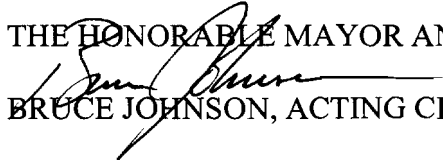


## City of Alexandria, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** MAY 20, 2011

**TO:** THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:**  BRUCE JOHNSON, ACTING CITY MANAGER

**SUBJECT:** CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION DISCOURAGING SMOKING IN CITY PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS AND IN CITY-OWNED BUS SHELTERS

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**ISSUE:** Consideration of Resolution discouraging smoking in public parks, on playgrounds and in bus shelters in Alexandria.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That City Council:

- (1) Adopt the resolution (Attachment 1);
- (2) Request staff to:
  - Initiate Phase 1 of the program and proceed over the summer with the installation of a sign discouraging smoking in each of the 35 City playgrounds used by young children;
  - Determine the wording for the signs. Staff recommends that the sign include a short message such as “Please don’t smoke in our parks and playgrounds”;
  - Defer installation of signs in the 121 City bus shelters (Phase 2) and 108 City parks (Phase 3) at this time; and
  - Report back to Council in the fall on the results of the Phase 1 of the program before proceeding further.

**DISCUSSION:** At its April 26 legislative meeting City Council discussed the resolution adopted by the Alexandria Public Health Advisory Commission (Attachment 2) urging Council to authorize placement of signs discouraging smoking in public parks, playgrounds and in City-owned bus shelters in Alexandria. Council deferred action on the resolution to its May 24 legislative meeting and referred the matter back to staff.

At the May 14 public hearing meeting Council heard testimony in favor of the resolution from the acting chair of the Public Health Advisory Commission, the chair of the Community Services Board and one of the co-chairs of the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria.

The proposed Council resolution (Attachment 1) includes revisions by staff and those proposed by the City Attorney to bring the resolution into compliance with State law, which generally does not permit Council to prohibit smoking except as addressed in State law.

The proposed resolution states that the Council encourages those using City parks, playgrounds and bus shelters to refrain from smoking in those locations and provides information about where to obtain smoking cessation assistance. As discussed below, we recommend starting the sign program with the 35 City playgrounds.

There is strong evidence that second hand smoke is a cause of serious health problems for young children and can cause infections including bronchitis, pneumonia and ear infections. It is especially harmful to children who have asthma, and can result in hospitalization. Thus we recommend that the first areas of concern should be the playgrounds used by small children.

Over the past several years a number of major jurisdictions around the country have enacted laws banning smoking in most public places including playgrounds, parks and bus shelters. New York City, Chicago and a number of other large cities have passed such legislation. Recently in Durham County, North Carolina, an area long involved in the tobacco industry, the Health Department announced its intent to have the County enact such a ban. Currently Durham County is seeking public comment on their proposed ordinance, which is scheduled for consideration in June.

Under the Virginia Clean Indoor Air Act, smoking is not permitted in schools, state offices, and certain health care facilities and common areas. Smoking is not permitted in restaurants, except in special smoking rooms. Fortunately Alexandria has had a smoke free restaurant program for several years, and many Alexandria restaurants previously were smoke free. Although Virginia has enacted these limitations on smoking, it does not have a state-wide smoke free law, and it preempts localities from enacting more stringent smoking requirements.

It should be noted that in October 2010, Fairfax County took a different view of the state's Clean Indoor Air Act and adopted an ordinance that became effective on December 1, 2010, banning smoking in County-owned bus shelters. The County's announcement about the ordinance adoption noted that The Virginia Clean Indoor Air Act requires "reasonable no-smoking areas, considering the nature of the use and the size of the building, in any building owned or leased by the Commonwealth, or any agency thereof or a locality." In their view bus shelters qualify as "buildings" under the act.

The resolution proposed for Council consideration does not include banning smoking. In their resolution, the Alexandria Public Health Advisory Commission suggested that the City post signs in City parks, playgrounds and bus shelter that would say:

**For the sake of your health and those around you, please help us keep our parks and playgrounds smoke-free**

**If you need help to quit smoking,  
Call 1-800-QUIT NOW or go to  
[www. Smokefree.gov](http://www.Smokefree.gov)**

The proposed Council resolution does not specify sign wording. Staff suggests that Council may wish to opt for a shorter, simpler message on the signs such as the following with a similar message just for bus shelters:

**Please Don't Smoke in our Parks and Playgrounds**

**If you need help to quit smoking,  
Call 1-800-QUIT NOW or go to  
[www. Smokefree.gov](http://www.Smokefree.gov)**

Staff has met with the acting chair of the Public Health Advisory Commission, representatives of the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria and the Health Director to discuss the proposed resolution and the park, playground and bus shelter signs. We discussed the issue of the potential of visual sign “clutter” and determined that the number of signs and their placement would not be in areas with numerous other signs. The City’s Wayfinding Design Guidelines adopted last year address directional, retail, parking, pedestrian, destination identity and visitor signs, but do not appear to address the signs proposed for this program. With respect to “visual clutter” the signs are not proposed to be posted on streets and would not be competing with existing signs. We will try to place signs on posts with existing signs when possible.

In order to gain acceptance of the proposed sign program, we suggest that the proposed sign program be done in three phases,

- Phase 1 – 35 City playgrounds
- Phase 2 – 121 City bus shelters
- Phase 3 – 108 City parks

Staff recommends that we start with Phase 1 of the program over the summer in our 35 City playgrounds (smoking is prohibited already in school playgrounds). We would ask the Health Department staff to monitor the program and return to Council with comments and suggestions in the fall before installing the signs in Phase 2 (bus shelters) and Phase 3 (parks).

Council has received letters of support from INOVA Alexandria Hospital’s chief executive officer, medical staff president, chief medical officer and respiratory services director (Attachment 5), the Alexandria Community Services Board (Attachment 6), and the Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission (Attachment 7). Other supporting groups include the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria, the Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission, and the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria. We expect that Council will receive letters of support from these groups before the May 24 legislative meeting.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The Health Department has funds available for the 35 proposed Phase 1 signs. The signs in our 35 playgrounds would be 12 by 18 inches on an 8 foot steel post with one sign at the entrance to each playground. The estimated cost of the signs is \$1,800 to \$2,000 plus the cost of installation, for a total of approximately \$3,200, which would be funded by the Alexandria Health Department. The remaining signs would include one 8 ½” by 11” sign in each of 46 bus shelters (soon to be 121 bus shelters) and 12” x18” signs in 108 City parks. Funding for the Phase 2 (bus shelters) and Phase 3 (parks) signs and posts likely would have to be obtained from private or grant sources. Several of our participating board and commission members have expressed a willingness to assist in raising the funds needed for the next phases of the program (approximately \$6,200 plus installation).

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1: Proposed Resolution

Attachment 2: Resolution Adopted by the Public Health Advisory Commission

Attachment 3: Proposed Signs as Proposed by the Alexandria Public Health Advisory Commission

Attachment 4: Proposed Signs as Proposed by Staff

Attachment 5: INOVA Alexandria Hospital Letter

Attachment 6: Alexandria Community Services Board Letter

Attachment 7: Letter of Support from the Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission

**STAFF:**

Michele Evans, Deputy City Manager

Stephen Haering, M.D., M.P.H., Health Director

Carrie Fesperman, Alexandria Health Department

## RESOLUTION \_\_\_\_\_

**WHEREAS**, Goal 2 in the City Council’s Strategic Plan states that “Alexandria respects, protects and enhances the health of its citizens and the quality of its natural environment;” and

**WHEREAS**, Goal 2 of the Strategic Plan also calls for an initiative to “establish a proactive health program to reduce respiratory illness by reducing exposure to second hand smoke and indoor air contaminants;” and

**WHEREAS**, Goal 4 of the Strategic Plan states that, “Alexandria is a community that supports and enhances the well-being, success and achievement of children, youth and families;” and

**WHEREAS**, the Alexandria Eco-City Action Plan calls for “the promotion of respiratory health .... and improvement in air quality by reducing exposures to such air contaminants as secondhand smoke;” and

**WHEREAS**, there is clear evidence that exposure to second-hand smoke causes disease and premature death in children and adults who do not smoke; and

**WHEREAS**, the Surgeon General of the United States has stated that, “There is no risk-free level of exposure to second-hand smoke. Even small amounts of second hand smoke exposure can be harmful to people’s health;” and

**WHEREAS**, brief exposure to second-hand smoke places children at greater risk for early atherosclerosis, decreased lung function, increased rates of bronchitis, pneumonia and respiratory functions; development of cancer, heart disease and lung disease; build-up of fluid in the inner ear; and behavioral problems; and

**WHEREAS**, it is estimated that approximately one person in eight in the City of Alexandria suffers from a respiratory disease and tobacco smoke is the greatest single cause of respiratory illness; and

**WHEREAS**, data from the American Lung Association estimates that there are more than 11,400 person with asthma and more than 5,300 persons with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) including emphysema and chronic bronchitis in the City of Alexandria; and

**WHEREAS**, a significant number of emergency visits and hospitalizations at INOVA Alexandria Hospital each year are attributed to asthma; and

**WHEREAS**, our public spaces – such as parks and playgrounds – exist to foster health and recreation; and

**WHEREAS**, City-owned bus shelters exist to protect citizens and visitors from inclement weather, and those who use our bus shelters, including children and teens, should not be exposed to second-hand smoke; and

**WHEREAS**, many localities across the nation have taken action to reduce the amount of second hand smoke in public areas;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alexandria City Council:**

Asks that our community members be considerate of others and assist in keeping City parks, playgrounds, and City-owned bus shelters smoke-free; and

Requests that City staff place a sign discouraging smoking in each of our City playgrounds this summer; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Council requests that staff review the sign program and report back to Council in the fall on the feasibility of installing similar signs discouraging smoking around children and others in City parks and in City-owned bus shelters.

Adopted: May 24, 2011

**WILLIAM D. EUILLE, MAYOR**

ATTEST:

**Jacqueline M. Henderson, MMC City Clerk**

**RESOLUTION URGING CITY COUNCIL TO AUTHORIZE PLACEMENT OF  
SIGNS DISCOURAGING SMOKING IN PUBLIC PARKS, ON PLAYGROUNDS  
AND IN AND AROUND CITY-OWNED BUS SHELTERS**

Adopted by a unanimous vote of 8-0 by  
The Alexandria Public Health Advisory Commission  
(April 21, 2011)

WHEREAS, Goal #2 of the seven goals in the City Council's Strategic Plan states: "Alexandria respects, protects and enhances the health of its citizens and the quality of its natural environment." and

WHEREAS, Goal #2 of City Council's Strategic Plan calls for an initiative to "establish a proactive health program to reduce respiratory illness by reducing exposure to second hand smoke and indoor air contaminants." and

WHEREAS, Goal #4 of the Strategic Plan states: "Alexandria is a community that supports and enhances the well-being, success and achievement of children, youth and families." and

WHEREAS, the Eco-City Alexandria Plan calls for "the promotion of respiratory health .... and improvement in air quality by reducing exposures to such air contaminants as secondhand smoke." and

WHEREAS, the evidence is very clear, exposure to second-hand smoke causes disease and premature death in children and adults who do not smoke; and

WHEREAS, the Surgeon General of the United States has declared, "There is no risk free level of exposure to second-hand smoke. Even small amounts of second hand smoke exposure can be harmful to people's health"; and

WHEREAS, even brief exposure to second-hand smoke can result in upper airway changes in healthy persons and can lead to more frequent asthma attacks in children who already have asthma; and

WHEREAS, even brief exposure to second-hand smoke places children at greater risk for: early atherosclerosis, decreased lung function, increased rates of bronchitis, pneumonia and respiratory functions; developing cancer, heart disease and lung disease; build up of fluid in the inner ear; and behavioral problems; and

WHEREAS, approximately one person in eight in the City of Alexandria suffers from a respiratory disease; and

WHEREAS, tobacco smoke is the greatest single cause of respiratory illness; and

WHEREAS, data from the American Lung Association estimates that there are more than 11,400 person with asthma and more than 5,300 persons with COPD (emphysema and chronic bronchitis) in the City of Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, exposure to secondhand smoke is a trigger for asthma and responsible for preventable emergency visits and hospitalizations at Inova Alexandria Hospital; and

WHEREAS, public spaces – such as parks and playgrounds – exist for the very purpose of fostering good health and recreation, and therefore those who frequent such spaces ought not be exposed to the dangers of unnecessary and harmful air contaminants such as second-hand smoke; and

WHEREAS, city-owned and maintained bus shelters exist for the primary purpose of protecting citizens and visitors from the dangers of inclement weather while waiting to board a bus, and therefore those who depend on such public transportation should not, at the same time, be exposed to other, far more dangerous threats to their personal health and safety such as second-hand smoke; and

WHEREAS, a considerable number of children and teens in Alexandria ride city buses to school each day;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alexandria Public Health Advisory Commission:**

**BELIEVES** strongly that a city-wide effort to discourage smoking in public parks, on playgrounds and in and around city-owned bus shelters would make a significant contribution to the overall public health and well-being of the City of Alexandria; and

**URGES** City Council to authorize the placement of signs at all public parks and playgrounds and at all city-owned bus shelters discouraging smoking at and nearby those sites.



**For the sake of your  
health and those  
around you, please  
help us keep our  
bus shelters  
smoke-free.**



*If you need help to quit  
smoking, call 1-800-QUIT  
NOW or go to  
[www.smokefree.gov](http://www.smokefree.gov)*

**For the sake of your  
health and those around  
you, please help us keep  
our parks and  
playgrounds smoke-free.**



*If you need help to quit smoking,  
call 1-800-QUIT NOW or go to  
[www.smokefree.gov](http://www.smokefree.gov)*

# Please don't smoke in our bus shelters.



*If you need help to quit smoking,  
call 1-800-QUIT NOW or go to  
[www.smokefree.gov](http://www.smokefree.gov)*

**Please don't smoke in  
our parks and  
playgrounds.**



*If you need help to quit smoking,  
call 1-800-QUIT NOW or go to  
[www.smokefree.gov](http://www.smokefree.gov)*





*Christine M. Candio, RN, FACHE*  
Senior Vice President, Inova Health System  
Chief Executive Officer, Inova Alexandria Hospital

4320 Seminary Road  
Alexandria, Virginia 22304  
Tel 703-504-3167  
Fax 703-504-3700  
christine.candio@inova.org

May 3, 2011

The Honorable Mayor William D. Euille  
And City Council Members  
City of Alexandria  
301 King Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Dear Mayor Euille and City Council Members:

It has come to our attention that the Alexandria Public Health Advisory Commission recently approved a resolution calling on City Council to support the placement of signs around the city that discourage smoking in city parks, on playgrounds and in and around city-owned bus shelters. We understand that the City Council is likely to consider this resolution during its May 10, 2011 meeting.

We, the undersigned, fully subscribe to the Public Health Advisory Commission's strong belief that a city-wide effort to discourage smoking in parks, playgrounds and bus shelters would make a significant contribution to the overall public health and well-being of the Alexandria community and, therefore, strongly encourage the City Council to take the appropriate actions as recommended in the Advisory Commission's resolution.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Christine Candio in black ink.

Christine Candio, RN, FACHE  
Chief Executive Officer  
Inova Alexandria Hospital

Handwritten signature of Eric Reines in black ink.

Eric Reines, M.D.  
President, Medical Staff  
Inova Alexandria Hospital

Handwritten signature of Jack Audett in black ink.

Jack Audett, M.D.  
Chief Medical Officer  
Inova Alexandria Hospital

Handwritten signature of John Vaughn in black ink.

John Vaughn  
Director, Respiratory Services  
Inova Alexandria Hospital

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Mary Anne  
**Last Name:** Weber  
**Street Address:** 124 Roberts Lane  
Apt. 201  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 703-519-3682  
**Email Address:** [maweber@comcast.net](mailto:maweber@comcast.net)  
**Subject:**

**Comments:** Dear Mayor Euille and members of the City Council;

I am writing to confirm my testimony at the last meeting of the City Council on Saturday, May 14. At our regular meeting on May 11, the Alexandria Community Services Board voted to support the proposal by the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria and the Alexandria Public Health Advisory Commission to discourage smoking in public parks, on playgrounds and in and around city-owned bus shelters. We join them in asking that the city council authorize the placement of signs discouraging smoking at those sites. In voting for this proposal, board members recognized that this action would not forbid smoking or require a penalty but serve to educate citizens not only to the dangers of smoking, but the danger of second-hand smoke as well.

This is a grave concern to us because our clients already face shorter life spans than the norm, 25 years shorter. Many of them have physical disabilities and chronic diseases along with their mental disabilities. It is unacceptable that being exposed to second-hand smoke add to that risk.

Our clients are also much more likely to use the bus and wait in bus shelters, sometime for long periods of time. They should not be exposed to smoke while using public transportation, the only choice for most of them.

We ask that you take a public action to improve the health and well-being of all Alexandrians by discouraging smoking at public playgrounds, parks and bus shelters.

Thank you,  
Mary Anne Weber  
chair,

Alexandria Community Services Board



May 18, 2011

Dear Mayor Euille and Members of City Council,

On behalf of the Environmental Policy Commission (EPC), I am writing to express support for the proposed resolution to post signs to discourage smoking in public parks, playgrounds and City-owned bus shelters.

Limiting exposure to secondhand smoke is a fundamental theme in Alexandria's *Eco-City Charter* and *Environmental Action Plan 2030* (EAP). The Environment & Health charter principle states a clear commitment to "Promote and support policies and individual decisions that reduce exposure to toxins and pollutants, minimize environmental impact, and encourage a healthy lifestyle." To support this ambitious goal, the EAP includes several actions directly related to reducing the health and environmental impacts of secondhand smoke, including the following:

- Educate citizens about potential threats of second-hand smoke and other air contaminants.
- Increase the Health Department's outreach efforts on respiratory health issues.
- Continue to support state legislation to allow localities to completely ban smoking in bars, restaurants, and other public places.

Through the commitment to the *Eco-City Alexandria* initiative, the City has become a recognized leader in sustainability. Simple actions such as the proposed signage serve to remind the community of the collective role we all play in this Eco-City. This proposed resolution is a cost effective way to educate citizens and reduce exposure to harmful pollutants. EPC is also mindful that friendly signs discouraging smoking, rather than an enforceable rule, should not deter smokers from using parks and transit.

Furthermore, through our Adopt-a-Block commitment, the EPC has found that cigarette butts are by far the largest contributor to litter around bus stops in the City.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue and for the opportunity to share our views.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Hovis  
Chair, Environmental Policy Commission

cc: Bill Skrabak, OEQ

**Bob Custard, Health Department**  
**Carrie Fesperman Redder, Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria**  
**Bruce Johnson, Acting City Manager**



**RESOLUTION NO. 2453**

**WHEREAS**, Goal 2 in the City Council’s Strategic Plan states that “Alexandria respects, protects and enhances the health of its citizens and the quality of its natural environment;” and

**WHEREAS**, Goal 2 of the Strategic Plan also calls for an initiative to “establish a proactive health program to reduce respiratory illness by reducing exposure to second hand smoke and indoor air contaminants;” and

**WHEREAS**, Goal 4 of the Strategic Plan states that, “Alexandria is a community that supports and enhances the well-being, success and achievement of children, youth and families;” and

**WHEREAS**, the Alexandria Eco-City Action Plan calls for “the promotion of respiratory health .... and improvement in air quality by reducing exposures to such air contaminants as secondhand smoke;” and

**WHEREAS**, there is clear evidence that exposure to second-hand smoke causes disease and premature death in children and adults who do not smoke; and

**WHEREAS**, the Surgeon General of the United States has stated that, “There is no risk- free level of exposure to second-hand smoke. Even small amounts of second hand smoke exposure can be harmful to people’s health;” and

**WHEREAS**, brief exposure to second-hand smoke places children at greater risk for early atherosclerosis, decreased lung function, increased rates of bronchitis, pneumonia and respiratory functions; development of cancer, heart disease and lung disease; build-up of fluid in the inner ear; and behavioral problems; and

**WHEREAS**, it is estimated that approximately one person in eight in the City of Alexandria suffers from a respiratory disease and tobacco smoke is the greatest single cause of respiratory illness; and

**WHEREAS**, data from the American Lung Association estimates that there are more than 11,400 person with asthma and more than 5,300 persons with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) including emphysema and chronic bronchitis in the City of Alexandria; and

**WHEREAS**, a significant number of emergency visits and hospitalizations at INOVA Alexandria Hospital each year are attributed to asthma; and

**WHEREAS**, our public spaces – such as parks and playgrounds – exist to foster health and recreation; and

**WHEREAS**, City-owned bus shelters exist to protect citizens and visitors from inclement weather, and those who use our bus shelters, including children and teens, should not be exposed to second-hand smoke; and

**WHEREAS**, many localities across the nation have taken action to reduce the amount of second hand smoke in public areas;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alexandria City Council:**

Asks that our community members be considerate of others and assist in keeping City parks, playgrounds, and City-owned bus shelters smoke-free; and

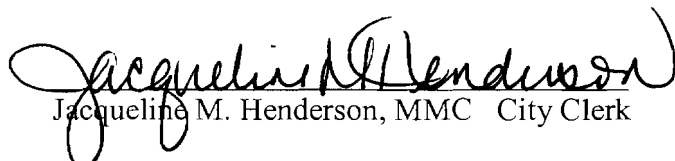
Requests that City staff place a sign discouraging smoking in each of our City playgrounds this summer; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Council requests that staff review the sign program and report back to Council in the fall on the feasibility of installing similar signs discouraging smoking around children and others in City parks and in City-owned bus shelters.

Adopted: May 24, 2011

  
WILLIAM D. EULLE MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
Jacqueline M. Henderson, MMC City Clerk

12  
5-24-11

Concerning Docket Item #12: New proposed language for signs appearing in City parks, playgrounds, bus shelters.

For everyone's health, thank you for not smoking in our parks and playgrounds.

For everyone's health, thank you for not smoking in our bus shelters.

**Jackie Henderson**

12  
5-24-11

**From:** Steve Johnson <virginiano1@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 21, 2011 8:27 AM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: May 24 Council Meeting Agenda Item #12  
**Attachments:** ATT00001..txt

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

**Time:** [Sat May 21, 2011 08:26:40] **Message ID:** [30294]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

**First Name:** Steve

**Last Name:** Johnson

**Street Address:** 327 N. Latham St.

**City:** Alexandria

**State:** VA

**Zip:** 22304

**Phone:** 703.370.3590

**Email Address:** [virginiano1@comcast.net](mailto:virginiano1@comcast.net)

**Subject:** May 24 Council Meeting Agenda Item #12

Dear Mayor Euille and City Council Members:

I am writing you concerning

agenda item #12 for the May 24th City Council meeting, "Consideration of a

Resolution Recommending that the City Post Signage Recommending That

Individuals Refrain From Smoking in City Parks and Bus Shelters." I ask

that you vote against this resolution. This strikes me as a further

manifestation of the Nanny State, and is a non-solution in search of a

**Comments:** non-problem. The real problem is too few people willing to "live and let

live." From my observations, most smokers don't stand in a bus shelter

while smoking if there's someone else sharing the space. Besides, these

are public spaces and are outdoors. If someone's smoke bothers someone

else, one or the other party can go stand a few feet farther away.

Furthermore, this ordinance will accomplish nothing. It is unenforceable,

being a "recommendation", and will not change anyone's behavior. (And for

the record, I would oppose upgrading this to a "requirement" for all the

same reasons.) Frankly, this proposal is not worth the time you will spend discussing it, and it is not worth the money that will be spent on the signage.

Thank you for your consideration.

And because you don't probably hear it often enough from enough people, thank you for your commitment and dedication to this City. Your job requires sacrifices that most people would be unwilling to make.

Steve Johnson



## OUR PARTNERS

**The Honorable Brian Moran, Chair, Steering Committee** ·  
**The Honorable William D. Euille and Alexandria City Council** · Alexandria Health Dept · Dept of Human Services · Community Services Board · Public Health Advisory Commission · Inova Health System · Senior Services of Alexandria · Alexandria Chamber of Commerce · Alexandria City Public Schools · Alexandria Police Dept · Alexandria Neighborhood Health Services, Inc. · Campagna Center · Alexandria Office on Women · Alexandria United Way · GWU School of Public Health · City of Alexandria Fire/EMS · American Red Cross · YMCA Alexandria · Alexandria Redevelopment & Housing Authority · Alexandria Cooperative Extension · American Cancer Society · Pedestrian & Bicycle Program · American Lung Association · ECDC African Community Center · Dept. of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities · ALIVE! Inc. · NAMI · ACPS School Board · Virginia Cooperative Extension · Parks & Recreation Commission · Healthy Families Alexandria · Northern Virginia Health Foundation · Substance Abuse Education and Violence Prevention Advisory Committee · Youth Policy Commission · Families First of Alexandria · Local Businesses · CrisisLink · Dept of Planning & Zoning · Alexandria Citizens ·

May 22, 2011

Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Donley,  
And Members of the Alexandria City Council  
City Hall  
301 King Street, Room 2300  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Donley, and Members of the City Council:

On May 24, you will be considering a resolution recommending that the City post signs discouraging individuals from smoking in our City parks, on playgrounds and in and around City-owned bus shelters (Docket Item #12). It is the Partnership's hope that you will vote to adopt this important resolution. This resolution is not a regulation or ordinance to ban smoking in these public spaces but a model voluntary approach to asking people to think of their health and others and to please refrain from smoking.

According to the Surgeon General of the United States, "There is no risk free level of exposure to second hand smoke. Even small amounts of second hand smoke exposure can be harmful to people's health." Smoking in public parks, around playgrounds, and at bus shelters expose our children, youth and other adults to a public health risk that can be avoided.

We appreciate the work City staff have done regarding this proposed resolution. They have provided wise counsel to the Partnership on this issue. However, we are concerned about the staff's recommendation that the original language in the Alexandria Public Health Advisory Commission's resolution for the signs be changed to include the shorter message, "Please don't smoke in our parks and playgrounds." This suggested language dilutes the important public health message included in the Commission's suggested language. We hope you will also vote to retain the original language for the signs.

Sincerely,

[Signed]

Allen C. Lomax  
Vice Chair

---

*Our Mission is to promote a safe and healthy Alexandria through coalition building, collaborative planning and community action.*

## Jackie Henderson

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**From:** Mary-Jane Atwater <matwater@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 23, 2011 6:22 AM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: Signage in parks to discourage smoking  
**Attachments:** ATT00001..txt

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

Time: [Mon May 23, 2011 06:22:14] Message ID: [30319]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Mary-Jane  
**Last Name:** Atwater  
**Street Address:** 304 Lamond Place  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 703-683-4213  
**Email Address:** [matwater@aol.com](mailto:matwater@aol.com)  
**Subject:** Signage in parks to discourage smoking  
As a business owner, resident of Alexandria and member of the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria, I urge you to vote in favor of the  
**Comments:** resolution to post signs in parks and playgrounds to discourage smoking.  
Thank you.

## Jackie Henderson

---

**From:** Sissy Walker <espwalker@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 23, 2011 5:47 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: anti-smoking resolution  
**Attachments:** ATT00001..txt

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

**Time:** [Mon May 23, 2011 17:46:49] **Message ID:** [30349]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Sissy  
**Last Name:** Walker  
**Street Address:** 498 N. Latham St.  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22304  
**Phone:** 703-370-4161  
**Email Address:** [espwalker@comcast.net](mailto:espwalker@comcast.net)

**Subject:** anti-smoking resolution

Dear good people,

Re: Docket item #12 tomorrow evening, as a member of one of the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria's task force groups (the childhood obesity initiative) I would just encourage you to approve this

**Comments:** resolution tomorrow evening. Thank you for placing a high priority on the health and healthy lifestyle choices of our children and youth.

Best,  
Sissy Walker

**Jackie Henderson**

---

**From:** Tricia Rodgers <triciarodgers85@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 24, 2011 9:11 AM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: Council Docket Item #12  
**Attachments:** ATT00001..txt

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

**Time:** [Tue May 24, 2011 09:11:12] **Message ID:** [30355]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Tricia  
**Last Name:** Rodgers  
**Street Address:** 2240 N. Early Street  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22302  
**Phone:** 703-549-1731  
**Email Address:** [triciarodgers85@yahoo.com](mailto:triciarodgers85@yahoo.com)

**Subject:** Council Docket Item #12

Dear Mayor Euille, Vice-Mayor Donley, and Members of Council:

I am

writing to urge your support of the resolution to post signs discouraging individuals from smoking on City playgrounds, in City parks, and in and around City-owned bus shelters (Docket Item #12). Providing a smoke-free

**Comments:** environment where Alexandria's youngest residents play is consistent with the Alexandria Childhood Obesity Action Network's goal to increase the availability and use of safe places to play for children ages two to five.

Sincerely,  
Tricia Rodgers  
Co-chair, Alexandria Childhood Obesity

Action Network



## Jackie Henderson

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**From:** Masharia Holman <ShayHolman@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 23, 2011 12:30 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: No Smoking Signs  
**Attachments:** ATT00001..txt

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

Time: [Mon May 23, 2011 12:29:48] Message ID: [30333]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Masharia  
**Last Name:** Holman  
**Street Address:** 3307 Coryell Lane  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22302  
**Phone:** 703-868-7429  
**Email Address:** [ShayHolman@gmail.com](mailto:ShayHolman@gmail.com)

**Subject:** No Smoking Signs  
Mayor, Vice Mayor and Council Members

I am very much in support of  
posting signs to discourage smoking in our City parks, on playgrounds and  
in and around City-owned bus stops. I encourage you to pass the  
proposed

**Comments:** resolution.

Thank you,

Masharia "Shay" Holman  
Alexandria

Community Services Board, Vice Chair  
Mental Anti-Stigma, Chair

## Jackie Henderson

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**From:** Arlene Hewitt <ARLHEWITT@AOL.COM>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 23, 2011 1:04 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: DOCKET #12  
**Attachments:** ATT00001..txt

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

Time: [Mon May 23, 2011 13:03:52] Message ID: [30337]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Arlene  
**Last Name:** Hewitt  
**Street Address:** 801 N. Howard Street#3570  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** Virginia  
**Zip:** 22304-5461  
**Phone:** 703-751-0950  
**Email Address:** [ARLHEWITT@AOL.COM](mailto:ARLHEWITT@AOL.COM)  
**Subject:** DOCKET #12  
The Coalition for Clean and Smoke-Free Air under the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria has been diligently working towards making our city a healthier city in which to reside. Therefore in working towards this goal  
**Comments:** I urge you to help the Coalition on its mission and vote yes for signs to be installed in playgrounds, parks and public bus stops. Thank you for your support.

## Jackie Henderson

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**From:** Shelly Morgan <shellymorgan@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 23, 2011 1:45 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: Smoking in Alexandria parks, playgrounds & bus stops  
**Attachments:** ATT00001..txt

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

**Time:** [Mon May 23, 2011 13:45:00] **Message ID:** [30340]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Shelly  
**Last Name:** Morgan  
**Street Address:** 915 N. Overlook Drive  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 2  
**Phone:**  
**Email Address:** [shellymorgan@comcast.net](mailto:shellymorgan@comcast.net)  
**Subject:** Smoking in Alexandria parks, playgrounds & bus stops  
Mr. Mayor and City Council Members,  
As parent and an 18 year resident of  
Alexandria, I support the posting of signs discouraging smoking in  
Alexandria parks,  
playgrounds and bus stops. I hope that you will vote to  
**Comments:** pass the resolution in Docket Item #12 at the City Council meeting on  
Tuesday, May 24!  
Thanks, and Best Regards,  
Shelly Morgan  
915 North  
Overlook Drive,  
Alexandria, 22305

## Jackie Henderson

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**From:** Judy Noritake <jnoritake@nka-arch.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 23, 2011 11:11 AM  
**To:** Jackie Henderson  
**Subject:** Letter for City Council  
**Attachments:** Smoking in Parks letter 5 2011 .PDF

Jackie:

I have attached a letter to City Council from the Park and Recreation Commission related to an issue they will take up tomorrow evening. I would be grateful if you could disseminate it. Thank you.

Judy Noritake

Judy Guse-Noritake, AIA, LEED AP  
Principal

**NORITAKE**  
associates

605 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22314  
[t.] 703.739.9366 x.105 [f.] 703.739.9481  
[www.noritakeassociates.com](http://www.noritakeassociates.com)  
[jnoritake@nka-arch.com](mailto:jnoritake@nka-arch.com)



DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION, PARKS  
AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

1108 Jefferson Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3999

Phone (703) 746-4343  
Fax (703) 838-6344

James B. Spengler  
Director

## Park and Recreation Commission

May 21, 2011

The Honorable William D. Euille  
Vice Mayor Kerry J. Donley  
Councilman K. Rob Krupicka  
Councilman Frank H. Fannon, IV  
Councilwoman Redella S. Pepper  
Councilman Paul C. Smedberg  
Councilwoman Alicia R. Hughes

Re: Funding for a Miracle Field

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

The Park and Recreation Commission recently received a request asking for our support for a proposal currently being forwarded by the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria to protect public health by discouraging smoking in our public parks. This proposal to place signs in our parks, playgrounds and bus shelters is a positive step in addressing the city's Strategic Plan calling for "a proactive health program to reduce respiratory illness by reducing exposure to secondhand smoke."

Parks and playgrounds are among our most valuable public assets and should be as safe as possible in every respect for the adults and children who use them. There must be a reasonable expectation that park patrons will not be confronted with secondhand smoke, a known health risk. As this public health initiative is launched we would encourage an initial priority for placement of signs in public parks where playgrounds are located, as our community's children are our greatest concern. As resources become available for additional signage, those should be placed in our other public parks and plazas.

Promoting a healthier community is in everyone's interest. Reducing exposure to secondhand smoke in our parks is an important step towards promoting a more active and healthy community for everyone. Taking this step is an important initiative that we believe is appropriate for Alexandria. We hope you will lend your support.

With kind regard,

Judy R. Guse-Noritake, Chair  
Park and Recreation Commission

Cc; Park & Recreation Commission

[alexandriava.gov](http://alexandriava.gov)



## Jackie Henderson

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**From:** Allen Lomax <Aclomax@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 22, 2011 10:45 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: City Council May 24 Meeting Docket Item #12  
**Attachments:** 13a9803bf28b63d1939b671cc6ee70bc.rtf; ATT00001..txt

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

Time: [Sun May 22, 2011 22:45:11] Message ID: [30318]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Allen  
**Last Name:** Lomax  
**Street Address:** 5021 Seminary Road #730  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22311  
**Phone:** 703-578-3054  
**Email Address:** [Aclomax@aol.com](mailto:Aclomax@aol.com)  
**Subject:** City Council May 24 Meeting Docket Item #12  
Thank you for your consideration of this public health initiative and to protect our children and youth from the health risk of second hand  
**Comments:** smoke.  
Best Wishes,  
Allen  
**Attachment:** 13a9803bf28b63d1939b671cc6ee70bc.rtf

## Jackie Henderson

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**From:** Allen Lomax <Aclomax@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 22, 2011 10:41 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: City Council May 24 Meeting Docket Item #12  
**Attachments:** 9e2b24803c629e7c2f29eb37b62c66ac.doc; ATT00001..txt

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

Time: [Sun May 22, 2011 22:40:36] Message ID: [30317]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Allen  
**Last Name:** Lomax  
**Street Address:** 5021 Seminary Road #730  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22311  
**Phone:** 703-578-3054  
**Email Address:** [Aclomax@aol.com](mailto:Aclomax@aol.com)  
**Subject:** City Council May 24 Meeting Docket Item #12  
Attached is a letter from the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria in support of Docket Item #12--A resolution recommending that the City post signs discouraging individuals from smoking in our City parks, on playgrounds and in and around City-owned bus shelters. Thank you for considering this important public health initiative.  
**Comments:**  
Best Wishes,  
Allen  
**Attachment:** 9e2b24803c629e7c2f29eb37b62c66ac.doc



## OUR PARTNERS

The Honorable Brian Moran, Chair, Steering Committee · The Honorable William D. Euille and Alexandria City Council · Alexandria Health Dept · Dept of Human Services · Community Services Board · Public Health Advisory Commission · Inova Health System · Senior Services of Alexandria · Alexandria Chamber of Commerce · Alexandria City Public Schools · Alexandria Police Dept · Alexandria Neighborhood Health Services, Inc. · Campagna Center · Alexandria Office on Women · Alexandria United Way · GWU School of Public Health · City of Alexandria Fire/EMS · American Red Cross · YMCA Alexandria · Alexandria Redevelopment & Housing Authority · Alexandria Cooperative Extension · American Cancer Society · Pedestrian & Bicycle Program · American Lung Association · ECDC African Community Center · Dept. of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities · ALIVE! Inc. · NAMI · ACPS School Board · Virginia Cooperative Extension · Parks & Recreation Commission · Healthy Families Alexandria · Northern Virginia Health Foundation · Substance Abuse Education and Violence Prevention Advisory Committee · Youth Policy Commission · Families First of Alexandria · Local Businesses · CrisisLink · Dept of Planning & Zoning · Alexandria Citizens ·

May 22, 2011

Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Donley,  
And Members of the Alexandria City Council  
City Hall  
301 King Street, Room 2300  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Donley, and Members of the City Council:

On May 24, you will be considering a resolution recommending that the City post signs discouraging individuals from smoking in our City parks, on playgrounds and in and around City-owned bus shelters (Docket Item #12). It is the Partnership's hope that you will vote to adopt this important resolution. This resolution is not a regulation or ordinance to ban smoking in these public spaces but a model voluntary approach to asking people to think of their health and others and to please refrain from smoking.

According to the Surgeon General of the United States, "There is no risk free level of exposure to second hand smoke. Even small amounts of second hand smoke exposure can be harmful to people's health." Smoking in public parks, around playgrounds, and at bus shelters expose our children, youth and other adults to a public health risk that can be avoided.

We appreciate the work City staff have done regarding this proposed resolution. They have provided wise counsel to the Partnership on this issue. However, we are concerned about the staff's recommendation that the original language in the Alexandria Public Health Advisory Commission's resolution for the signs be changed to include the shorter message, "Please don't smoke in our parks and playgrounds." This suggested language dilutes the important public health message included in the Commission's suggested language. We hope you will also vote to retain the original language for the signs.

Sincerely,

[Signed]

Allen C. Lomax  
Vice Chair

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*Our Mission is to promote a safe and healthy Alexandria through coalition building, collaborative planning and community action.*



## Jackie Henderson

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**From:** David Fromm or Amy Slack <alsdmf@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 10, 2011 9:54 AM  
**To:** Bill Euille; Kerry Donley; Kerry Donley; alicia hughes; Del Pepper; Del Pepper; frank fannon; Frank Fannon; Paul Smedberg; Rob Krupicka; Rob Krupicka  
**Cc:** Jackie Henderson  
**Subject:** Concerning the Smoking Resolution, Item #20 on tonight's docket

Dear Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Donley and members of the Council:

Regarding Item #20 on tonight's docket, "Consideration of a Resolution Recommending that the City Post Signage Recommending that Individuals Refrain from Smoking in City Parks and Bus Shelters"

So we are going to spend money to increase the permanent visual clutter with a message that is currently not enforceable and may actually encourage escalation in confrontations between smokers and non-smokers?

Are we going to see permanent city signs recommending that individuals cough and sneeze into their elbow?

I suggest that instead of a single message sign, you install electronic message boards as there are many recommended behaviors for personal health and for the consideration of others.

We could then have the daily recommendation on how to be a good, considerate, healthy citizen in the City of Alexandria.

Please vote no on the resolution.

Sincerely,  
David Fromm  
2307 E Randolph Ave  
703-549-3412