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4-16-11

# Statement in Opposition to the Donley Piggyback Tax

Good Morning Mr. Mayor & Members of City Council.

As I'm sure you are aware, I am just one of hundreds of Alexandrians who have expressed their opposition to the Donley piggyback tax on commercial properties. By now, I hope you have heard the many reasons that this oppressive, unfair tax is wrong for Alexandria. It is wrong for our businesses, it is wrong for our residents, it is wrong for the tourists who pump millions of dollars into our local economy every year. It is an inherently flawed concept which will do much more harm than any possible good.

For your convenience, I have included a written summary of many, but I'm sure not all, of the reasons against this tax—ranging from the unfair targeting of a segment of the population to pay for a public good, documented waste and superfluous spending in the budget, to the economic impact on our small business community.

Unfortunately, if you impose this new tax on us today, the very same tax that has been rejected by Council Members in times past, you will:

1. Be taking food off of our tables;
2. Created the perception that you have stabbed the community in the back.
3. Create a broad movement to repeal this tax.

If you vote for this tax you will lose political capital and, very possibly, your positions on City Council (Just ask Justin Wilson); local small businesses will suffer during some of the toughest economic times in our lives; and Alexandria consumers and tourists will be forced to pay higher prices at the same time all of their other purchases are under growing inflationary pressures. In short, we all lose and you will have created a financial disaster, while making it easier for nonAlexandrians to shuttle through our decaying urban core and growing red light district full of adult stores and head shops.

Alternatively, if you vote against this new tax, you may lose face with the professional politicians and special interest groups in the surrounding jurisdictions. I understand how important their support is for those currently running for higher office or in the future, after all, \$98,000+ plus dollars generally doesn't fall into the campaign coffers of local Alexandria politicians. However, I hope you will remember the regular folks in Alexandria, your voters & your neighbors, and not be overly influenced by the special interests who will profit from this injustice.

While the best course of action would be for you to simply vote against this new tax, your challenging political position is understandable.

Like it or not, a few aggressive advocates for this widely unpopular tax have painted you into a corner and there is no obvious escape. You either damage your City and hurt your voters' best interests or you offend the power structure of entrenched special interests and professional politicians. It's a lose-lose situation both for the people of Alexandria and for each of you.

However, it doesn't have to be this way, there is an alternative third path, while not perfect, would be a reasonable win-win position for everyone in the event justice can't be done today.

The Alexandria Code provides that the City Council can bring up proposed taxes as part of a referendum allowing the Citizens of Alexandria to vote and decide the issue. Given the strong opposition to the new tax, this may be the best way to proceed, essentially punting the issue and letting the people decide. Indeed, the stakes are high enough that, it may be best to truly practice Democracy instead of just mouthing the words.

Now some of you may feel that letting the people make this decision undermines your authority. After all, you were elected to make the "tough calls". Well, frankly, Council has already defeated this tax time and again. It is almost surreal that it is even on today's agenda. This complete, sudden, reversal of course suggests the need for great care. Who caused this to happen? What is their financial motive? In such times, isn't it best to trust the people? Isn't Democracy supposed to be the best antiseptic?

Some of you may feel uncomfortable with the vigorous reaction to the proposed tax. That is unfortunate, but please remember, this is a complete reversal of your past policy. It's the extreme pro-tax advocates who have put you in this position, not the people of Alexandria nor the business community.

America, and Democracy, is all about governing with the consent of the governed. On this day, on this issue, the governed most directly impacted by this tax, i.e. the Alexandria business community do NOT Consent. It doesn't matter that this isn't an election year, if you impose this tax today, we will NOT Forget, and we will NOT Forgive. Indeed, if you ignore us, I am certain that the first rumblings of the tax repeal effort will be felt before we leave the room today. So if you can't resist the calls of the special interest groups and the professional politicians of neighboring jurisdictions, simply give democracy a chance let the people decide.

Bud Miller  
Alexandria, Virginia

These opinions are solely my own and do not reflect the opinions of any organization I am currently, or have been in the past, affiliated with.

# An Open Letter to the Alexandria City Council, March 2011

Dear Mr. Mayor and City Council Members,

Unfortunately, business obligations prevent me from attending the March 7, 2011 Public hearing on Donley's proposed Piggyback tax so I thought I'd take one last opportunity to help clarify the issues. As you are likely aware, hundreds of Alexandrians and Alexandria businesses have expressed their strong opposition to this unfair and excessive tax and the intent to use these funds taken from our local economy to dig the City deeper into debt.

There are numerous strong arguments against this tax, and no good arguments for it.

Arguments for City Council to impose this new tax include:

1. **Other jurisdictions are doing it so we should too.** However,
  - a. Just because others do something, doesn't make it a good idea. (Gee Mom, Wally jumped off the bridge, can I jump too?)
  - b. Other jurisdictions have fundamentally different businesses types. While large multinational corporations may be able to afford such taxes, many of the family owned and supported small businesses in Alexandria may not survive yet another tax increase.
  - c. You were elected to represent Alexandria, not other jurisdictions.
  - d. If you accept the so-called wisdom of other jurisdictions for all of our issues, why have an independent Alexandria government at all? If they are so wise, shouldn't Alexandria adopt all their policies, including controversial anti-immigration policies?
2. **Hey, we'll reform the clearly unfair BPOL tax if you accept this new, larger tax.**
  - a. Why would any American agree to a new injustice to remove a current injustice?
  - b. If, as some of our elected leaders have indicated, the BPOL tax is unfair and hurts our economy, it should be immediately resolved, not linked to some other unfair deal by a professional politician.
  - c. Isn't one of the reasons we have local representation to prevent injustice? If so, why hasn't City Council addressed this issue long ago, separate and apart from this cynical ploy?
3. **Imagine [insert dream project here]**
  - a. Political Pandering is one of the reasons we are facing such challenges, and are not a cure to our transportation woes. Indeed, if recent reports about \$20 million projects designed to reduce the need to cross a single street are any indication, it is clear that we would be better off if some of our so called "transportation leaders" went into early retirement.

4. **It's the only tool in the toolbox.** However,
  - a. To quote President Teddy Roosevelt, Bull feathers! Frankly, if you truly believe that, you shouldn't be on City Council.
5. **We MUST act now!**
  - a. No, we don't. Alexandria was here long before the advent of the automobile and will be here long after the patronage projects of politicians are forgotten. Indeed, Alexandria may gain additional leverage with other jurisdictions if it carefully and cautiously considers our Citizens needs first rather than dance to the tune of outsiders.

Some of the more common arguments for City Council to reject this new tax include:

1. Transportation is, by definition, a Public Good, as such, taxing any one group is unfair and discriminatory
2. The new tax will disproportionately harm small businesses and investors.
3. The new tax will increase costs for people, who live, work, shop or dine in Alexandria.
4. Businesses use proportionally less City Services than residents. If anything, they would have lower tax rates than private residences.
5. Individuals who work from home will have to pay additional taxes on their homes.
6. Given the state of the economy, this would be one of the worst times possible to impose a new tax.
7. A tax on business is a tax on everyone.
8. City Council shouldn't spend money on projects, it can't afford and the City doesn't need.
9. No new taxes should be raised until City Council eliminates all "superfluous" spending.
10. Members of City Council have repeatedly rejected imposing this new tax on Alexandria. A reversal of these positions will likely be perceived as a betrayal.

It is my sincere hope that the Members of City Council will once again listen to the Citizens of Alexandria and reject this unfair and oppressive tax, as you have so many times in the past.

Please don't let us down!

Bud Miller

## **Donley States the Obvious, the Next Step**

I would like to thank Vice Mayor Donley for confirming what many taxpayers in Alexandria have believed for years: millions of our dollars are being wasted every year on “superfluous” items in the City Budget.

Being a banker by trade and, possibly, out of touch with us working folks, Donley may have missed one of the less than subtle trends currently being embraced by most Americans whether they are Democrats or Republicans; Liberal or Conservatives; Left or Right: **We don't want to pay for any “Superfluous stuff”.**

How many of our most needy residents could be fed or provided with life skills and job training with the funds from such “superfluous” programs? How many people could be employed if our taxes were lower after these “superfluous” projects were eliminated?

As such, I urge Donley to take the next logical step and identify and eliminate all such budgetary waste before he once again approaches our good people for yet more tax monies.

Bud Miller  
Alexandria, VA 22314

This editorial reflects my personal views and not any organization I am or have been associated with.

7  
4-16-11

Statement in the Transportation add-on Tax

Jonathan Krall

Vice Chair, Alexandria Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)

I am speaking in support of the Transportation add-on tax because it is a necessary step forward for our citizens and our economy. Here are my specific points:

- As Vice Chair of the Alexandria Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, I know that many citizens of Alexandria want bicycling and walking to be much more accessible modes of transportation for people of all ages. This will not happen any time soon without a significant change in the way we approach transportation in Alexandria.

- The expense of bicycling and pedestrian transportation system is not high (Portland built one for less than the price of one mile of urban freeway), but these investments won't happen unless we get serious about developing transportation for the future.

- Surveys show that 60% of Americans would like to bicycle more, but are afraid to. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood has said that we should build bicycle networks because it is what people want.

- Surveys show that more than half of Americans want to live in urban or mixed use suburban settings--less than 15% want to live in housing-only suburbs. Transit-oriented development is what people want.

- Transit oriented development is good for our economy. Transit-oriented housing is so much in demand that these developments fill up very quickly and grow the economy very rapidly.

For the future of Alexandria, we need to focus, not on moving automobiles, but on moving people. This is a significant change, but it is both wanted and needed here in Alexandria.

I thank you for your time.

7  
4-16-11

## Presentation to the City Council Budget Hearing, April 16, 2011

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you this morning. I am Carolyn Griffin, Producing Artistic Director of MetroStage, a professional theatre located in Alexandria since 1984. I have committed the last 27 years of my professional life to MetroStage and the Performing Arts here in Alexandria because I believe they are so important to the cultural and economic life of this city. I thank you for past funding for the Arts, and I would respectfully request that Arts funding be maintained at a minimum at the current funding level.

MetroStage serves this city in a variety of ways. First and foremost it produces theatrical productions at the highest artistic levels. These include a season of plays and musicals, at times world premieres, and occasional cabarets that serve Alexandria residents and attract audiences from around the Beltway and beyond to the City. We offer a diversity in our productions that is unmatched by most other theatres in the area. Our season always includes programming that is of particular interest to the African American audience, and we have showcased some of the very finest African American artists in the country, including Alexandria's own William Hubbard, on our stage.

Our productions enhance the reputation of Alexandria as a cultural destination and bring in additional revenue through dining, shopping and sometimes even lodging. Our work receives the highest recognition from the Helen Hayes Awards, competing with theatres like Arena Stage and the other major regional theatres in the Washington metro area. And some of the musicals we have premiered have moved to other cities, including New York City, carrying the originating theatre's name and our location here in Alexandria with them.

In addition to our artistic work, we serve the community in other equally important ways. We offer free tickets to some of Alexandria's residents who would not have the means to attend live theatre otherwise. These include the seniors who are our neighbors at Annie B. Rose and Ladrey and the Charles Houston Senior Center, and the residents of Guest House, a halfway house in Alexandria. We have long-standing relationships with organizations like Healthy Families and the Parent Leadership Training Institute. Organizations like the Northern Virginia Urban League and Bennett College, the Historically Black women's college alumnae association, also use MetroStage for fundraising events. We donate literally hundreds of gift certificates to area nonprofits for their silent auctions at their fundraising events. We also offer opportunities for professional experiences and internships to high school and college graduates who are interested in future careers in the arts. Our unique theatre space in this converted lumber warehouse is also used by a variety of community groups as a meeting space.

We serve this community in many ways and the economic gain for the city cannot be overlooked. I urge the Mayor and Council to continue to invest in the Arts in Alexandria by continuing to include Arts Funding in the FY2012 budget, because the arts make a major contribution to our community. With an investment in the Arts the city gets back far more both culturally and economically. It is a great investment for our great city.

# METROSTAGE

## Building Communities

THE ARTS BUILD  
COMMUNITIES

WWW.VA4ORARTS.ORG



Pearl Bailey ... *The Musical of Musicals*  
Photo: Colin Howze



*The Musical of Musicals*  
Photo: Colin Howze



*Mahalia, Gospel Musical*  
Photo: Christopher Banks

### METROSTAGE

#### GEOGRAPHIC REGION SERVED

Audiences are drawn from the entire Washington metropolitan area, including Northern Virginia (Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William counties), as well as Washington, DC, and surrounding Maryland suburbs.

#### POPULATION SERVED

Approximately 1.5 million area residents

#### ATTENDANCE (FY 2009-10)

8,518

#### CONTACT

MetroStage  
www.metrostage.org  
(703) 548-9044

*You are certainly to be applauded for your enduring efforts to stage and make available to local audiences such a wealth of performance art and also to provide opportunities for such talented artists.*

**Barbara Ann, Theatre patron  
about "Shakespeare's Will"  
at the Canadian Embassy**

*Just wanted to let you know that the play last night was absolutely phenomenal! Several of my friends and co-workers were able to come and enjoyed it immensely. Thanks for always bringing the best performances to your stage.*

**Yvette  
Theatre patron**

**MetroStage serves as a precious incubator space and launches some of the most creative, original works in the metro area.**  
**DCTheatrescene.com**

The oldest professional theatre in Northern Virginia, MetroStage has been serving the community since 1984. MetroStage's plays and staged readings represent an eclectic range of drama, comedy and music to entertain and challenge the broadest possible audience. MetroStage is committed to producing, and often premieres, plays and musicals by and about African Americans that have significantly increased the diversity of the audience.

An award-winning theatre, MetroStage has a reputation that continues to grow throughout the region, providing a rich cultural experience and serving the cultural and economic needs of the community.

#### EDUCATION & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- ◆ Staged readings that provide playwrights the opportunity to develop new work and expose audiences to a wide range of dramatic writing
- ◆ Free tickets for underserved groups in the community, including low-income students and seniors, making theatre accessible to those who otherwise would be unable to attend live performances
- ◆ Opportunities for young theatre graduates to work in a professional setting and further develop as artists and technicians

MetroStage delivers an immeasurable richness to the lives of its audiences and contributes to the community's overall quality of life. It also creates jobs and generates revenue and tax dollars that help sustain its communities. Consider the following economic impact data:

#### ECONOMIC BENEFIT (FY 2009-10)

- ◆ Total Expenditures: \$685,915
- ◆ Full-time Equivalent Jobs: 19.1
- ◆ Local Taxes & Fees Generated: \$30,417
- ◆ State Taxes & Fees Generated: \$31,363

*Total industry impact of organizations & audiences.  
Source: Americans for the Arts Economic Prosperity Calculator*

These numbers make it clear: The arts are a powerful force in building and sustaining Virginia's communities.

*I always was interested in going to a play but never had the chance. Thanks to you ... I had the privilege to satisfy my interest. I really liked how the play had music tied into it. It kept me alive and at the edge of my seat. I would like to say "Thank you very much."*

**Young theatre patron  
from Second Genesis,  
a halfway house in Northern Virginia  
about "Harlem Rose"**

VFTA/VFTA Foundation 1 E. Cary Street Richmond, VA 23219 804.644.2787 www.vaforarts.org

MetroStage is a grant recipient of the Virginia Commission for the Arts.

"Arts Build Communities" is a project of Virginians for the Arts Foundation and is supported in part by a grant from Altria Group.



**Good Morning My Dave Cavanaugh. I am a resident of the City of Alexandria.**

**I appreciate the opportunity to speak regarding Commercial Add-on- Real Estate Tax. I have prepared a written statement for your consideration and ask the City Council not to approve funding of projects in Corridor "C" until:**

- 1. Completion and adoption by City Council of a Beauregard Small Area Plan and;**
- 2. Public consideration of recommendations made by the High Capacity Transitway Corridor Work Group;**
- 3. Until Budget Memorandum #10 is clarified to ensure residents and businesses will have an opportunity to comment on clearly defined proposed projects funded by the Commercial Add-on-tax, and**
- 4. Projects ultimately approved by the City Council have been coordinated with neighboring jurisdictions.**

*The added tax would fund priority transportation projects. The tax could be set as high as 12.5 per \$100 per valuation but does not apply to residential or multifamily rental property.*

**I have supported the Commercial Add-on-Tax in the past. Although concerned with the ultimate fairness of the tax on business, it does provide a dedicated**

**source of funding. This is important as Alexandria begins working with Arlington and Fairfax Counties on regional projects that benefit Alexandria residents.**

**However, I have reservations regarding approval as a result of Budget Memorandum #10.<sup>1</sup> Revenues from this tax could spark even more redevelopment; jeopardizing neighborhoods, increasing taxes and not delivering the economic benefits promised.**

I have the following concerns:

**1. Budget Memo # 10 identified projects for funding in FY 2012 and 2013 with little public input and before completion of the normal planning process. This frustrates and discourages public involvement- it's a done deal, why comment, can't fight city hall. The de facto plan taints the plan review process. The memo should be revised to clarify how the proposed projects for Corridor "C" fit into the planning and budget process for FY 2012 and FY 2013.**

**2. Budget Memorandum #10 -- *Individual Capital Project Details*--did not provide any specificity on**

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<sup>1</sup> Budget Memo #10 listed projects to be funded by the add-on tax starting in 2012. The April 7, 2011 update includes \$2.1 million in 2012 for the High Capacity Transportation Corridor—Transit Corridor C construction. An additional \$17.4 million would be provided through 2015. Project (public) funding for construction was necessary before major redevelopment in Corridor C could occur. "The proposed funding assumes developer contributions of at least \$20 million to supplement City funding for the project.

**what “construction was being budgeted. Corridor “C” extends from Van Dorn-Eisenhower Metro Station at the southwestern boundary of Alexandria through a portion of Arlington to the Pentagon. There should be an overall plan, coordinated with Arlington County, on where and how to get started. Agreement is necessary on what combination of alternative transit and street projects are necessary to improve transportation. *The plan should be subject to public comment before decisions are made regarding funding within Corridor C.***

3. Budget Memorandum # 10 proposed included a line item for “construction” prior to private investment in major redevelopment in Corridor “C”. Apparently the initial City investment would facilitate contributions by developers of at least \$20 million to supplement City funding. The City is taking on a risk with no assurance of reasonable and equitable proffers made by the developers. The City should minimize reliance on developers for proffers to avoid confusion and the perception of a “pay to play environment.”
4. **The City should not be jump-starting the development process. An early promise of public funds before a project is approved increases the**

**prospect of development as well as the value of the property being rezoned. It helps underwrite initial private development costs, often in the face of neighborhood opposition. On redevelopment projects, the commercial add-on-tax should not be used to mitigate environmental impacts, widen streets, redesign intersections or locate a fire station on park land to facilitate new development.**

**Enclosed are additional comments. Thank you.**

- 1. Budget Memorandum #10 does not solve the traffic and transportation problems in the Mark Center area. Plans by developers would substantially increase population density. Larger office buildings, hotels and commercial space will generate additional travel trips and add to traffic flow and congestion.**
- 2. The real transportation and transit problem near Mark Center is traffic on Seminary, not traffic on Beauregard Street. The “dog leg” from Seminary Road down Beauregard to a proposed town center opens up the JBG Properties tract, making it more viable for redevelopment extension of a modern mass transit system.**

As an example, the Beauregard Small Area Plan developers: *JBG Properties, Duke Realty, Hekemain,*

*WRIT, and Home Properties* presented a plan for redesigning the Seminary Road/Beauregard Intersection. This is the same intersection that only recently has been reconfigured with the triple left on to Beauregard.

As described by the developers, the redesigned intersection would be an “ellipse” or rotary that would provide access to the Hekemain property, but also facilitate access on North Beauregard to the proposed “town center”. The cost of construction would be passed on to the tax payer opening up access and enhancing the value for development of the JBG, Duke Realty and Hekemain properties. In moving ahead there should be a preliminary estimate of project costs and a cost-benefit analysis to guide public investment.

At the same time, the developer’s traffic study with the ellipse does not consider traffic or public transit on Seminary Road West of Beauregard—an area with major congestion. The redesign will provide no relief for residents living in Washington Forest, Shirley Gardens, Shirley Forest, Dowden Terrace, or Seminary Park subdivisions.

### **Popular myths that have creep into the planning process.**

- 1. Alexandria can grow out of its problem by approving huge zoning densities and relying on a**

**larger bucket of funds contributed by developers for needed public facilities.**

**2. Redevelopment pays for itself and reduces the property tax burden on existing tax payers.**

**3. Increasing zoning densities for redevelopment does not contribute to greater traffic congestion.**

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4-16-11

**Statement for the Special Public Hearing on the Effective Tax Rate**  
**Alexandria City Council**  
**Melynda Wilcox**  
**April 16, 2011**

Good morning. My name is Melynda Wilcox. Normally when I speak at a public hearing it's in some sort of official PTA capacity. But today I'm here on behalf of my husband David and myself. We are 17-year residents and taxpayers of the city, and parents of two Alexandria City Public School students. Given that it's the first day of spring break, the day of the Kelley Cares 5K and a busy morning for sports, it's a difficult time to get parents to advocate in person for our schools. But I believe that I speak for many ACPS parents who weren't able to be here today.

I am here to request that you *fully fund* the school division's Capital Improvement Program budget proposal for two new elementary schools--a K-8 school to replace Jefferson-Houston and an additional K-8 school on the Patrick Henry site. A *partial funding* of this proposal would put the school board in the untenable position of having to choose between a community that has suffered for too long with a substandard facility, and a community where additional classroom space is needed most badly.

Having to choose to build one school or the other would divide the community at a time when we're all working together to improve student achievement throughout the city.

*Both* schools are needed to reduce overcrowding on *both* sides of the city. We've reached the point where we can no longer "wait and see what happens next year."

My request is that you do whatever it takes to fully fund the CIP budget. If that means that you must raise my taxes, then so be it. I believe that the citizens of Alexandria are

keenly aware that successful schools and home price appreciation go hand in hand, and that they will support necessary spending that has been as carefully considered as this budget request.

Though I don't have any hard evidence, I suspect that one reason that our city has not suffered steeper declines in home prices during this recession—and why our schools are packed to the gills—is that our school division is moving in the right direction, and families are optimistic about the future of our schools. But if we don't make the necessary investments now to keep our schools moving forward, then we'll attract fewer young families and homebuyers who keep our real estate market strong, and who make our city a vibrant and prosperous place to live and do business.

I realize that you will be hearing from many of your constituents who are opposed to a tax increase. I urge you to share with them some of the facts about our overcrowded conditions that you have learned over the past few months during your joint work sessions with the school board. I encourage you to invite them to get involved in our schools as a tutor, or join the PTA of their neighborhood school. But most of all, I hope that by your actions on this budget proposal, you will demonstrate to them that an investment in our schools is an investment in a stronger community.

Thank you.



7  
4-16-11

**Jackie Henderson**

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**From:** Jill Stump <results@fitonestudio.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 12, 2011 11:12 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; paulcsmedberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: Dissastifaction with the No Add On Tax Bill  
**Attachments:** ATT00001..txt

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

Time: [Tue Apr 12, 2011 23:12:04] Message ID: [29136]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Jill  
**Last Name:** Stump  
**Street Address:** 814 North Saint Asaph Street  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 7035482223  
**Email Address:** [results@fitonestudio.com](mailto:results@fitonestudio.com)  
**Subject:** Dissastifaction with the No Add On Tax Bill  
I own a Personal Training Studio, FitOne Personal Training, in Alexandria Virginia and wanted to email and express my dissatisfaction with the Commercial Add On Tax that the City is trying to implement to pay for transportation projects. As a small business owner in the City, I feel this is not acceptable and, as small wanted my voice be heard.

Regards,  
Jill

Jackie Henderson

7  
4-16-11

**From:** Bradley Todd <brad@onmessageinc.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 12, 2011 1:06 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; paulcsmedberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: Industry united against proposed Add-On Tax  
**Attachments:** 92bcbe32eb15cde8d08ee80aae3f6402.pdf; ATT00001..txt

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

Time: [Tue Apr 12, 2011 13:06:29] Message ID: [29113]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Bradley  
**Last Name:** Todd  
**Street Address:** 722 South Fairfax  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 703-518-2380  
**Email Address:** [brad@onmessageinc.com](mailto:brad@onmessageinc.com)  
**Subject:** Industry united against proposed Add-On Tax  
Please find attached a letter from a bipartisan group of 28 partners/principals of opinion research and public affairs advertising agencies located in Alexandria, standing united against a job-killing Add-On tax on commercial property.

April 11, 2011

**Comments:** Dear Mayor Euille and Members of the City Council:  
This letter is a cooperative attempt by one of Alexandria's largest industry sectors encouraging you to delete the proposed Commercial Property Add-On Tax from the FY2012 city budget.  
Over the past two decades, Alexandria has become the most important national hub for firms engaged in

public affairs advertising

and opinion research, as noted recently by the Los Angeles Times. All of us

are partners or principals of local businesses in that industry.

Our

companies cumulatively employ hundreds of Alexandrians and provide a steady

anchor industry to the Class A commercial real estate sector. Our

businesses are almost entirely locally-owned, with client bases around

the country and the world. Our industry is clean. The jobs we provide are

well-compensated professional careers that attract some of the brightest

talent in America – good citizens who are interested in civic

affairs.

As our industry has become rooted in the Old Town section of

Alexandria, many of us have purchased commercial property. Others are key

tenants in some of our city's most important commercial complexes.

Most of us chose Alexandria within the Washington region in part

because of a lower cost of doing business in Old Town compared to other

jurisdictions. Recent assertions that Alexandria can justify a commercial

add-on tax just because Fairfax and Arlington have done so are wrong-headed

and dangerous to our economy.

The knowledge-based jobs like those

provided by our firms servicing national client bases are completely

portable. Alexandria's commercial base of independent, local-owned

businesses will thrive only if Alexandria commits to a commercial tax

structure that is more attractive to businesses than any of our

neighbors.

For the health of Alexandria's economy in what is still a  
difficult national environment, we urge you to  
reject any addition to  
commercial property tax rates in our city.

Sincerely,

Brad

Todd Bob Ward Dwight Sterling  
OnMessage Inc. Fabrizio, Ward &

Associates Multi-Media Services

Robin Roberts Linda DiVall Dave

Sackett  
National Media, Inc. American Viewpoint Tarrance Group

B.J.

Martino Ed Goeas Kyle Roberts  
Tarrance Group Tarrance Group SMART

Media

Whit Ayres Steve Murphy Carl Forti  
Ayres, McHenry &

Assoc. Murphy, Vogel, Askew, Reilly Black Rock Group

Mike Dubke Ben

Burger Erik Potholm  
Crossroads Media SRCP Media SRCP

Media

Blaise Hazelwood Dan Hazelwood Katie Packer  
Grassroots

Targeting Targeted Creative Comms. WWP Strategies

Greg Mueller Jon

McHenry Bruce Haynes  
CRC Public Relations Ayres, McHenry &

Assoc Purple Strategies

Alex Castellanos Rebecca Donatelli Dan

Allen  
Purple Strategies Campaign Solutions Scott Howell &

Co.

Michael Myers Alex Gage Jim Innocenzi  
TargetPoint

Consulting TargetPoint Consulting Sandler-Innocenzi Inc.

Sara

Fagen

BlueFront Strategies

**Attachment:** 92bcbe32eb15cde8d08ee80aae3f6402.pdf

Jackie Henderson

7  
4-16-11

**From:** John Hardy <john@areasafe.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 12, 2011 1:42 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; paulcsmedberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: Imposing Tax to pay for transportation  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Tue Apr 12, 2011 13:42:07] Message ID: [29115]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** John  
**Last Name:** Hardy  
**Street Address:** 3301 Mt. Vernon Ave  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** Virginia  
**Zip:** 22305  
**Phone:** 571-235-2400  
**Email Address:** [john@areasafe.com](mailto:john@areasafe.com)  
**Subject:** Imposing Tax to pay for transportation  
Alexandria City is planning to pay for transportation projects by imposing a Commercial Add On Tax that will impact my company and property Taxes.  
This is not acceptable and, as small business owner and property owner in the Alexandria City I am against this proposal. Unforcontly I will be out of town on the 16th of April 2011 but I would like my voice be heard thru  
**Comments:** this correspondence. This would mean a 12.5% increase in my commercial property taxes. Elimination of the BPOL in now way compensates for that.  
  
Thank you  
John Hardy

Jackie Henderson

7  
4-16-11

**From:** shara posner <drshara@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 12, 2011 5:08 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; paulcsmedberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: ADD ON TAX  
**Attachments:** ATT00001..txt

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

Time: [Tue Apr 12, 2011 17:07:40] Message ID: [29122]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** shara  
**Last Name:** posner  
**Street Address:** 4908 Prince St  
**City:** alexandria  
**State:** Virginia  
**Zip:** 22304  
**Phone:**  
**Email Address:** [drshara@verizon.net](mailto:drshara@verizon.net)  
**Subject:** ADD ON TAX  
Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor and Council Members,  
I am an Alexandria city  
resident who owns and maintains a business in Old Town. I feel it is my  
duty as a  
constituent and proprietor to strongly urge you to vote down  
the add on tax bill. I firmly believe that this tax  
will make it cost  
prohibitive for businesses to continue in Old Town. I believe the allure  
**Comments:** to our town is the  
historical significance but also the small businesses  
and retail shops which add to the charm of our city. If  
this add on tax  
is instituted I can guarantee that visitors will certainly notice the  
vacancies of store fronts due  
to the expenses pushed on the business  
owner with this proposal.  
Sincerely,  
Shara Posner

Jackie Henderson

7  
4-16-11

**From:** Donald Larson <The2thmover@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 12, 2011 5:06 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; paulcsmedberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: "Add-on tax"  
**Attachments:** ATT00001..txt

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

**Time:** [Tue Apr 12, 2011 17:06:11] **Message ID:** [29121]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Donald  
**Last Name:** Larson  
**Street Address:** 814 North Saint Asaph Street  
Floor 2  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 7038388998  
**Email Address:** [The2thmover@gmail.com](mailto:The2thmover@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** "Add-on tax"

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to express my concern for, and disbelief of, the proposed tax increase on commercial property. I implore you to respectfully consider the consequences of such an increase. My small business needs support from the City of Alexandria, not an additional tax burden.

With strong opposition to the tax,

Dr. Donald F. Larson  
Orthodontist  
Business owner in the City of Alexandria 12 years



Jackie Henderson

7  
4-16-11

**From:** Andrew Baird <bairdvirginia@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 12, 2011 5:08 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; paulcsmedberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: Opposing the Add-On Tax  
**Attachments:** ATT00001..txt

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

Time: [Tue Apr 12, 2011 17:08:23] Message ID: [29123]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Andrew  
**Last Name:** Baird  
**Street Address:** Suite 306 815 King St.  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 703 838 8022  
**Email Address:** [bairdvirginia@yahoo.com](mailto:bairdvirginia@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Opposing the Add-On Tax  
Many small business people are barely hanging on. Does Alexandria truly  
**Comments:** wish to "tax" them out of town. I don't think tax sounds like a  
good idea. Best regards.

7  
4-16-11

**Jackie Henderson**

**From:** Mark Allen <mallen@markallenlaw.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 12, 2011 6:09 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; paulcsmedberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: Commercial add-on tax  
**Attachments:** ATT00001..txt

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

**Time:** [Tue Apr 12, 2011 18:09:27] **Message ID:** [29126]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Mark  
**Last Name:** Allen  
**Street Address:** 111 Oronoco St.  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** Virginia  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 703-836-8787  
**Email Address:** [mallen@markallenlaw.com](mailto:mallen@markallenlaw.com)

**Subject:** Commercial add-on tax

Dear Friends:

I consider you my friends, but those of you who are

supporting the commercial add-on tax have somehow lost your way. I would

challenge you to find a single economic authority in support of the

proposition that in a period of economic challenge, raising taxes on

businesses is a good idea. Moreover, there has never been a coherent

explanation of why this tax should be imposed, other than the fact that:

**Comments:** (1) you were given authority to impose it; and (2) our neighboring jurisdictions have imposed it. Never should your rationale for taxing anyone be based on the simple notion that you can do it, nor that everybody else is doing it.

The trade off for this, you say, is a reduction in the

hated BPOL tax. But have you considered the notion that those who have

\$350,000 or less in gross receipts generally don't own or rent commercial

office space. Revenue that small generally comes from home-based

businesses. Not to mention that the tax itself is unfair to the person who is unlucky enough to generate one dollar more than the minimum so that he/she can pay the tax from the first dollar earned.

Raising money for

transportation projects isn't a bad idea. But this is the wrong way to go about it. Have the political courage to tax all property owners, not just a small segment of the taxpaying public. Transportation benefits all, so all should share in the pain of paying for it.

7  
4-16-11

**Jackie Henderson**

**From:** Amy Rutherford <amy@redbarnmercantile.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 12, 2011 6:19 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; paulcsmedberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: Add On Tax  
**Attachments:** ATT00001..txt

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

**Time:** [Tue Apr 12, 2011 18:19:14] **Message ID:** [29127]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Amy  
**Last Name:** Rutherford  
**Street Address:** 657 North Armistead Street  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22312  
**Phone:** 703-813-5555  
**Email Address:** [amy@redbarnmercantile.com](mailto:amy@redbarnmercantile.com)  
**Subject:** Add On Tax  
As a business owner that continues to struggle after 3.5 years in Old Town,  
  
I implore you to vote down the Add On Tax. Any additional property taxes will be passed down to me and my fellow small business owners. I simply cannot afford any additional expenses. As it is Old Town cannot produce  
  
**Comments:** enough business for me to pay my current rent and still afford to pay staff let alone myself a salary. If my expenses continue to go up, I will be forced to close my doors. That is NOT an exaggeration. So, once again, please support your local businesses and vote no on the Add On Tax. Thank you.

7  
4-16-11

**Jackie Henderson**

**From:** ANGELA STASIK <blaze11986@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 13, 2011 2:43 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; paulcsmedberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: DASH Bus  
**Attachments:** ATT00001..txt

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

Time: [Wed Apr 13, 2011 14:43:05] Message ID: [29166]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** ANGELA  
**Last Name:** STASIK  
**Street Address:** 3818 KING ST.  
**City:** ALEXANDRIA  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22302  
**Phone:** 703-931-7250  
**Email Address:** [blaze11986@aol.com](mailto:blaze11986@aol.com)  
**Subject:** DASH Bus

This concerns the upcoming hearing involving funding for the DASH bus system. I have been a homeowner in Alexandria for over 25 years. I am a federal retiree who lives and now works part-time in Alexandria. I depend upon public transportation, especially the DASH 5 and DASH 6 bus lines, for work, shopping, medical appointments, and personal reasons - during the week and on weekends. Please do not allow the service to be cut back. My

**Comments:** neighborhood has already been affected by the reconfiguring of the Metrobus Regional Transit 28A bus line (more than a year ago). It now bypasses the Bradlee Shopping Center/FairlingtonTowne area entirely. I am willing to accept paying higher taxes or a higher fare to avoid a service cutback.

Thanks,  
Angela A. Stasik

**Jackie Henderson**

7  
4-16-11

**From:** Deborah Faber <faberg@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 12, 2011 10:26 AM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper;  
paulcsmedberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka;  
Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: Employee Retirement Contributions  
**Attachments:** ATT00001..txt

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

Time: [Tue Apr 12, 2011 10:25:50] Message ID: [29109]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Deborah  
**Last Name:** Faber  
**Street Address:** 7907 Carleigh Parkway  
**City:** Springfield  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22152  
**Phone:** 703-912-3301  
**Email Address:** [faberg@verizon.net](mailto:faberg@verizon.net)  
**Subject:** Employee Retirement Contributions  
Please VOTE OPTION "A" on Employee Retirement Contributions.  
Don't ask those who work so hard to protect the City of Alexandria pay more  
**Comments:**  
to SERVE their fellow citizens.

**Jackie Henderson**

7  
4-16-11

**From:** Caity Davis <results@fitonestudio.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 13, 2011 11:03 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; paulcsmberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: No Add On Tax  
**Attachments:** ATT00001..txt

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

**Time:** [Wed Apr 13, 2011 23:03:00] **Message ID:** [29183]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Caity  
**Last Name:** Davis  
**Street Address:** 814 N. St. Asaph St  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 703.548.2223  
**Email Address:** [results@fitonestudio.com](mailto:results@fitonestudio.com)  
**Subject:** No Add On Tax

**Comments:** I co-own FitOne Personal Training Studio in Old Town Alexandria and wanted to express my dissatisfaction with the Commercial Add On Tax that the City is trying to implement to pay for transportation projects. As a small business owner in the City, I feel this is not acceptable.

**Jackie Henderson**

7  
4-16-11

**From:** Eileen Cross <eileen@pmaproperties.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 13, 2011 4:23 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; paulcsmberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: No Add on Tax  
**Attachments:** ATT00001..txt

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

**Time:** [Wed Apr 13, 2011 16:23:09] **Message ID:** [29170]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Eileen  
**Last Name:** Cross  
**Street Address:** 815 King Street  
Ste. 203  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** Va  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 703-548-1810  
**Email Address:** [eileen@pmaproperties.com](mailto:eileen@pmaproperties.com)  
**Subject:** No Add on Tax  
Please I see my tenants struggling to pay rent each month. They do not need and additional taxes to fund the City's transportation. I do not  
**Comments:** support the Add On Tax. Please vote no!  
Thank you.  
Eileen Cross



7  
4-16-11

**Jackie Henderson**

**From:** Tracy Stone <ttstone@kpmg.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2011 1:44 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; paulcsmedberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: ACPS Capital Improvement Program Budget  
**Attachments:** ATT00001..txt

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

**Time:** [Thu Apr 14, 2011 13:44:22] **Message ID:** [29197]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Tracy  
**Last Name:** Stone  
**Street Address:** 413 Fontaine Street  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22302  
**Phone:** 703-683-1456  
**Email Address:** [ttstone@kpmg.com](mailto:ttstone@kpmg.com)  
**Subject:** ACPS Capital Improvement Program Budget

Dear Mayor Euille and Members of the City Council,

We request that you

fully fund both the four-year CIP budget recommended by staff and the proposed FY 2012 ACPS Operating Budget.

As parents of elementary

school-aged children who are in our schools daily we have a unique insight

**Comments:**

into our community's needs. As enrollment continues to grow faster than

projected, we are concerned that overcrowded facilities will have a detrimental effect on student achievement. We are taxing the limits of our facilities—lunchrooms, gymnasiums, and so forth, which were not designed

for the numbers of kids that they are currently serving—and we're taxing our ability to deliver the wide range of programs required by our diverse student population. We've reached the point where we can no longer "wait and see what happens next year."

We recognize that there are many

demands on the City's financial resources. Committing to meeting all of our school division's needs is difficult. Yet, we firmly believe that a strategic and bold investment in our schools is exactly what is called for at this time. Our students deserve it and our community will be stronger for it. We believe that the citizens of Alexandria are keenly aware that successful schools and home price appreciation go hand in hand, and that they will support necessary spending that has been as carefully considered as this budget request.

We join with the Alexandria PTA Council in asking for your full support at this critical time. Please take whatever steps are required to ensure that our schools are fully funded. We will continue to follow the budget process and welcome any questions that you may have for us.

Respectfully,  
Tracy and Chris Stone

7  
4-16-11

**Jackie Henderson**

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**From:** Ron Vassallo <ron\_vassallo@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2011 2:14 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; paulcsmedberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: ACPS Capital Improvement Program Budget  
**Attachments:** 45b746eed926afa0a261d74d729beb57.doc; ATT00001..txt

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

Time: [Thu Apr 14, 2011 14:14:06] Message ID: [29199]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Ron  
**Last Name:** Vassallo  
**Street Address:** 9 Potomac Court  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 703-549-1404  
**Email Address:** [ron\\_vassallo@verizon.net](mailto:ron_vassallo@verizon.net)  
**Subject:** ACPS Capital Improvement Program Budget  
I fully support the requested budget action proposed by the GW PTA and the  
**Comments:**  
Alexandria PTA Council.  
**Attachment:** 45b746eed926afa0a261d74d729beb57.doc

**GEORGE WASHINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL PTA**  
1005 Mount Vernon Avenue  
Alexandria, VA 22301

April 12, 2011

Dear Mayor Euille and Members of the City Council,

The Executive Board of the George Washington Middle School PTA requests that you fully fund both the four-year CIP budget recommended by staff and the proposed FY 2012 ACPS Operating Budget.

As volunteer PTA leaders who are in our schools daily we have a unique insight into our community's needs. As enrollment continues to grow faster than projected, we are concerned that overcrowded facilities will have a detrimental effect on student achievement. We are taxing the limits of our facilities—lunchrooms, gymnasiums, and so forth, which were not designed for the numbers of kids that they are currently serving—and we're taxing our ability to deliver the wide range of programs required by our diverse student population. We've reached the point where we can no longer "wait and see what happens next year."

We recognize that there are many demands on the City's financial resources. Committing to meeting all of our school division's needs is difficult. Yet, we firmly believe that a strategic and bold investment in our schools is exactly what is called for at this time. Our students deserve it and our community will be stronger for it. We believe that the citizens of Alexandria are keenly aware that successful schools and home price appreciation go hand in hand, and that they will support necessary spending that has been as carefully considered as this budget request.

We join with the Alexandria PTA Council in asking for your full support at this critical time. Please take whatever steps are required to ensure that our schools are fully funded. We will continue to follow the budget process and welcome any questions that you may have for us.

Respectfully,

SIGNED BY MEMBERS OF THE  
EXECUTIVE BOARD

7  
4-16-11

**Jackie Henderson**

**From:** Lenore Bookheim <lenore64@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2011 3:00 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; paulcsmedberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: Funding ACPS  
**Attachments:** ATT00001..txt

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

**Time:** [Thu Apr 14, 2011 15:00:20] **Message ID:** [29202]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Lenore  
**Last Name:** Bookheim  
**Street Address:** 812 S.Overlook Drive  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22305  
**Phone:** 703 671 4399  
**Email Address:** [lenore64@comcast.net](mailto:lenore64@comcast.net)  
**Subject:** Funding ACPS  
GEORGE WASHINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL PTA  
1005 Mount Vernon Avenue  
Alexandria,  
VA 22301

April 12, 2011

Dear Mayor Euille and Members of the City

Council,

The Executive Board of the George Washington Middle School PTA

**Comments:** requests that you fully fund both the four-year CIP budget recommended by staff and the proposed FY 2012 ACPS Operating Budget. As volunteer PTA leaders who are in our schools daily we have a unique insight into our community's needs. As enrollment continues to grow faster than projected, we are concerned that overcrowded facilities will have a detrimental effect on student achievement. We are taxing the limits of our

facilities—  
lunchrooms, gymnasiums, and so forth, which were not designed

for the numbers of kids that they are  
currently serving—and we're taxing

our ability to deliver the wide range of programs required by our  
diverse

student population. We've reached the point where we can no longer "wait  
and see what happens  
next year."

We recognize that there are many

demands on the City's financial resources. Committing to meeting all  
of

our school division's needs is difficult. Yet, we firmly believe that a

strategic and bold investment in our  
schools is exactly what is called

for at this time. Our students deserve it and our community will be

stronger for it. We believe that the citizens of Alexandria are keenly

aware that successful schools and  
home price appreciation go hand in

hand, and that they will support necessary spending that has been as

carefully considered as this budget request.

We join with the

Alexandria PTA Council in asking for your full support at this critical

time. Please take  
whatever steps are required to ensure that our schools

are fully funded. We will continue to follow the  
budget process and

welcome any questions that you may have for

us.

Respectfully,

Andy Cook and Lenore Bookheim Cook  
Parents

of a GW 6th grader, and a Charles Barrett 3rd Grader

7  
4-16-11

**Jackie Henderson**

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**From:** Laine Hardman <laineandjim@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2011 5:36 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; paulcsmedberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: two new schools - funding  
**Attachments:** d1887ce79ccacc631d2c92dc9efeb87b.doc; ATT00001..txt

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

Time: [Thu Apr 14, 2011 17:36:18] Message ID: [29207]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Laine  
**Last Name:** Hardman  
**Street Address:** 3203 Circle Hill Road  
**City:**  
**State:**  
**Zip:** 22305  
**Phone:**  
**Email Address:** [laineandjim@comcast.net](mailto:laineandjim@comcast.net)  
**Subject:** two new schools - funding  
**Comments:**  
**Attachment:** d1887ce79ccacc631d2c92dc9efeb87b.doc

**GEORGE WASHINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL PTA**  
1005 Mount Vernon Avenue  
Alexandria, VA 22301

April 12, 2011

Dear Mayor Euille and Members of the City Council,

The Executive Board of the George Washington Middle School PTA requests that you fully fund both the four-year CIP budget recommended by staff and the proposed FY 2012 ACPS Operating Budget.

As volunteer PTA leaders who are in our schools daily we have a unique insight into our community's needs. As enrollment continues to grow faster than projected, we are concerned that overcrowded facilities will have a detrimental effect on student achievement. We are taxing the limits of our facilities—lunchrooms, gymnasiums, and so forth, which were not designed for the numbers of kids that they are currently serving—and we're taxing our ability to deliver the wide range of programs required by our diverse student population. We've reached the point where we can no longer "wait and see what happens next year."

We recognize that there are many demands on the City's financial resources. Committing to meeting all of our school division's needs is difficult. Yet, we firmly believe that a strategic and bold investment in our schools is exactly what is called for at this time. Our students deserve it and our community will be stronger for it. We believe that the citizens of Alexandria are keenly aware that successful schools and home price appreciation go hand in hand, and that they will support necessary spending that has been as carefully considered as this budget request.

We join with the Alexandria PTA Council in asking for your full support at this critical time. Please take whatever steps are required to ensure that our schools are fully funded. We will continue to follow the budget process and welcome any questions that you may have for us.

Respectfully,

**SIGNED BY MEMBERS OF THE  
EXECUTIVE BOARD**



7  
4-16-11

**Jackie Henderson**

**From:** Jasmine Milone <jasminemilone@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2011 8:30 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; paulcsmedberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: FY 2012 ACPS Operating Budget  
**Attachments:** ATT00001..txt

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

Time: [Thu Apr 14, 2011 20:30:28] Message ID: [29216]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Jasmine  
**Last Name:** Milone  
**Street Address:** 907 Prince Street  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** Virginia  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 703-836-5481  
**Email Address:** [jasminemilone@yahoo.com](mailto:jasminemilone@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** FY 2012 ACPS Operating Budget  
April 14, 2011

Dear Mayor Euille and Members of the City Council,

I

am proud to have attended Alexandria City Public schools and currently have

3 children in ACPS. I am also the director of a half-day preschool in

Alexandria. My husband and I have observed much growth in the 7 years that

**Comments:** we have had our children enrolled in our public schools and I am extremely pleased with the increase in enrollment in our schools. As enrollment continues to grow faster than projected, I am concerned that overcrowded facilities will have a detrimental effect on student achievement. We are taxing the limits of our facilities—lunchrooms, gymnasiums, and so forth, which were not designed for the numbers of kids that they are currently serving—and we're taxing our ability to deliver the wide range of programs required by our diverse student population. We've reached the point where

we can no longer "wait and see what happens next year." This has

occurred

for a number of years at Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy where 2 of our children are currently students. Due to increased enrollment, classroom space is being created in areas that were once used for other purposes, such as a computer lab, TV studio, LD and resource teacher workspace/classroom.

My husband and I recognize that there are many demands on the City's financial resources. Committing to meeting all of our school division's needs is difficult. Yet, we firmly believe that a strategic and bold investment in our schools is exactly what is called for at this time. Our students deserve it and our community will be stronger for it. We believe that the citizens of Alexandria are keenly aware that successful schools and home price appreciation go hand in hand, and that they will support necessary spending that has been as carefully considered

as this budget request.

Please consider very carefully to fully fund

both the four-year CIP budget recommended by staff and the proposed FY 2012

ACPS Operating Budget.

Very Respectfully,

Jasmine Milone

7  
4-16-11

**Jackie Henderson**

**From:** Alan Paez <agp1776@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2011 11:58 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; paulcsmedberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: ACPS Capital Improvement Program Budget  
**Attachments:** ATT00001..txt

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

Time: [Thu Apr 14, 2011 23:57:54] Message ID: [29220]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Alan  
**Last Name:** Paez  
**Street Address:** 227 Adams Ave.  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22301  
**Phone:** 703-549-4410  
**Email Address:** [agp1776@yahoo.com](mailto:agp1776@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** ACPS Capital Improvement Program Budget  
Dear Mayor Euille and Members of the City Council,

I join with the PTA's  
of T.C. Williams High School, George Washington Middle School, and  
Cora

Kelly STEM  
in requesting that you fully fund both the four-year CIP

budget recommended by staff and the proposed FY  
2012 ACPS Operating

Budget. I have three children that attend these three schools in the ACPS

**Comments:** system,  
and I believe it is imperative that we fully fund the CIP budget.

I volunteer through the PTA and ACPS music programs and I am in these  
schools daily, so I have a unique  
insight into our community's needs. As

enrollment continues to grow faster than projected, I am  
concerned that

overcrowded facilities will have a detrimental effect on student

achievement. I believe we  
are taxing the limits of our

facilities—lunchrooms, gymnasiums, and so forth, which were not designed

for the numbers of kids that they are currently serving—and we're taxing

our ability to deliver the wide range of programs required by our diverse

student population. There's no question that we've reached the point

where we can no longer "wait and see what happens next year."

I

recognize that there are many demands on the City's financial resources.

Committing to meeting all of our school division's needs is difficult.

Yet, I firmly believe that a strategic and bold investment in our schools

is exactly what is called for at this time. Our students deserve it, and

our community will be stronger for it. I believe that the citizens of

Alexandria are keenly aware that successful schools and home price

appreciation go hand in hand, and that they will support necessary spending

that has been as carefully considered as this budget request.

I join

with the Alexandria PTA Council in asking for your full support at this

critical time. Please take whatever steps are required to ensure that

our schools CIP budget and Operating Budget are fully funded. I will

continue to follow the budget process and hope you will vote to fully fund our schools.

Respectfully,

Alan G. Paez

7  
4-16-11

**Jackie Henderson**

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**From:** Bill Purdy <billpurdy1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 15, 2011 12:09 AM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; paulcsmedberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: Support Option A for Public Safety Employees  
**Attachments:** ATT00001..txt

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

Time: [Fri Apr 15, 2011 00:09:05] Message ID: [29221]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Bill  
**Last Name:** Purdy  
**Street Address:** 307 Rucker Place  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22301  
**Phone:** 703.548.6899  
**Email Address:** [billpurdy1@gmail.com](mailto:billpurdy1@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Support Option A for Public Safety Employees  
We recently took a vote in the Purdy household and we unanimously support  
  
Option A for Alexandria's public safety employees. The continued growth of  
  
**Comments:** our City requires a strong public safety workforce and we believe that  
  
Option A is the best choice. Please vote to support Option A.  
  
Thank  
  
you.

7  
4-(6-1)

**Jackie Henderson**

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**From:** Kelley Weissenborn <ckwc5@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2011 4:46 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper;  
paulcsmedberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka;  
Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: Alexfirepension  
**Attachments:** ATT00001..txt

**COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members**  
Time: [Thu Apr 14, 2011 16:46:23] Message ID: [29205]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Kelley  
**Last Name:** Weissenborn  
**Street Address:** 429 Monticello Blvd.  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22305  
**Phone:** 703-548-2951  
**Email Address:** [ckwc5@yahoo.com](mailto:ckwc5@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Alexfirepension  
**Comments:** Please vote for Option A on Employee Retirement Contributions.

7  
4-16-11

**Jackie Henderson**

**From:** Ninette Sadusky <ninette2003@Hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 15, 2011 1:43 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; paulcsmedberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: vote "no" property tax hike!, fight relocation of fed employees to non-metro rai  
**Attachments:** ATT00001..txt

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

**Time:** [Fri Apr 15, 2011 13:43:28] **Message ID:** [29229]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Ninette  
**Last Name:** Sadusky  
**Street Address:** 910 Pendleton Street  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 703-622-0994  
**Email Address:** [ninette2003@Hotmail.com](mailto:ninette2003@Hotmail.com)

**Subject:** vote "no" property tax hike!, fight relocation of fed employees

to non-metro rai  
I am a home owner in the City of Alexandria and writing to express my position on two issues:

1. Please vote "no" property tax

hike!

Please spend less vice tax more!

Terrible time to ask

**Comments:** property owners for a larger percentage and the same time home values are

down, people have been laid off, and retirement investments have decreased,

Regarding transportation, recommend people use the Metro Bus and

Rail.

2. Please fight to delay or cancel the Federal Government BRAC

decision to relocate 6 thousand employees from a location with metro rail

access (ie. crystal city) to one that requires road transport (buses and cars) (IE the marc center).

Thank you



7  
4-16-11

**Jackie Henderson**

**From:** Judith Finn <finn.jodi@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 15, 2011 9:40 AM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; paulcsmedberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: Firefighters pension contribution  
**Attachments:** ATT00001..txt

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

Time: [Fri Apr 15, 2011 09:39:54] Message ID: [29225]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Judith  
**Last Name:** Finn  
**Street Address:** 2509 Central Ave  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22302  
**Phone:** 7036273769  
**Email Address:** [finn.jodi@gmail.com](mailto:finn.jodi@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Firefighters pension contribution  
Please vote for Option A on employee retirement contributions. Please  
**Comments:** support our Firefighters.  
J. Finn

7  
4-16-11

**Jackie Henderson**

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**From:** Joe Trahern <Joe\_Trahern@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 15, 2011 2:53 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; paulcsmberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: Vote NO on property tax  
**Attachments:** ATT00001..txt

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

Time: [Fri Apr 15, 2011 14:52:44] Message ID: [29235]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Joe  
**Last Name:** Trahern  
**Street Address:** 425 N Patrick Street  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 7035662030  
**Email Address:** [Joe\\_Trahern@yahoo.com](mailto:Joe_Trahern@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Vote NO on property tax  
Believe me, I am no anti-tax zealot, but I am writing to urge you to vote NO on increased property taxes for small businesses at this time. The challenges facing small business at this time are evident in the multiple shuttered businesses I've seen throughout Old Town. I am especially  
**Comments:** skeptical of doing this without knowing precisely what we intend to use this money for -- it's not enough to know it's to finance transportation projects. I've heard firsthand from friends and neighbors among local businesspeople about the impact it will have on them. Please vote no.

7  
4-16-11

**Jackie Henderson**

**From:** Tucker Elementary School PTA Janice McLaury <janicemclaury@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 15, 2011 1:49 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; paulcsmedberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: Support for 4-year CIP Funding & ACPS Operating Budget  
**Attachments:** ATT00001..txt

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

**Time:** [Fri Apr 15, 2011 13:49:16] **Message ID:** [29230]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Tucker Elementary School PTA  
**Last Name:** Janice McLaury  
**Street Address:** 435 Ferdinand Day Drive  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22304  
**Phone:** 703-933-6300  
**Email Address:** janicemclaury@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Support for 4-year CIP Funding & ACPS Operating Budget

Good afternoon Mayor Euille and City Council members,

The members of

the Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School PTA board appreciate your interest

and willingness to meet with ACPS school board members and staff to discuss

at great length the necessary structural improvements our public elementary

schools are in great need of and appreciate your support and recognition

**Comments:** for the tremendous progress we've made academically in recent years.

Respectfully, we urge you to fully fund both the four-year CIP budget recommended by staff and the proposed FY2012 Operating Budget for Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS).

We appreciate your continued support of our youth, youth services, and public schools. As parents actively involved in our school every day, we, too, believe a strong public school system is the heart of a strong community. We are confident the explosion in our student body population, citywide, is affecting all

elementary schools and will soon stress the seams of our middle schools as

well. Since we believe there are clear signs this is not a short-term situation, we believe rebuilding Jefferson Houston and Patrick Henry, now, will provide a solution on many fronts and in a timely manner – as compared to what negative impact most likely will occur should the very real issues of steady, increased student enrollment and severely neglected learning facilities not be addressed.

In fall of 2009, our school first began conversations with the school board and Dr. Sherman about how over-enrollment at Tucker was negatively affecting the very educational elements that make our school successful for all students it serves. Just this year, Tucker has had to transfer more than a 170 students living in the Tucker zone to other public schools in our city under the Modified Open

Enrollment plan – just to keep the student population around 700 – for a facility built with optimum capacity of 575. With the West End historically offering some of the most affordable housing and with Tucker's academic record, we firmly believe this trend will persist in the West End. And, with plans to build more condos and townhouses in densely populated communities in the West End, it is sure to remain consistent.

Furthermore, after having toured both facilities and talking with parents who have been enrolled in the schools under the Modified Open Enrollment plan, the conditions at Jefferson Houston are not adequate for a viable learning environment. We believe we can all agree half-built walls and a tiled cafeteria floor used for a gym is not fair to our city's children. Our school board and superintendent have worked diligently and demonstrated they are committed to raising expectations and ensuring every teacher and student is prepared to collaborate and to meet high academic results for all our students citywide. Rebuilding Jefferson Houston and Patrick Henry (and Cora Kelly in time) will help to alleviate pressures schools are facing with over-crowding that detract from meeting those

expectations, in the near and long-term future.

Fortunately, our city

invests heavily in our youth, so we ask for your full support in investing in our school facilities – the very heart of where our youth spend the majority of their day and the very infrastructure that can and does provide them hope, opportunity, direction, and empowerment to define a future for themselves.

During a joint work session, the question was raised, "Why

not increase our class sizes compared to Fairfax?" As informed parents and

as parents who tutor students, we know the smaller class sizes are

instrumental in achieving the measurable improved academic performances we

have as of late, narrowing the achievement gap, raising expectations for

all students, providing the necessary resources and time from teachers

tailored to each student's ability, managing the high percentage of English

Language Learners, and beginning the practice of inclusion in the

general-ed classroom effectively. To raise the number of seats in a

classroom is not the answer, and we believe to do so will prove detrimental

to the great strides we've made as a school district. Please consider some

of the academic, social, behavioral, and learning challenges Fairfax faces

because of the larger class sizes.

We understand there are many demands

on the City's financial resources, but we plead with conviction for you to

commit now to rebuilding our public schools so very much neglected and so

very in need of real attention. We lend our support to ACPS, the school

board, city council, and the City to help ensure Patrick Henry and

Jefferson Houston are rebuilt with a date certain, so MOE will serve as

only a short-term solution with an end date, and so that those students

currently enrolled in those schools receive the resources they deserve and

need to succeed. We ask that you fully fund the four-year CIP budget

recommended by staff and the proposed FY2012 Operating Budget for

Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS). We also ask that city council

recognize that areas being developed with densely-populated residential

communities, such as the West End, will need school facilities that may very well be beyond the current facilities our city now offers.

We

stand united with the PTA Council and ACPS schools in this desire, not as a

West-end school and not as elementary school-parents, but as leaders and

advocates for ACPS and for all students citywide attending our public schools.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Samuel W.

Tucker Elementary School PTA Board  
TuckerTigersRoar@gmail.com  
(Janice

McLaury, PTA president – janicemclaury@gmail.com)

7  
4-16-11

**Jackie Henderson**

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**From:** Ruth Allen <allenrm2@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 15, 2011 2:08 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; paulcsmedberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: tax vote  
**Attachments:** ATT00001..txt

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

Time: [Fri Apr 15, 2011 14:07:58] Message ID: [29233]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Ruth  
**Last Name:** Allen  
**Street Address:** 1313 Queen street  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 7034757692  
**Email Address:** [allenrm2@comcast.net](mailto:allenrm2@comcast.net)  
**Subject:** tax vote  
Please vote 'no' on property tax increase. I'm still trying to figure out why I have an increase in my property tax this year. When folks around  
**Comments:** me didn't. I've done nothing to warremt an increase, and it is not a good time economically to raise them across the board.  
Ruth Allen

Jackie Henderson

7  
4-16-11

**From:** Scott Barstow <shbarstow@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 15, 2011 4:33 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; paulcsmedberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: transportation add-on tax  
**Attachments:** ATT00001..txt

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

Time: [Fri Apr 15, 2011 16:33:26] Message ID: [29241]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Scott  
**Last Name:** Barstow  
**Street Address:** 801 N. Pitt Street, #1104  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 703-405-9711  
**Email Address:** [shbarstow@gmail.com](mailto:shbarstow@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** transportation add-on tax

I am writing to express my strong support for the commercial add-on tax being considered by City Council to pay for continued transportation improvements in Alexandria. Although some business owners are complaining about the tax, they either are choosing to forget that a functional transportation system is what makes their businesses possible, or they simply want everyone else to make these crucial investments for them.

A

**Comments:** well-functioning transportation system makes it easier and more attractive for individuals and groups to come to Alexandria as tourists, and simply as shoppers. Gridlocked city streets—the inevitable result of a failure to invest in alternative modes of transportation—will discourage visitors, reduce Alexandrians' mobility, and constrain property values. Alexandria, like the rest of Northern Virginia, is continuing to grow. We can't tear down buildings to turn everything into a four-lane highway like Washington Street or Duke Street. Public transportation is the only feasible answer, and the commercial add-on tax is the primary broad-based tool that the



Commonwealth has given us to address transportation problems.

The

commercial add-on tax is justifiable for our community under traditional economic assumptions and population projections, but there's one huge economic issue that opponents of the add-on tax fail to address: climate change. Alexandria, like the rest of the world, is facing the huge task of shifting rapidly to a carbon-free economy. Although actions by state and federal government can and should play a large role in responding to climate change, local government—Alexandria's government—must do its part,

as well. Enabling low-carbon transportation options will also give our community and our businesses an advantage when an effective price on carbon

is established, which I believe is almost certain to happen within the next several years. Alexandria residents and tourists alike will have more money to spend on Alexandria's businesses if they don't have to spend as much on gas for their cars.

One of the most important ways the City can

mitigate greenhouse gas emissions is by reducing transportation-related emissions. The City's recent emissions inventory found that the largest single chunk of our community's greenhouse gas emissions — 43% — are due to

on-road vehicles. Obviously, it will be impossible to meet the greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets adopted by City Council in the Environmental Action Plan - 2030 without dramatically reducing transportation emissions, and it will be impossible to dramatically reduce transportation emissions without investing in transit improvements. Given the restrictions from Richmond that we must live with, we won't be able to do this without the commercial add-on tax.

Don't let the

short-sighted and less community-minded members of Alexandria's business

community keep you from making the right choice. Please vote for the transportation add-on tax, in order to continue making Alexandria a true Eco-City as well as an attractive area in which to live, work, visit, and shop.

Thank you for your consideration, and for your public service on  
behalf of our city.

Scott Barstow  
member, Alexandria Environmental

Policy Commission

7  
4-16-11

**Jackie Henderson**

**From:** Jessica Bayliss Brown <jbaylissbrown@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 15, 2011 4:57 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; paulcsmadberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: Commercial add-on tax  
**Attachments:** ATT00001..txt

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

**Time:** [Fri Apr 15, 2011 16:56:42] **Message ID:** [29243]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Jessica  
**Last Name:** Bayliss Brown  
**Street Address:** 203 Adams Ave.  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22301  
**Phone:** 703-868-2956  
**Email Address:** [jbaylissbrown@gmail.com](mailto:jbaylissbrown@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Commercial add-on tax

Dear Mayor Euille and members of City Council:

As Vice Chair and Urban

Planning Member of the Environmental Policy Commission (EPC), I would like

to express my support for the proposed commercial add-on tax subject to a

public hearing on Saturday, April 16 as I find it essential to maintaining our role as an Eco-City.

All Alexandria residents maintain the right to

**Comments:** convenient, safe, and reliable transportation alternatives. Pedestrian upgrades help enable individuals to transition from traveling via personal vehicles to traveling via foot or bike which improves their own health and the health of Alexandria's environment.

We are just one part of a larger region that shares responsibility for transportation and air quality and this tax is the best resource available to us to move forward with improvements to the transit corridors that connect us to our neighbors in

Arlington and Fairfax.

The City of Alexandria is a recognized leader in environmental, economical, and equitable sustainability. Voting to support the proposed commercial add-on tax enables us to continue to grow in a manner consistent with our documented commitments as an Eco-City.

Sincerely Yours,

Jessica

Jessica Bayliss Brown  
Vice

Chair & Urban Planning Member  
Alexandria Environmental Policy

Commission

7  
4-16-11

**Jackie Henderson**

**From:** Nancy Purves Pollard <nancy@lacuisineus.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 15, 2011 5:47 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; paulcsmedberg@aol.com; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: add on tax  
**Attachments:** ATT00001..txt

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

**Time:** [Fri Apr 15, 2011 17:47:00] **Message ID:** [29246]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Nancy Purves  
**Last Name:** Pollard  
**Street Address:** 323 Cameron Street  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 7038364435  
**Email Address:** [nancy@lacuisineus.com](mailto:nancy@lacuisineus.com)  
**Subject:** add on tax

As property owners in Alexandria and also has business owners (and we are also residents here), my husband and I are very distressed at the attempt to make a small group of tax payers pay for infrastructure and transportation projects with this new tax surcharge. This should be a city wide tax if it is implemented; residents should pay as well. Alternatively the City should consider a tax on soda purchases or a vending machine tax,

**Comments:** This tax surcharge will increase rents for all businesses at a time when the economy here is very weak. We have already seen a number of businesses leave because they are unable to make a sustainable income in Alexandria.  
  
Surely you can do better in raising funds for these projects. We do vote and this issue is a big one for us.  
  
Robert and Nancy Pollard