barnett
Janice Howard, Esq.
A Tony Lewis
Eileen Rivera
Reverend John H. Wesley

ADVISORY PANEL

CHAIRS

COL (RET) Jim Paige

MEMBERS

Michael D. Casey, Ed.D.
John Taylor Chapman
Audrey Davis
Madye Henson, Ed.D.
Louis Hicks
J. Glenn Hopkins
John Liss
Melinda "Mindy" Lyle
Jennifer Morley
Gabriel Rojo
LaShawn Timmons
Patricia Funderburk Ware
Dr. Kevin Williams

WWW.CCNALEXANDRIA.ORG

CONTACT INFO

CCNA
4950 Brenman Park Drive
Suite 110
Alexandria VA 22304

571 527 0399 office
571 268 9249 cell
ccnalewis@gmail.com

VIA E-MAIL and HAND DELIVERY

Mr. Rashad Young
City Manager
City of Alexandria
301 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

RE: Supplemental Formal Request for Funding in the amount of \$20,000.00

Dear Mr. Young:

Over the course of the past two and a half years, I have had a number of conversations with you Mayor Euille and members of the City Council requesting financial support to address a critical need for our many "at promise" middle school students who are being left behind. The Concerned Citizens Network of Alexandria (CCNA) is a 501 (c) (3) organization designed to engage and empower students and to serve as a bridge to reduce the "minority achievement gap". We were fortunate to receive a \$20,000 contribution from the school board this year and based on a previous pledge more than a year ago, we are asking the City for a \$20,000 match so that we can help more students.

Our signature program, "Reach and Rise for Excellence" (RARE) was launched as a pilot at Hammond Middle School on March 14, 2011. RARE includes homework strategies, a heavy snack afterschool, on-line math tutoring, an interactive online Civics and advocacy program, and an on-line historical and cultural awareness program. The program is being used to increase student achievement and computer literacy and students meet every week after school, Monday thru Thursday, from 3:15 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Substantial research has shown that technology is a powerful enabling tool that can support critical thinking and other developmental skills when matched with trained facilitators. Our facilitators are also licensed teachers. Parent involvement and training is also a major CCNA initiative through RARE.

We also provide resource information where needed to support the "whole child". RARE is overdue in the City of Alexandria. Statistics show that our children need more time on task. They need the consistent presence of adults in the community, outside of the home, that care about them. They need to learn about themselves to provide the self confidence and self esteem needed to live happy productive lives. We provide that kind of nurturing that many of our children do not otherwise get at home. But we need the funds to sustain this wonderful program. Our students have worked hard. They solved over 4,000 math word problems which included 27, 40-minute math classes, about the equivalent to a school semester in just 2 ½ months! And that's just one example. Please give us a chance to show you the impact of that work and the impact of having these students for another year.

I welcome an opportunity to discuss our program with you further and invite you to personally come over and meet our students when your schedule permits. Should you have questions or require additional information in the interim, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gwendolyn Hubbard Lewis

Cc: The Honorable Mayor, Vice Mayor and Members of the Alexandria City Council

Jackie Henderson

From: Jeanne Hargett <j_philbin@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 08, 2011 1:28 PM
To: William Eulle; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: Our Schools
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Thu Dec 08, 2011 13:27:42] Message ID: [35236]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Jeanne
Last Name: Hargett
Street Address: 509 E. Windsor Ave.,
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22301
Phone: 703-739-4274
Email Address: j_philbin@hotmail.com
Subject: Our Schools

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

Attached is an e-mail exchange

between myself and Mimi Carter. It saddens me to hear that the City is not adequately supporting our school district financially. Among my peers, our school system is the single most cited reason that people leave Alexandria.

This negatively effects our property values and tax base. If our schools are to make substantive, positive change, they must have a firm commitment

Comments: of support from the city.

Yours,

Jeanne Hargett

Dear Dr. Sherman

and Ms. Carter,

First, thank you both for taking the time to respond in person.

I was surprised to hear that no decisions have been made. From

what I understand the faculty were told not to enroll any students for the new year because their program would no longer exist in its current form. Based on what you wrote, it sounds like the problem is originating with City Council. They are not providing consistent annual funds based on our student population. As the student population goes up, the funds per student are going down. Is this correct? So perhaps we as a community need to address this issue to City Council. If given enough warning I think our Alexandria community could be a real asset in this regard. The community needs to be made aware of the issues in a timely manner in order to organize an appropriate response. Since the proposal regarding the adult ESL and GED programs came as a complete surprise to the faculty and students that I am aware of, perhaps the current modes of communication are not adequate to the task.

Ms Carter, you asked for my ideas in regard to additional cost saving measures our school district could take, I wonder what the individual principals and program directors would come up with themselves. They are the feet on the ground, as it were, and have first hand knowledge of what is needed. Were they consulted, especially the head of the adult ESL and GED programs?

Here are some of my thoughts. I am not 100% current on all issues facing ACPS so please forgive me if some of these have already been addressed.

First, I believe the students of these adult programs should be offered a chance to increase the amount they are already paying. If the service is worthwhile then they may be willing to pay more for it. Of course this could be pro-rated on a needs based scale. On a similar note, as a parent in a year round school, I am aware that I am receiving subsidized childcare during intersession. Specifically, if my children were in a school on the traditional calendar I would have to pay for summer camp, some other form of childcare, or stay home during the summer months. Intersession for my

family is only \$25 which is far far less than what I would pay for similar services during the summer. It is a lovely perk, but one that is being paid for by the other citizens of Alexandria who are not being offered the same benefit. Perhaps intersession could also be paid for on a sliding, income based scale similar to the one I believe is used by the traditional calendar schools that offer summer remediation.

Another area which

could be addressed is energy conservation management. I am thinking in particular of my eldest daughter's first year of kindergarten three years ago. As soon as the weather turned cold she started acting sick and worn out every day after school. I understood why when I went to volunteer in her classroom. All the windows in her classroom were wide open, the teacher was wearing a tank top, and the room was easily over 90 degrees fahrenheit. Apparently the heating system was "broken" and could only be on for everyone, or off. I mentioned this to another teacher who laughed and said it had been that way for 15 years and her room was much

worse. That is 15 + years of literally throwing money out the window. I have been informed that this year they are trying to fix the furnace and now they can actually turn the heat off in these two class rooms and it "hasn't been that bad this year." It hasn't been that cold yet

either. There are other US school districts which have saved millions of dollars annually by hiring a conservation management consultant and doing

relatively cheap upgrades such as retrofitting existing light fixtures to be more energy efficient. Yes, this represents a capitol expenditure, but if the city council is unwilling to increase the annual budget, perhaps they would be amenable to a one time expenditure that would save the school

district a substantial amount of money annually. Have they been approached

with such an idea?

Does ACPS pay rent or building use fees on any

properties. Given the current state of the economy, have these been re-negotiated?

These are only a few ideas and certainly not as grand as

cutting entire programs or faculty. Some would only generate a small amount of income on their own, but small ideas in aggregate could have a large overall effect. I certainly don't mean to imply that anyone in the school district is making decisions lightly and we all know that these times are challenging, but perhaps there are more, even better, ideas out there just waiting for the right questions to be asked.

Thank you
again for you time,
Jeanne Hargett

To: MVCS@yahoogroups.com
From: mimicarter01@gmail.com
Date:

Tue, 6 Dec 2011 10:22:12 -0500
Subject: [MVCS PTA] No decisions have been
made re Adult Ed. What are your ideas?

Dear Ms. Hargett:

No
decisions have been made on adult education by the school board. None.
At
the school board level, we have had discussions on how to address the
expected \$25M budget gap and we are open to all ideas. These could
include
increasing class sizes, eliminating summer school, reducing
transportation,
etc.

The City Council has made it clear that there will probably be
no tax increase to address this gap and support our ever increasing
student
population. (We grow by one elementary school, or 400 children, EVERY
YEAR.
But the budget from Council does not increase enough to address this
increase.)

We have already cut central office staff dramatically, and decreased teacher benefits in the last budget cycle. I am loathe to do more on the human capital side, as our teacher quality is the single biggest indicator for student success in the classroom.

I would be interested in hearing your thoughts on what we can cut in order to continue meeting the needs of all our children.

Mimi Carter

--

Mimi

Carter
mimicarter01@gmail.com
571-218-0951

Jackie Henderson

From: Marième Fal <sodaidy@yahoo.fr>
Sent: Thursday, December 08, 2011 4:24 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: HELP
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Thu Dec 08, 2011 16:23:56] Message ID: [35251]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Marième
Last Name: Fal
Street Address: 4901 Seminary Rd # 1211
City: Alexandria
State: Virginia
Zip: 22311
Phone: 571 214 9711
Email Address: sodaidy@yahoo.fr
Subject: HELP
Mesdames, Messieurs,
Je suis etudiante à "Alexandria Adult Learning
Center and ESL and GED classes for adults"
J'ecris pour la
proposition qui nous est parvenue à travers "ACPS". Alexandria
doit être une ville accueillante pour les nouveaux immigrants et futurs
contribuables de la Virginie. Merci.
DON'T CLOSE OUR SCHOOL !!!!
WE WANT TO LEARN ENGLISH !!!!
Comments: Please, HELP !!!!
Marième Fal

Translation by husband: "I'm a student at Alexandria Adult Learning
Center and ESL and GED classes for adults. I'm writing for the proposal
that ACPS informed us about. Alexandria must be an new immigrant-
friendly-
place and future Virginia tax payers."
For my part (husband), I think
that it would be very difficult to continue living in Alexandria, if the

only English classes available for my wife are in Arlington and Fairfax.
She needs those classes, in order to find a job and be a valuable contributor to her new community. I have been a Virginia resident and tax payer for more than 36 years. Thanks.

Jackie Henderson

From: john chapman <alexandriaNAACPpresident@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 08, 2011 7:57 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: Memo from the NAACP on ACPS and Adult Education
Attachments: dcbc739adb772a6f8af5f4b9dbe851d9.docx; ATT00001.txt

COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Thu Dec 08, 2011 19:56:42] Message ID: [35257]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: john
Last Name: chapman
Street Address: 112 west taylor run parkway
City: ALEXANDRIA
State: VA
Zip: 22314
Phone: 5712364170
Email Address: alexandriaNAACPpresident@gmail.com
Subject: Memo from the NAACP on ACPS and Adult Education
Please see the attachment about the Alexandria NAACP's stance regarding the
Comments:
ACPS and Adult Education.
Attachment: dcbc739adb772a6f8af5f4b9dbe851d9.docx



Alexandria Branch #7043

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

Post Office Box 1740 * Alexandria, VA 22313 * Phone: (703) 684-6190 * Fax: (703) 619-0450

Website: www.naacpalxandriava.org Email: naacpalx@erols.com

President: John Chapman Secretary: R. Theresa Hillian

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Alexandria City Council and Alexandria City School Board

FROM: NAACP – Alexandria Branch

SUBJECT: Elimination of Services for Non-Traditional Students and Families (ACPS Adult Education and Extended Learning Programs)

Consistent with the mission of its national organization, the Alexandria Chapter of the NAACP calls upon the Alexandria City Council and Alexandria City School Board to immediately halt any and all plans to eliminate or reduce educational and related support services currently being provided to the City's non-traditional students and their families.

Elimination or reduction in the subject services will have a widely disproportionate and negative effect on Alexandria's students and families of color. These services were recognized as high priority by both the council and school board and were fully vetted and funded via the 2011-2012 City/School's funding processes. A unilateral decision, by ACPS leadership, to eliminate any portion of these services, mid-year, is wrong and would have a devastating effect on the students and families currently depending on these services.

Unfortunately, emerging information has confirmed that for years, Alexandria City Public Schools have been under-serving families of color. These families have experienced outright racism, teacher gaps in cultural competencies and often an accepted atmosphere and attitude in ACPS that families and children of color could not achieve on the same levels as their white counterparts. For most, this unequal treatment served as the catalyst that drove more than 800 students and families to now be enrolled in the subject ACPS alternative programs. Curriculums provided for these students include; *"The Individual Student Alternative Education Program"*, *"English Language Learner Courses"*, *"Cosmetology"*, *"General Equivalency Diploma Courses"* and *"Licensed Practical Nursing"*, among others. Each of these programs offer positive alternatives to students and families many of whom ACPS has already failed while enrolled in the traditional K-12 programming. Additionally, parents, siblings and care-givers of current ACPS students are enrolled in these courses attempting to secure training and credentials to gain better employment and to provide their ACPS student a more stable and capable support environment at home.

We are aware of, and applaud, ACPS's conduct of an external audit and review of the Adult Education and Extended Learning Programs. While the audit was critical of the need for ACPS to improve



Alexandria Branch #7043

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

Post Office Box 1740 * Alexandria, VA 22313 * Phone: (703) 684-6190 * Fax: (703) 619-0450

Website: www.naacpalexandriava.org Email: naacpalx@erols.com

President: John Chapman Secretary: R. Theresa Hillian

communications, competencies and accountability, not one of the auditors' ten recommendations called for an elimination or reduction in services. We are likewise aware of recent correspondence from ACPS leadership indicating that no firm decisions have been made and that any proposal "*...will not call for the elimination of learning opportunities for students, including Adult ELL Learners.*" We believe this rhetoric to be at best disingenuous and at worst, a purposeful attempt to deceive and obfuscate. Families have been told that no registration is available for previously agreed to courses and employees have been directed that, as of 22 December 2011, services will be eliminated. We have had several anecdotal utterances that students, parents and employees have been told by ACPS personnel that perhaps they can find continued support in Arlington or Fairfax Counties.

The Alexandria Chapter of the NAACP has members on virtually every City Council and School Board committee and we stand at the ready to serve as partners with the City and ACPS as we attempt to bring about meaningful changes focused on eliminating differences in achievement. However, if we are to be true partners, changes cannot be made unilaterally, in mid-year, and have such a deleterious effect on so many students and families in Alexandria's African-American and Hispanic communities.

In closing, we repeat that the Alexandria Branch of the NAACP is calling upon City Council and the School Board to halt any planned elimination or reduction of previously agreed to and funded services currently being provided by ACPS's Adult Education and Extended Learning Programs for the 2011-2012 school term.

Your urgent attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

John T. Chapman

President

Alexandria, VA Branch of the NAACP



Alexandria Branch #7043

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

Post Office Box 1740 * Alexandria, VA 22313 * Phone: (703) 684-6190 * Fax: (703) 619-0450

Website: www.naacpalexandriava.org Email: naacpalx@erols.com

President: John Chapman Secretary: R. Theresa Hillian

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Alexandria City Council and Alexandria City School Board

FROM: NAACP – Alexandria Branch

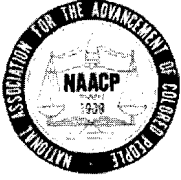
SUBJECT: Elimination of Services for Non-Traditional Students and Families (ACPS Adult Education and Extended Learning Programs)

Consistent with the mission of its national organization, the Alexandria Chapter of the NAACP calls upon the Alexandria City Council and Alexandria City School Board to immediately halt any and all plans to eliminate or reduce educational and related support services currently being provided to the City's non-traditional students and their families.

Elimination or reduction in the subject services will have a widely disproportionate and negative effect on Alexandria's students and families of color. These services were recognized as high priority by both the council and school board and were fully vetted and funded via the 2011-2012 City/School's funding processes. A unilateral decision, by ACPS leadership, to eliminate any portion of these services, mid-year, is wrong and would have a devastating effect on the students and families currently depending on these services.

Unfortunately, emerging information has confirmed that for years, Alexandria City Public Schools have been under-serving families of color. These families have experienced outright racism, teacher gaps in cultural competencies and often an accepted atmosphere and attitude in ACPS that families and children of color could not achieve on the same levels as their white counterparts. For most, this unequal treatment served as the catalyst that drove more than 800 students and families to now be enrolled in the subject ACPS alternative programs. Curriculums provided for these students include; *"The Individual Student Alternative Education Program"*, *"English Language Learner Courses"*, *"Cosmetology"*, *"General Equivalency Diploma Courses"* and *"Licensed Practical Nursing"*, among others. Each of these programs offer positive alternatives to students and families many of whom ACPS has already failed while enrolled in the traditional K-12 programming. Additionally, parents, siblings and care-givers of current ACPS students are enrolled in these courses attempting to secure training and credentials to gain better employment and to provide their ACPS student a more stable and capable support environment at home.

We are aware of, and applaud, ACPS's conduct of an external audit and review of the Adult Education and Extended Learning Programs. While the audit was critical of the need for ACPS to improve



Alexandria Branch #7043

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

Post Office Box 1740 * Alexandria, VA 22313 * Phone: (703) 684-6190 * Fax: (703) 619-0450

Website: www.naacpalexandriava.org Email: naacpalx@erols.com

President: John Chapman Secretary: R. Theresa Hillian

communications, competencies and accountability, not one of the auditors' ten recommendations called for an elimination or reduction in services. We are likewise aware of recent correspondence from ACPS leadership indicating that no firm decisions have been made and that any proposal "*...will not call for the elimination of learning opportunities for students, including Adult ELL Learners.*" We believe this rhetoric to be at best disingenuous and at worst, a purposeful attempt to deceive and obfuscate. Families have been told that no registration is available for previously agreed to courses and employees have been directed that, as of 22 December 2011, services will be eliminated. We have had several anecdotal utterances that students, parents and employees have been told by ACPS personnel that perhaps they can find continued support in Arlington or Fairfax Counties.

The Alexandria Chapter of the NAACP has members on virtually every City Council and School Board committee and we stand at the ready to serve as partners with the City and ACPS as we attempt to bring about meaningful changes focused on eliminating differences in achievement. However, if we are to be true partners, changes cannot be made unilaterally, in mid-year, and have such a deleterious effect on so many students and families in Alexandria's African-American and Hispanic communities.

In closing, we repeat that the Alexandria Branch of the NAACP is calling upon City Council and the School Board to halt any planned elimination or reduction of previously agreed to and funded services currently being provided by ACPS's Adult Education and Extended Learning Programs for the 2011-2012 school term.

Your urgent attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

John T. Chapman

President

Alexandria, VA Branch of the NAACP

Jackie Henderson

From: Cinthia Silva <cinthia575@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 06, 2011 10:07 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: Coalition to Save Our School - ACPS
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Tue Dec 06, 2011 22:06:48] Message ID: [35175]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: Cinthia

Last Name: Silva

Street Address: 6029 Curtier Drive. #D

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Zip: 22310

Phone: 7034702952

Email Address: cinthia575@hotmail.com

Subject: Coalition to Save Our School - ACPS

I learned the other day that they want to close down our English program.

This would be bad for all of the students, but also for America. For the

students it would be bad because we have found a way to receive a good

English education, learn America History, culture, and values. I think is

all very important in our lives.

It means more than just English. Those

teachers taught things that I can't imagine living in America without. It

Comments: changed my life, and the way I see this country and the world.
Most of the

students don't have enough money to pay for a different English education

of the same quality,
and I don't think it is fair to make them take their

families' money (if they have it in the first place). It's easy
to tell

kids to go to school, but Adults is not the same, It's so hard get on the

way back to school, and fight
for more education, and now they want to

take that from us.

The English classes had helped every day in our lives,
jobs, families, with the kids, in a community. We can
communicate,
understand, read, and write better. You may see some mistakes at this
letter, which means
that I DO NEED more schoolwork, just as many students
do too.
For America it would be bad to close the program because our
English would have helped us be more
helpful to American businesses. But
instead of that, the only thing they will get with that, it is a large
group
of people walking around the streets of America ignorant and
unproductive. This group will not be able to
communicate with the
society, or worse, with their kids. They will not be able to answer simple
questions
from them, which will make them embarrassed. This is nothing
compare with the embarrassment you will
feel living in a nation that
claims: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created
equal,
that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable
Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty
and the pursuit of Happiness."
What rights will we know, what happiness will be find, what kind of people
are we going to be without education?!
As of 2009, Virginia had more
than 800,000 foreign-born residents. Closing this program will not effect
them all, but it will certainly effect a bigger part of that population
than it may look like from our school
enrollment.

Jackie Henderson

From: Ellen Marie Guldán <egellenguld@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 07, 2011 9:57 AM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: URGENT ALERT: ACPS SCHOOL BUDGET CUTS OPPORTUNITY FOR MINORITIES
Attachments: 933a09acb0ad60d2cbb1e846f51fc662.doc; ATT00001.txt

COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Wed Dec 07, 2011 09:57:01] Message ID: [35184]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Ellen Marie
Last Name: Guldán
Street Address: 3713 S. George Mason Dr #1410W
City: Falls Church
State: VA
Zip: 22041
Phone: 703-945-3521
Email Address: egellenguld@gmail.com
Subject: URGENT ALERT: ACPS SCHOOL BUDGET CUTS OPPORTUNITY FOR MINORITIES
December 6, 2011

Dear Mayor Euille and Council Members,

As you must

know, the Alexandria City Public School (ACPS) School Board was recently

presented with an FY 2012 budget that allocates zero dollars to Adult Education in Alexandria, thereby eliminating the program entirely (and effective immediately), and leaving hundreds of minority students out in

Comments: the cold.

The Adult Education program encompasses the Adult GED program at the Adult Learning Center and the English as a Second Language (ESL)

program at the T.C.Williams and Ramsay schools. These programs serve longtime residents who have fallen behind as well as relatively new residents of the City of Alexandria. Kindly permit me to point out that these people pay for the education they receive through these programs.

I have taught ESL for over 30 years, the last 15 of those in the ACPS ESL program, and few of my students in all that time have been on public assistance. Nevertheless, my students, who are relatively proficient in English at the High Intermediate Level, are cognizant of the fact that they are often viewed as unwelcome, as burdens to society, as being non-contributors to their community. These hard-working newcomers hold down multiple jobs while raising healthy families; they attend English class at night; and they work on special projects to ensure their new English skills get carried outside of the classroom into their everyday lives; into their jobs, their churches, their families, and their neighborhoods. These classes are usually their pathway to a GED or the TOEFL exam which will allow them to attend college, so that they can move on to a better life. Many of them are already educated in their own countries but have no way to obtain their transcripts and must start all over from scratch in order to secure a decent living here. The Adult Education program instills in them not only English skills, but self-esteem and the will to pursue the "American dream" in the face of the numerous setbacks they have experienced. It transforms their aspirations into real possibilities. Finally, their accomplishments through this program enable them to advance to positions of true opportunity and equality as we Americans who were born here understand those ideals.

Over the years, I have had the pleasure of coming across my ex-students in a variety of capacities; preparing to graduate from college, thriving in careers as bank tellers and accountants, entering technical school, and starting businesses of their own. I am sure Dr. Sherman has justification for his proposal to terminate the Adult Education program, but from the teachers' and students' perspective it looks like a heinous robbery.

The mission of the ACPS English Language Learners program purports to "support cultural adjustment." The new school budget cuts "supporting cultural adjustment" off at the knees.

I do not care for my own job; I

care for my students. I plead with you to intercede, if at all possible, to prevent the loss of this program, which affects hundreds and hundreds of Alexandria residents. At the very least, I wanted you be aware of the magnitude of loss that will result from the termination of this program.

Most respectfully yours,

Ellen Marie Guldan
Former Hume

Springs, Alexandria resident and
English as a Second Language Instructor
at ACPS

Attachment: 933a09acb0ad60d2cbb1e846f51fc662.doc

December 6, 2011

Dear Mayor Euille and Council Members,

As you must know, the Alexandria City Public School (ACPS) School Board was recently presented with an FY 2012 budget that allocates zero dollars to Adult Education in Alexandria, thereby eliminating the program entirely (and effective immediately), and leaving hundreds of minority students out in the cold.

The Adult Education program encompasses the Adult GED program at the Adult Learning Center and the English as a Second Language (ESL) program at the T.C. Williams and Ramsay schools. These programs serve longtime residents who have fallen behind as well as relatively new residents of the City of Alexandria. Kindly permit me to point out that these people pay for the education they receive through these programs.

I have taught ESL for over 30 years, the last 15 of those in the ACPS ESL program, and few of my students in all that time have been on public assistance. Nevertheless, my students, who are relatively proficient in English at the High Intermediate Level, are cognizant of the fact that they are often viewed as unwelcome, as burdens to society, as being non-contributors to their community. These hard-working newcomers hold down multiple jobs while raising healthy families; they attend English class at night; and they work on special projects to ensure their new English skills get carried outside of the classroom into their everyday lives—into their jobs, their churches, their families, and their neighborhoods. These classes are usually their pathway to a GED or the TOEFL exam which will allow them to attend college, so that they can move on to a better life. Many of them are already educated in their own countries but have no way to obtain their transcripts and must start all over from scratch in order to secure a decent living here. The Adult Education program instills in them not only English skills, but self-esteem and the will to pursue the “American dream” in the face of the numerous setbacks they have experienced. It transforms their aspirations into real possibilities. Finally, their accomplishments through this program enable them to advance to positions of true opportunity and equality as we Americans who were born here understand those ideals.

Over the years, I have had the pleasure of coming across my ex-students in a variety of capacities—preparing to graduate from college, thriving in careers as bank tellers and accountants, entering technical school, and starting businesses of their own. I am sure Dr. Sherman has justification for his proposal to terminate the Adult Education program, but from the teachers’ and students’ perspective it looks like a heinous robbery.

The mission of the ACPS English Language Learners program purports to “support cultural adjustment.” The new school budget cuts “supporting cultural adjustment” off at the knees.

I do not care for my own job; I care for my students. I plead with you to intercede, if at all possible, to prevent the loss of this program, which affects hundreds and hundreds of Alexandria residents. At the very least, I wanted you be aware of the magnitude of loss that will result from the termination of this program.

Most respectfully yours,

Ellen Marie Guldan
Former Hume Springs, Alexandria resident and
English as a Second Language Instructor at ACPS

Jackie Henderson

From: Linda Couture <lindalcouture@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2012 2:04 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: Budget for Senior Services of Alexandria
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Mon Mar 05, 2012 14:04:08] Message ID: [37583]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Linda
Last Name: Couture
Street Address: 505 Duke Street
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22314
Phone: 703-299-9215
Email Address: lindalcouture@aol.com
Subject: Budget for Senior Services of Alexandria
Dear Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Donley and Council Members:

While serving

on the board of SSA and as president in 2002-2003, my appreciation for the

services
provided to our elderly and the elderly poor grew leaps and

bounds. This non-profit complements the
Office of Aging's services and

together have made and are making a huge difference in Alexandria.

Now
Comments: that there is pressure on spending, you of course must seek ways to run
the

City's government in
the most efficient ways possible. That being said,

given the growing retired population and the
demographics that show we

have many living alone, please do not take away a service that is so

worthwhile--that is, the Senior Tax. While it makes sense to cut out

the middle-man where possible, in
this case, the middle man, being SSA

employees, you will lose the voices of patience and helpfulness that

seniors hear when they call. This is critical since many are confused

and hard of hearing and although
the taxi company may be efficient, it

will not have the time to be the friendly or be the well-known voice
that

seniors rely on when they call for this service.

Coupled with your

welcomed strategic planning for the aging population, now is the time to

put everything
that works on hold until this effort is completed and

services, like the Senior Taxi, can be studied. It won't
be easy to put

the genie back in the bottle and start over if this service falters under a

new approach, so
please find a way to maintain the budget for this

service until and when the study is complete.

My work with seniors while

with SSA shows that seniors want to stay in their homes and this costs the

nation, states and city budgets a lot less than putting folks into homes.

Senior Services along with the
City's Office on Aging are making this

possible. While our children are our new shiny pennies that must
be

cherished and educated, our seniors are polished silver dollars who also

must be well taken care of
during their final days. As a geezer myself

and as all of you will be one too, God willing, please protect this

non-profit's budget as much as you can.

Thanks for

listening.

Linda Couture

P.S. While I worked on Alexandria's hotline

and then SSA, I learned that social isolation is the cause of
much

depression in urban areas. Those Meals on Wheels deliveries along with

the patient SSA

employee's helpful voice can make a huge difference in a senior's lonely living.

2
3-5-12

Jackie Henderson

From: Edith Zelaya <ezelaya_vane@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 04, 2012 10:37 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones; Princetta Williams
Subject: COA Contact Us: support NAACP
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Sun Mar 04, 2012 22:37:13] Message ID: [37561]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Edith
Last Name: Zelaya
Street Address: 2702 N Wyoming St
City: Arlington
State: va
Zip: 22213
Phone: 5712445167
Email Address: ezelaya_vane@yahoo.com
Subject: support NAACP
Dear Mayor William D. Euille

I understand that Mr. John Chapman has sent you and all the City Council members a letter urging that the vote two weeks ago be reversed and the Learning Center continue its current operations. As an ex-student from the excellent Adult Learning Center, I fully support Chairman of the NAACP's fight to save the Learning Center.

Comments: It would be wrong to cut programs for minority students while other programs are being expanded. Many, students and ex students, including myself, spoke at board meetings and wrote emails to support the Learning Center. It seems that the board ignored our concerns. Eliminating fulltime teachers and staff and providing only online GED courses with "hourly workers", is making us feel that we, the minorities, don't

matter.

We, respectfully ask you, the board, and the City

Council to keep the Adult Learning Center operating as it is today, which

is keeping the fulltime teachers and staff and offer ALL of the classes --

including real GED classes -- being offered now.

Thank you for your

attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,
Edith Zelaya

2
3-5-12

Jackie Henderson

From: Pat Miller <pmiller1806@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2012 12:37 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: Public Hearing on the City's Proposed Budget
Attachments: ATT00002.txt

COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Mon Mar 05, 2012 12:36:30] **Message ID:** [37577]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Pat
Last Name: Miller
Street Address: 404 Laverne Avenue
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22305
Phone: 703-683-2570
Email Address: pmiller1806@comcast.net
Subject: Public Hearing on the City's Proposed Budget
Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor and City Council Members:

I am sorry I will not

be able to attend today's Public Hearing on the proposed City Budget but

wanted to get to you my support for the City Manager's proposed Budget
that

supports funding for public art.

Comments: Thank you for your

time.

Sincerely,

Pat Miller
Chair
Alexandria Commission for the

Arts

Jackie Henderson

From: Bea Porter <beatrice.a.d.porter-gruel@saic.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2012 10:39 AM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: ACPS budget accountability
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Tue Mar 06, 2012 10:38:49] Message ID: [37598]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Bea
Last Name: Porter
Street Address: 1727 Cameron Street
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22314
Phone: 571-228-0326
Email Address: beatrice.a.d.porter-gruel@saic.com
Subject: ACPS budget accountability

Hello. I have seen the recent articles about the school budget misappropriating \$6M and that Ms. Margaret Byess is resigning, probably having to do with this issue. I would like to suggest that the school budget was approved by the school board, and Dr. Sherman should be held accountable on this issue. I saw an article early on in his tenure with our City and it stated that he was actually kicked out of the New Jersey school system, I wonder if that was due to budget issues. Someone needs to

Comments: do some investigating into his background and hold him accountable. He has been making great changes in our community and our students are not improving as they should be with their education. With the salary he makes his decisions should be based on the needs of the public, our students. These children are our future and we need leadership that is honest, and upholds the truth of what our City stands for, not someone that has their own interest at heart.