

5
10-15-11

Jackie Henderson

From: pmiller1806@comcast.net
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2011 11:52 AM
To: Alicia Hughes; Frank Fannon; kdonley@vcbonline.com; William Euille; Paul Smedberg; Rob Krupicka
Cc: Jackie Henderson
Subject: Alexandria Commission for the Arts Budget Public Hearing

October 14, 2011

Dear Mayor and Members of City Council:

I wish to convey the priorities for the Alexandria Commission for the Arts for the FY13 budget cycle. I am very sorry that I am unable to attend the public hearing in person on Saturday and appreciate the opportunity to submit my comments in writing.

We are requesting restoration of the \$30,000 that was cut from our granting budget in FY10. These funds are critical to the existence of our non-profit arts groups. Most are managed solely by volunteers because they cannot afford staff salaries, and ticket revenue usually accounts for just one-third of the expenses of the program or performance. These groups want to keep their programs affordable and accessible to all in Alexandria. In FY12, the Arts Commission received grant requests totalling \$263,370 from 30 organizations, two of which were new applicants. Should the \$30,000 be restored, the Arts Commission would have \$209,937 to award.

We also request funding for a Public Art Master Plan. This has been a goal for many years and with both the CIP funding of public art acquisitions beginning in FY14 and the possibility of a Public Art Policy being approved, it is critical that we have the plan in place. Some members of the development community have criticized us for attempting to get the policy approved before we have a Public Art Master Plan. The timing of this plan is very important.

Each year, the non-profit arts industry generates more than \$80 million dollars in Alexandria. This \$90,000 total request will be a wise investment in the arts that will have a direct impact on our City's economy.

Again, I am sorry that I cannot be there in person. Thank you for your time in reviewing my comments. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Your continued support for the Arts in Alexandria is greatly appreciated.

Pat Miller
Chair
Alexandria Commission for the Arts
pmiller1806@comcast.net

5
10-15-11

Jackie Henderson

From: fulton-oleary <fulton-oleary@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2011 11:53 AM
To: Jackie Henderson; Sharon Annear
Attachments: Final FY 2013 Budget letter.doc

Dear Ms. Henderson:

Attached please find a letter to City Council, and the Acting City Manager regarding the FY 2013 City budget as it pertains to activity at Fort Ward Park. Please include this among the written material of the Mayor and Council Members at Saturday's Meeting regarding the FY 2013 budget.

Thank you,

Tom Fulton, Chair
Ad Hoc Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Stakeholder Advisory Group

5
10-15-11

Jackie Henderson

From: Tina Leone <tleone@alexchamber.com>
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2011 12:13 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: Chamber Preliminary Comments on FY2012 City Budget
Attachments: 8a7ff7e34b5b773106c05dcdd5160910.doc; ATT00001..txt

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

Time: [Fri Oct 14, 2011 12:13:21] **Message ID:** [34021]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Tina
Last Name: Leone
Street Address: Alexandria Chamber of Commerce
801 N Fairfax St
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22314
Phone: 703-549-1000
Email Address: tleone@alexchamber.com
Subject: Chamber Preliminary Comments on FY2012 City Budget
Dear Mayor, Vice-Mayor and Council Members,

Please see our attached

preliminary comments with regards to the City's FY2012 Budget. Thank
you

Comments: for the opportunity to participate in this important process.

Sincerely,

Tina Leone
President/CEO
Alexandria Chamber of Commerce
Attachment: 8a7ff7e34b5b773106c05dcdd5160910.doc



MEMORANDUM

TO: Alexandria City Council

FROM: Alexandria Chamber of Commerce

DATE: October 14, 2011

RE: Alexandria Chamber Preliminary Comments to FY 2013 City Budget

The Chamber supports the City's commitment to budgetary transparency and we thank you for the opportunity to comment on next year's budget.

We again encourage you to have a greater emphasis on economic forecasting by the City and the development of a multi-year budget both for City operations and capital improvement projects. A multi-year budget will serve as a roadmap to achieve future goals with fiscal certainty, fostering private growth and development.

The Chamber urges the City Council to take a long term view toward fostering programs that promote business and that generate or increase revenue for the City. A strong, viable business community is central to the City's success. We encourage the City to maintain its funding for the economic development partners of Alexandria- the AEDP, ACVA and SBDC.

The Chamber also strongly supports the City's commitment to fund the much needed major transportation projects of Alexandria via the transportation reserve fund established during last year's budget process. We encourage the City to maintain their commitment to a uniform tax rate to fund transportation needs.

There is still much economic uncertainty and continuing hardship that is afflicting our businesses. The Chamber encourages the City to examine ways to provide relief for the business community. The BPOL tax is one example where such relief is overdue. For example, the tax rates for service industry professionals are among the highest in the region. These excessive rates serve as yet another barrier for professional service firms and deters businesses wishing locate corporate headquarters in the City.

These continuing, challenging times present opportunities for re-examination of long-established processes. The Chamber encourages the City further consider how it may maximize its existing resources, implementing greater efficiencies in its operation. For example, the City should consider implementing performance-based, competitive compensation packages for City employees to maintain a high quality work force by rewarding employees based on merit.

The Chamber looks forward to engaging the City staff and City Council in a healthy dialogue over the coming months on issues of transportation, development, education, public safety and tax policy.

5
10-15-11

Jackie Henderson

From: Mary Riley <maryriley@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2011 2:59 PM
To: William Euille
Cc: Bruce Johnson; Jackie Henderson
Subject: Budget Comment - Mentoring Coordinator Position
Attachments: Youth Survey Statistics.doc

Dear Bill,

I learned this week that funding for the Alexandria Mentoring Partnership's (AMP) Coordinator (a position in Court Services) will run out on January 8, 2012. I am writing to urge your support for maintaining this important position through the first half of Calendar Year 2012 and in the upcoming FY 2013 budget.

The AMP Coordinator conducts city-wide mentoring recruitment events (e.g., annual boat cruise on the Potomac, Lyceum events, etc.), does follow-up with community volunteers who serve as youth mentors, conducts training events and individual consultations for AMP members on best practices to enhance quality mentoring throughout the City, holds events/trainings for mentors, and a host of other activities. As you can see, this position fills an important role in meeting several of City Council's Strategic Plan objectives:

- Improve the coordination and alignment of existing youth mentoring programs and expand mentoring capacity Citywide (Goal 4 objective).
- Expand the number of youth, families and community members provided with education, mentoring and resources to help increase Alexandrians' safety and security (Goal 6 objective)
- Invest resources in evidence-based prevention and early intervention efforts (Goal 7 objective)

The AMP was recently recognized by the State Department of Juvenile Justice's Committee on Gang Prevention and Violence as a model program that they would like to replicate throughout the Commonwealth. Furthermore, the AMP was a significant reason that Alexandria was designated one of the 100 Best Communities for Youth People by America's Promise.

We all know that mentoring decreases crime, the use of illegal substances, teen pregnancy and gang affiliation. Research shows that mentored youth are 60% more like to graduate from high school, to feel better about themselves and the world around them, and to have fewer conflicts and get along better with family members and peers.

A statistic that has stuck with me since my time on the *Community Services Board* is that only 20% of the City's youth perceive that adults in the community value youth. (This statistic is from the *ACPS Developmental Assets Survey* – see attached document for additional youth data from this survey and the *Youth Risk Behavior Survey*.) It seems to me that these statistics point to the need for us to continue supporting the AMP Coordinator position, which leverages hundreds of hours of community volunteer time that directly impacts these rather frightening statistics.

I hope that the City Manager and Council will be able to find a way to provide interim funding for this critical position in early 2012 and to include it in the FY 2013 budget.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Mary

Founding Member, AMP, and Youth Mentor

AMP Website: <http://www3.alexandriava.gov/courts/jdrdc/mentoring/>

Mary Riley

202 E. Alexandria Avenue

Alexandria, VA 22301

Youth Mental Health & Substance Abuse Statistics Alexandria, Virginia¹

Suicide

- **30% of middle school girls have seriously considered suicide; 20% made a suicide plan, and 15% report having actually attempted suicide.**
- **18% of high school girls reported a suicide attempt in the past year.**
- **36% of high school girls and 20% of boys report symptoms of depression.**

Substance Abuse

- **Alcohol – 67% of high school youth and 44% of middle school youth have tried alcohol**
 - In high school, current heavy² alcohol use for white (34%) and black (14%) youth in Alexandria exceeds national rates (30% for whites and 11% for blacks).

Middle school Hispanic (54%) and black youth (45%) report rates of lifetime alcohol use that exceed national rates of 39%.
- **Marijuana – 34% of high school youth and 14% of middle school youth have tried marijuana**
 - Rates of current marijuana use by white high school youth (25%) exceed national rates (20%).

Middle school Hispanic (19%) and black youth (16%) report higher lifetime rates of marijuana use that exceed national rates of 14%.
- **Tobacco – 15% of high school youth report having smoked a cigarette in the past month**
 - Hispanic youth (56%) reported higher rates of lifetime cigarette use during high school than their peers.

¹ During 2006-07, ACPS students in the 7th through 12th grades took the *Search Institute Profiles of Student Life: Attitudes and Behavior* survey and the *Youth Risk Behavior Survey*. Full reports available at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/mes/reports/index.php>. Data from these surveys was used by researchers from George Mason University in a report prepared for the *Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition* of Alexandria (SAPCA) entitled, *Qualitative Assessment of Youth Substance Use*, Sept. 2008.

² Defined as five or more drinks in a row (binge drinking) at least once in the previous month.

Percent of ACPS Youth Reporting External Assets³

<u>Asset Name – Definition</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Caring School Climate - School provides a caring, encouraging environment	29%
Parent Involvement in Schooling – Parent(s) are actively involved in helping young person succeed in school	29%
Community Values Youth – Young person perceives that adults in the community value youth	20%
Youth as Resources – Young people are given useful roles in the community	24%
Adult Role Models – Parent(s) and other adults model positive, responsible behavior	27%

³ Developmental Assets: A Profile of Your Youth, Executive Summary, Alexandria City Public Schools, March 2007, Search Institute, Minneapolis, MN. This survey was administered to 3,041 ACPS students in grades 7 – 12 in December 2006.

5
10-15-11

Jackie Henderson

From: Jennifer Ayers <jennayers@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2011 11:09 AM
To: Jackie Henderson
Subject: COA Contact Us: City Dock 10/15 Public Hearing Item 5.
Attachments: ATT00001..txt

COA Contact Us: City Clerk and Clerk of Council

Time: [Tue Oct 11, 2011 11:09:25] **Message ID:** [33835]

Issue Type: City Clerk and Clerk of Council
First Name: Jennifer
Last Name: Ayers
Street Address: 484 W. Taylor Run Parkway
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22314
Phone: 703-751-1927
Email Address: jennayers@aol.com

Subject: City Dock 10/15 Public Hearing Item 5.

I will be unable to be present for the Council meeting on October 15th, and would like for the following to be considered as written testimony for item number five on the docket:

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY
MANAGER

5. Public Hearing to Obtain Citizens Input on the City's
Proposed Fiscal Year 2012 Budget and Capital Improvement Program
(CIP.)

Comments: As follows:

Thank you to those of you who responded to my letter from September 28, regarding traffic calming in the West Taylor Run, and Clover, College Park Neighborhoods. The response was prompt and well informed.

To follow-up I am requesting that council consider adding to the budget appropriate funds to cover the cost to alleviate traffic and improve pedestrian safety in these neighborhoods. Among items for

consideration are further traffic studies and resources to include calming and other alternatives to improve conditions in the Clover, College Park and Taylor Run Communities.

As you know, there are many motorists who ignore existing efforts, and this is increasing as more employees move to the new Mark Center building as part of BRAC, especially near the bus shelters on Duke Street and Janney's Lane.

Please consider additional resources to address public safety throughout this neighborhood, as well as neighborhoods adjacent to ours; specifically, I would like to see both long and short term proposals to open the flow of traffic so that it does not hit one street or one neighborhood more adversely than others. More North-South routes should be considered, as well as motion activated crosswalks similar to those near Metro stations, traffic calming construction, and police/authoritative presence to reduce speeding.

You should be aware that I was informed more police would be present in the neighborhood and thank you for forwarding this request.

I trust you will consider my views as well as the many other carefully considered opinions of our neighbors. Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

Jennifer Ayers

ACoHA

ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION ON HIV/AIDS
A City Council Appointed Commission

**Alexandria City Budget Hearing
October 15, 2011**

Speaker: Gayle Terry, Vice-Chair, Alexandria Commission on HIV/AIDS (ACOHA)

On September 27, 2011, National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, the Alexandria City Council held a work session with the Alexandria Commission on HIV/AIDS (ACOHA) to discuss the current dimensions of HIV/AIDS in Alexandria and to provide Council's input and support for addressing the prevention needs of the City's most vulnerable residents. At the work session the Honorable William Euille suggested that a representative from ACOHA may want to attend today's budget hearing. I am here, speaking to you today not only because I want to be present but because I want to advocate for residents who are often unheard, unseen, stigmatized, and separated from main stream culture, our African American gay and bisexual men.

The following key points were presented at the City Council work session:

- ◇ The first case of AIDS was reported in 1981 with 862 residents having died from AIDS since that time through 2009.
- ◇ There are currently 1,720 persons living with HIV or AIDS in the City of Alexandria. This makes up 26.3% of the reported cases in Northern Virginia at a rate of 1.2%. The rate in Arlington is 0.65% and in Fairfax County, 0.16%. The higher burden of disease in Alexandria can, in part, be attributed to an effective infrastructure of services and care including HIV testing and reporting in the City.
- ◇ Fifty-six percent of those persons currently living with HIV are Not Hispanic, Black. 74% are men. The largest risk group (in terms of mode of transmission) are men who have sex with men (MSM) at 808 cases or 47% of the total
- ◇ The estimated lifetime cost of a person diagnosed with HIV has increased from \$518,000 in 2006 to \$1,000,000 in 2009. These costs represent medical care, lost work and income, and other psychosocial costs.
- ◇ Alexandria has established the infrastructure for prevention interventions, early testing and immediate connection to treatment which are essential for curtailing the continued transmission of HIV.
- ◇ Stigma, however, is presenting a barrier within certain communities to access prevention, testing and treatment services.

The Alexandria Commission on HIV/AIDS evaluated this data and other information when it established its 2011 priorities for community engagement. The African American and gay/bisexual populations were determined to be most at risk for new infections of HIV in the City with the most vulnerable population being the subset of African American gay and bisexual men. While the Commission developed their priorities based on local data, they are consistent with the priorities established by National AIDS Policy, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Virginia Department of Health, and the Northern Virginia HIV Prevention Plan

Stigma, racism and homophobia (external and internalized) are social factors that contribute to the vulnerability of the African American gay/bisexual men. A diagnosis of HIV continues to elicit stigma and it has been said that AIDS is still the disease of which someone would rather die than to know their diagnosis. Additionally, African American gay/bisexual men often hide and become invisible in many mainstream families, employment settings and community/social settings because of racism and homophobia. These factors lead to their marginalization and isolation and discourage them from accessing services and fostering behaviors that prevent HIV transmission.

Some steps have been initiated to address the needs of the African American and gay/bisexual populations at risk for HIV infection. Fairfax County has taken the lead in engaging the African American community through its faith institutions. The County funds the support for the Northern Virginia Clergy Council of which Alfred Street Baptist Church is the only Alexandria City member at this time. ACOHA and the Alexandria Health Department are reaching out to African American faith institutions in the City to increase awareness, to support the creation of an HIV/AIDS response, to promote participation in the Clergy Council and to support any other type of involvement they may choose.

The Alexandria Health Department has spearheaded a partnership of community representatives and community organizations to develop the Rainbow Tuesdays Clinic. The purpose of this bimonthly clinic is to provide a safe and comfortable place for gay, bisexual and transgender men to come for HIV counseling and testing, Sexually Transmitted Infection screening and Hepatitis A/B immunization. Volunteer efforts are underway in an effort to extend the clinic into a Rainbow Health Collective to increase the availability of health and psychosocial services designed to meet the unique needs of the gay, bisexual and transgender population in Northern Virginia.

Northern Virginia AIDS Ministry (NOVAM) and K.I. Services, Inc. offer a variety of outreach education and testing services throughout Northern Virginia that benefit the city African American gay and bisexual population. NOVAM focuses on youth and provides internet prevention and referral, HIV testing in gay, lesbian bisexual and transgender (LGBT) clubs, an MSM peer education program, and an outreach program called SISTA that reaches African American women. K.I. Services, Inc. provides outreach, education, testing and linkages to care for persons of color in the Alexandria Detention Center; at the Carpenter and Alexandria City's homeless shelters; Alfred Street Baptist Church, Alexandria Salvation Army; Alexandria Department of Community and Human Resources testing; and at special events.

While these efforts are laudable they are insufficient to address the unique health and social needs of the City's African American gay and bisexual men. ACOHA recommends funding to support a proven outreach and empowerment strategy to connect with the most vulnerable residents at risk for HIV. An individual from the affected community will be employed to locate individuals and connect them to interventions and services that have demonstrated positive outcomes.

The Commission recommends that Council provide the Alexandria Health Department with an additional \$50,000 in funding each year for three years for a total of \$150,000. The Health Department will manage an RFP and grant process to contract with a community based organization to hire a part-time African American Gay/Bisexual Outreach Intervention Specialist from our community and able to relate to those most at risk for HIV. The Health Department will provide technical support, monitor progress of the grant activities and regularly report progress to the Commission for community over site.

5(4)
10-15-11

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

To: Mayor and City Council
Budget Public Hearing
10/15/11

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

As you know, the members of the Alexandria Council of Human Service Organizations are nonprofits serving Alexandria's ^{residents} residents, along with City's Community and Human Services agencies. Because you were good enough to make grants to the Alexandria Fund for Human Services grantees for a two-year period, we are not here to ask you for money. Of course, we would gladly put additional funds to good use.

I am here to remind you of what your local nonprofits do for our community. We supplement and complement the work of the City agencies. Our organizations are strong and a vital part of the fabric of Alexandria. With a growing immigrant population, we must reach out to provide the services that will integrate new residents as quickly as possible so that they can become contributing members of the City. The Parent Leadership Training Institute of Alexandria is just one organization that is making that happen. Last year, we had 50% immigrant participants (and I expect the same this year) who learned about leadership, civics and democracy- how the schools work, how the City and State governments works; meeting you, our City staff, Members of Council, State delegation and more. They graduate and go out to create and expand programs that benefit children in the community. This is what I hope we want Alexandria to be- a place where all of our residents are invested in working hard to maintain a thriving community.

Please know that your Human Service Nonprofits work on a shoestring budget, using thousands of volunteers, millions of dollars in in-kind contributions, and employing people who work because they love what they do, knowing the salaries paid will never make them rich. Through ACHSO we collaborate with each other to avoid duplication of effort and to give the best possible service to our constituents. We are employers, and we shop in Alexandria. The \$2.3 Million that you gave to fund AFHS organizations last year was leveraged to become more than \$12 Million, not including volunteer time.

We thank you for your ongoing support and remind you how important it is to maintain this very special community.

Brooksie Koopman, Chair, Alexandria Library Board

Thank you from the Board and all library users for the FY12 money to:

- 1) Open each branch one more night to two nights per week
- 2) Return security personnel to one branch
- 3) Reduce by \$100,000 the fines and fees amount that Council requires we raise

However, it is unfortunate that I need to report the following budget history:

- 1) FY09, a 4.1% cut equating to almost \$295,600
- 2) FY10, a 14.5% cut equating to \$1.1 million
- 3) FY11, an 8.0% cut equating to \$470,800

These cuts reduced many things, including operating hours, the acquisition of books and materials, and services. But, most importantly, the cuts reduced the ability of the public to access our services, unless the patron is working online.

Unfortunately, the massive FY10 cut was noticed beyond the City borders. The Library Board of Virginia reviews the budget of every library in the State prior to awarding State aid. In difficult economic times, the amount of budget reduction, if any, is reviewed to ascertain if the cuts bear a similar relationship to those of other City departments. In June 2011, we were notified that we were to lose all FY12 State funding (\$160,000) because of the inequity of the cut to the library's budget as compared to other City departments. Through the intervention of City staff and others, funding was restored. However, the State Board indicated that they will look carefully at future budgets (VA Code 42.1-50 and Requirements for State Aid to VA Public Libraries).

Considering the Library's cuts and Alexandria's \$9.8 million budget surplus, I ask Council to consider giving the library an additional \$1 for every City resident. That \$150,000 would be almost enough to pay for the restoration of library hours for which we need \$158,000.

Hoping for success, I also ask Council for another \$1 for every patron with an Alexandria library card. That \$142,000 would pay for partial restoration of the book budget (\$85,000 and up), would complete the funds needed to return the libraries to our regular opening hours (\$8,000), and pay for a library needs assessment study (\$40,000).

Library evening hours at branches are now only one-half of what they were previously; daytime hours are reduced system-wide. Unless users are online, they can't use the library if it isn't open.

The book budget lost almost \$200,000 in the last 2 years of cuts. That huge loss has made it impossible for us to purchase needed books and has made the waits for popular books quite long. Patrons are increasingly using our ebook collection, but we are unable to build an adequate inventory.

The library needs assessment study is the only library goal specified in Goal 7 of the City's Strategic plan, yet requests for funding over the last 2 years were rejected. The current Director also requested money for that purpose 3 years ago; the former Director indicated in the 5-year plan ending in 2010 that work should start in 2008; we last did an assessment 16 years ago. I know these are 2013 budget hearings, but I have to ask, are you going to make us wait until July 2012 to give us that money or could you consider taking \$40,000 from the surplus and letting us move forward now instead of letting 17 years pass between studies?

Finally, I ask each of you to go into any of our libraries at any time and look at the number of people using the facilities. One look at the people using and waiting to use the Internet-connected computers, checking out books and other materials, studying, being tutored by volunteers, conducting research in our historic collections, and participating in children's programs, and you will see the need, the very great need to fulfill our budget requests.

So, while the dollar may show weakness in some locales, in Alexandria, a dollar or two can give you a lot of bang for the buck.

We are hoping the bucks stop here--at the library.

Thank you.

5(j)
10-15-11

Public Budget Hearing October 15, 2011

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

I am Mary Anne Weber, Chair of the Alexandria Community Services Board (ACSB)

Let me begin by expressing the Board's appreciation for the support you have demonstrated for Alexandrians with disabilities. In the current fiscal year, we'll receive \$18.5 million in City funding and leverage an additional \$14 million from other sources so that we can serve more than 5,100 Alexandrians with mental health, substance abuse, and/or intellectual disabilities. The City's investment clearly pays off, since for every dollar in City funding, we generate an additional 82 cents from other sources.

While the Board maintains high standards of efficiency, effectiveness, and innovation, we are concerned about meeting existing unmet needs in an environment of fiscal uncertainty. Based on research conducted by Community Health Solutions, there are an estimated 10,454 Alexandrians who had an alcohol or drug problem in the last year, 6,682 Alexandrians with a serious mental illness, and 1,405 Alexandrians with an intellectual disability. Depending on how many of these individuals have multiple diagnoses, the Board served approximately 25% to 50% of the total population with disabilities.

Though the Board serves Alexandrians of all ages and income levels, we predominantly serve residents who aren't served by private providers. The City's median household income exceeds \$80,000, yet 47% of residents served by the Board earn less than \$4,999 per year. When the Board receives funding reductions, the most economically vulnerable residents feel the effects.

Looking forward to fiscal year 2013, the Board is deeply concerned with possible state reductions, which may exceed \$324,000 if the full reductions are passed on to local boards. Due to budget reductions over the past several years, low priority positions have been eliminated. Consequently, further reductions will result in direct service reductions for the City's most vulnerable population.

We request your continued support in advocacy at the state level to limit or eliminate these possible reductions. In addition, we request that when you develop your budget guidance for the City Manager, you prioritize funding for Alexandria's most vulnerable residents who have fewer and fewer options for help.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input early in the budget process. We look forward to your continued support.

5(k)
10-15-11

Alexandria City Council

Martin Luther King Jr. said
"anyone can be great, because anyone can serve"

Yet not everyone knows where to serve, what programs are most effective, or the best fit for their schedules, interests, and skills.

We need to continue funding for the Alexandria Mentoring Partnership to continue to be great citizens of a great city.



- Higher Achievement- Academic mentoring at Hammond Middle School (4646 Seminary Rd) www.higherachievement.org
- Partner with AMP since 2009 and ACPS since 2005, invited to the city to address the achievement gap.
- Currently serving 90 middle school scholars; 90 mentors

Mentoring works!

- Youth with mentors are more likely to attend college, and less likely to commit crimes
- 93% of H.A. scholars go on to college
- Higher Achievement, Longitudinal Study/PPV study: increase math and reading test scores
- Impact on families and mentors!

Impact of AMP – Gold Standard program for volunteer collaboration; a model for other cities:

- Recruitment 2009-2011 increased by 50%
- Building a mentor community, and providing volunteer training
- Program Directors sharing best practices
- Recognized by the State Dept. of Justice as a model program to be expanded throughout the commonwealth

Action:

- Fully fund AMP for both FY11 and FY12.
Cost / Benefit: \$90,000 x 10 = \$900,000. That is close to a Million dollar return on a \$>>>> investment. Not to mention all the other incidental costs that come with unsupervised youth who lack mentors. Did you know that they decide how many prison cells to build based on student reading and math scores?
- Do we want to put our current financial woes on the backs of our children? Cutting support for mentoring programs is not a long-term financial solution. Cutting this program will be a step backwards for our city and will only create more uncertainty in the already tumultuous lives of our children.
- Remember your mentor? What would your life be like now without them?

Matt Thornton
Director of Volunteer Management
Higher Achievement
mthornton@higherachievement.org , 202-375-7733

Dear Bill,

I learned this week that funding for the Alexandria Mentoring Partnership's (AMP) Coordinator (a position in Court Services) will run out on January 8, 2012. I am writing to urge your support for maintaining this important position through the first half of Calendar Year 2012 and in the upcoming FY 2013 budget.

The AMP Coordinator conducts city-wide mentoring recruitment events (e.g., annual boat cruise on the Potomac, Lyceum events, etc.), does follow-up with community volunteers who serve as youth mentors, conducts training events and individual consultations for AMP members on best practices to enhance quality mentoring throughout the City, holds events/trainings for mentors, and a host of other activities. As you can see, this position fills an important role in meeting several of City Council's Strategic Plan objectives:

- Improve the coordination and alignment of existing youth mentoring programs and expand mentoring capacity Citywide (Goal 4 objective).
- Expand the number of youth, families and community members provided with education, mentoring and resources to help increase Alexandrians' safety and security (Goal 6 objective)
- Invest resources in evidence-based prevention and early intervention efforts (Goal 7 objective)

The AMP was recently recognized by the State Department of Juvenile Justice's Committee on Gang Prevention and Violence as a model program that they would like to replicate throughout the Commonwealth. Furthermore, the AMP was a significant reason that Alexandria was designated one of the 100 Best Communities for Youth People by America's Promise.

We all know that mentoring decreases crime, the use of illegal substances, teen pregnancy and gang affiliation. Research shows that mentored youth are 60% more like to graduate from high school, to feel better about themselves and the world around them, and to have fewer conflicts and get along better with family members and peers.

A statistic that has stuck with me since my time on the *Community Services Board* is that only 20% of the City's youth perceive that adults in the community value youth. (This statistic is from the *ACPS Developmental Assets Survey* – see attached document for additional youth data from this survey and the *Youth Risk Behavior Survey*.) It seems to me that these statistics point to the need for us to continue supporting the AMP Coordinator position, which leverages hundreds of hours of community volunteer time that directly impacts these rather frightening statistics.

I hope that the City Manager and Council will be able to find a way to provide interim funding for this critical position in early 2012 and to include it in the FY 2013 budget.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Mary
Founding Member, AMP, and Youth Mentor
AMP Website: <http://www3.alexandriava.gov/courts/jdrdc/mentoring/>

Mary Riley
202 E. Alexandria Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22301

I am here today to encourage you to vote in favor of funding the Traffic Calming Program when you approve the 2013 budget.

First, I want to congratulate the City of Alexandria on receiving the "Walk Friendly Community" Silver award. I have to believe the City of Alexandria can point to the past success of the Traffic Calming Program as having an impact on making our streets safer for pedestrians and bike riders and making this award possible.

With so many new and exciting communities popping up all over the city such as the Beaugard Corridor, Potomac Yard, and The Waterfront Project, I know that the City of Alexandria is investing a lot of money and is making it a priority for these new developments to be "people friendly", making it easy for residents to walk, ride their bike and take mass-transit as oppose to hopping in their car. However, there are existing neighborhood streets that need to be safer for families to walk or ride their bikes.

Our neighborhood association, Clover-College Park, requested a benchmark traffic count from the city out of concern that the opening of BRAC-133 will bring even more cut-through traffic once the building at Mark Center is fully staffed.

In addition there is also concern over another stoplight that is about to be installed on Duke Street between Telegraph Road and Quaker Lane, where Witter Road meets Duke Street. When this stoplight is added there will be 7 stops lights on Duke Street within less than a mile driving distance. This makes our street, West Taylor Run Pkwy, even more appealing to cut-trough traffic as it is the path of least resistance for drivers getting to and from 495 to BRAC-133 as well as 495 to 395.

I want thank you for making this benchmark traffic count happen. The results indicate that we already have a safety issue. On West Taylor Run Parkway, an average of 67% of the 5,212 motorists that go down our street daily were speeding. More than 15% of the motorists were exceeding 5 mph over the speed limit. According to the guidelines from the prior Traffic Calming Program, we would have been able to request that the city do a further traffic study to find the best solution to this pedestrian safety issue. Without the funds from the Traffic Calming Program, we are unable to even put in an additional stop sign much less install bulb outs or connect sidewalks.

My family lives on West Taylor Run Parkway. If you have ever dropped your child off at Angel Park for baseball or soccer practice, you know that our street is either a thoroughfare or a parking lot depending on the time of day. West Taylor Run Parkway is a street that contains Single Family Homes, Condominiums, Duplex's, and a huge apartment complex. Crossing it can be quite harrowing and hundreds of people have to cross it everyday to get to school and to work.

Our street is ideally located within a one mile walking distance from:

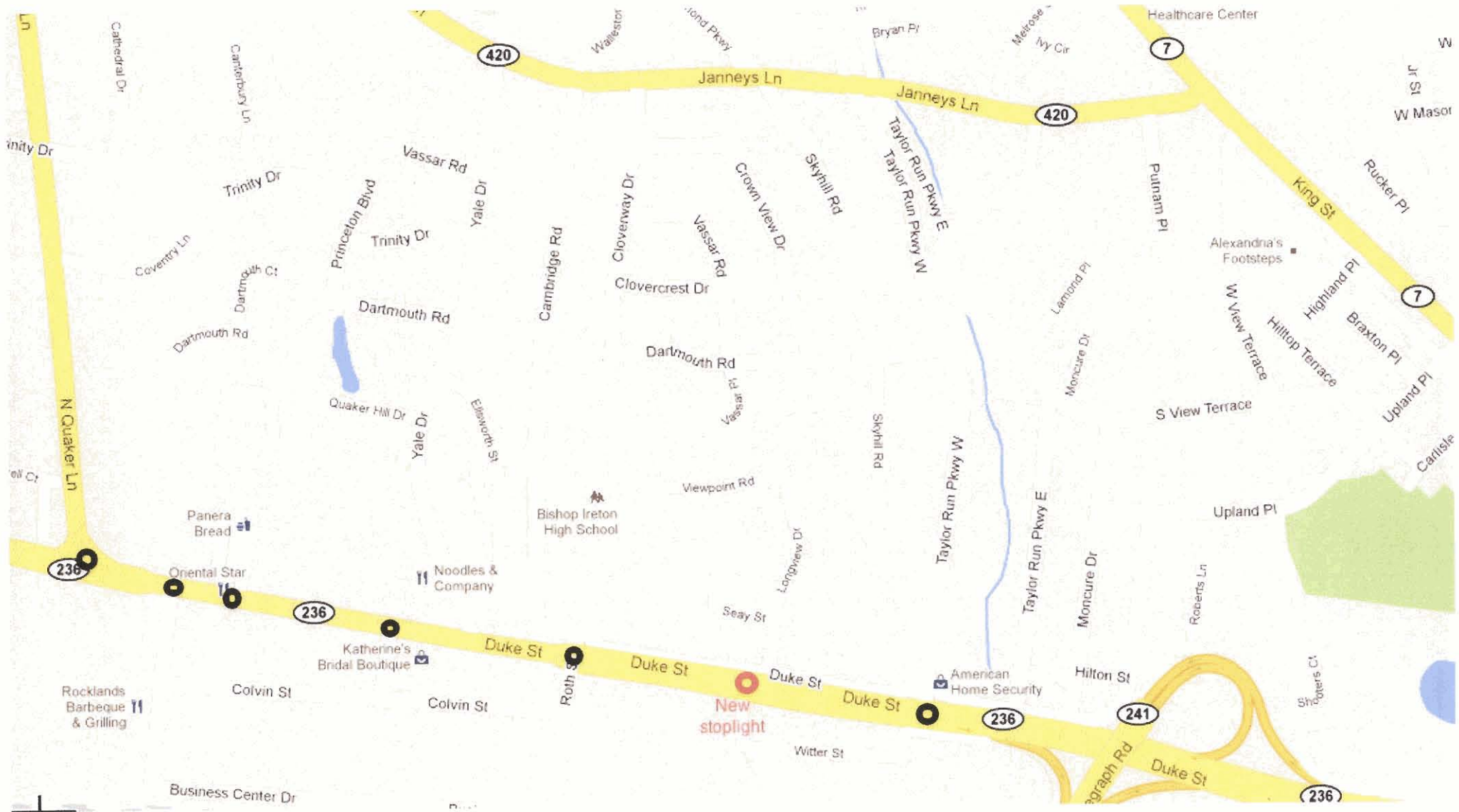
The King Street Metro
The Eisenhower Metro
The VRE
Douglas MacArthur Elementary School
TC Williams High School
Bishop Ireton High School
Angel Park
The developing Witter Park (soccer and softball fields)
Two DASH bus stops (plus DASH at King Street Metro)
Two bus stops for George Washington Middle School
Two bus stops for Minnie Howard .

I am the mother of three boys that attend three different Alexandria City Public Schools (Douglas MacArthur Elementary School, George Washington Middle School and Minnie Howard). Just like many of my neighbors, we walk to most of our daily destinations. My sons walk to the bus stop, walk to school, walk to their friends homes and walk to baseball practice at Angel Park. My husband walks to the King Street Metro to get to work. Bulb outs, stop signs and connecting sidewalks would dramatically change West Taylor Run Parkway for the better.

I think there is a need for more traffic calming in the City of Alexandria to make the existing infrastructure as safe for pedestrians as the new community projects appear to be. I strongly urge you to include the funds for the Traffic Calming Program in the 2013 Budget.

Thank You,

Katie Alarcon
466 W Taylor Run Pkwy
703-609-5770



N Quaker Ln

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New stoplight



5(0)
10-15-11



My name is Peter Pennington and I am the Chair of the Environmental Policy Commission.

The Commission will be writing a formal letter with budget suggestions and later in the year it will be putting together a discussion document with ideas for promoting, for marketing the Environmental Action Plan. The Commission feels that whereas City government, and ACPS, are doing great things internally, there is now a need to promote the EAP more heavily to our citizens and visitors.

The City has signed up to a number of commitments to reduce carbon emissions across the city – the Council of Government (COG) targets come to mind.

The commission sees the employment of a specialist outreach person as being at the top of its shopping list. This person must be able to talk to both second grade children and engineers about the meaning of the word ‘sustainable’. This person will help citizens and businesses with matters environmental such as energy saving, recycling, trees and storm water. And that latter subject is important here for that is where some of the funding can be found. The Storm Water permits require the City to undertake education and so some of this person’s costs can be legitimately met from the moneys raised through the tax provision for Storm Water.

This person will also need have undertaken the specialist training now available to talk about climate change. Uggianaqtuq. You must be feeling uggianaqtuq. It is an Inuit word describing climate change and is used about the disquiet felt by seeing the ice now too brittle to walk on, too dangerous to go hunting or the rising sea level.

It perhaps the feeling you might have as you think about our weather over the past years or as you realise that here in Alexandria the flowers appear earlier than when you were a child or the migrant birds arrive earlier, and in some cases, no longer leave for the winter.

And that is why it is important to get the principles of the EAP across to the public. And that leads me to second marker. It possible to walk from King Street Metro to the river and be totally oblivious that one is in Eco-City Alexandria. So we propose, not only as a good idea in itself, but also as a major marketing ploy, the installation of proper recycling bins, with the appropriate contract for collection, along King Street and the immediate adjoining streets. This should really announce Eco-City Alexandria.

There are many items that could be added to the shopping list. We decry obesity in our children and yet there are still too many places lacking a sidewalk making it too dangerous for a child to walk to the bus stop to go to school.

But here I shall stop.

Jackie Henderson

From: Monica Reid <socialaction@nuxizeta.org>
Sent: Monday, October 24, 2011 11:00 AM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: Comments Regarding FY 2013 Budget
Attachments: 2405cb17ebb74c1a8e0eff17412be9c4.pdf; ATT00001..txt

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

Time: [Mon Oct 24, 2011 11:00:13] Message ID: [34242]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Monica
Last Name: Reid
Street Address: P.O. Box 25961
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22313
Phone: 804-691-1432
Email Address: socialaction@nuxizeta.org

Subject: Comments Regarding FY 2013 Budget

Good Morning:

Attached, please find a letter from the Alexandria,

Virginia Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. We were unable to attend

Comments: the October 15th public hearing on the FY 2013 budget; however, we wanted

to send a few comments regarding the chapters priorities as you consider the FY 2013 budget.

Thank you.

Attachment: 2405cb17ebb74c1a8e0eff17412be9c4.pdf



ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY, INC.

NU XI ZETA CHAPTER

SERVING ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

P.O. Box 25961, Alexandria, VA 22313

“Celebrating 25 years of building stronger families and stronger communities”

October 24, 2011

Dear Alexandria City Council Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Alexandria, Virginia Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. As you begin preparation for the FY 2013 budget ***we strongly urge you to continue to focus on programs benefiting children, youth and families and on programs that protect the social safety net.***

Specifically, we would recommend the Council continue to adequately fund the following programs:

1. The Center for Children and Families
 - a. Early Childhood
 - b. Youth Development
 - c. Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services
2. The Center for Economic Support
 - a. Economic Support Leadership and Management Support Services
 - b. Community Services

As the country recovers from the recession, Americans continue to be impacted in their day to day lives. The government has been forced to operate in a new normal, as cuts to programs and services become a way of life. With the current fiscal climate, we recognize that the City Council is forced to make tough decisions to effectively balance the budget. However, it is because of this environment that social safety net programs that protect the most vulnerable populations are in high demand. It is these programs that are most in need that we seek to shield.

We commend the Council for action in the FY 2012 approved budget that added \$450K to the operating budget to provide 64 four-year olds with quality and affordable preschool services, as well as, the 4.2% increase in the transfer to the Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS). We share the Council's commitment and dedication to education. Each year, through our Nu Xi Zeta Helping Alexandria Virginia Excel (HAVE) Foundation, we award a deserving high school student with a \$1,000 scholarship.

Below, please find our thoughts on the aforementioned programs to be considered in the FY 2013 budget:

Early Childhood

The goal of Early Childhood is to provide high quality childhood education resources for children to ensure school readiness and to reduce the incidence of mental illness, intellectual disability and substance abuse through effective prevention and early intervention.

According to the University of Michigan Health System, parents play a critical role in helping their children develop not only the ability to read, but also an enjoyment of reading. Annually, our chapter participates in the National Educational Association's Read Across America, an annual reading motivation and awareness program that calls for every child in every community to celebrate reading on March 2nd, the birthday of beloved children's author Dr. Seuss. The event is a great way to bring together community leaders to read to children. This year over 60 children and their parents participated in group readings led by community and political leaders, and educational games and activities.

Youth Development

The goal of Youth Development is to support and motivate youth to avoid risky behaviors and achieve success at school and at home through best practice programming and coordination and collaboration with youth, parents, professionals and others.

We encourage the Council to continue its commitment to youth development programs. We applaud the Council for its increase in funding for youth development programs in the FY 2012 adopted budget. In an effort to promote scholarship and career education, the Chapter, through the HAVE Foundation, spoke to the United Minority Girls group at Wakefield High School about different career paths and college experiences in the fields of politics, entrepreneurship and marketing.

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services

The goal of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services is to advocate for and provide support to women, men, and children affected by sexual and domestic violence in order to reduce the effects of crisis in a person's life, restore balance and increase safety.

We encourage the Council to maintain current funding levels for domestic violence and sexual assault services. The Chapter has continuously demonstrated a commitment to victims of domestic violence. In the past, during the Domestic Violence Awareness month of October, we have hosted a domestic violence workshop in conjunction with the Alexandria Office of Women. The workshop provides key information on available community resources and self-defense strategies.

Economic Support Leadership and Management Support Services

The goal of Economic Leadership and General Management is to apply administrative, technical, and management expertise to support the provision of effective and essential safety net services to Alexandrians.

We encourage the Council to strategically fund Economic Leadership and General Management in order for the program to meet its overarching goal of delivery of immediate and ongoing services to support self-sufficiency to those in need.

Community Services

The goal of Community Services is to provide financial assistance, medical assistance, counseling, and support services that allow households and eligible individuals to re-establish or maintain self-sufficiency and affordable housing.

We encourage the Council to continue its commitment to the Community Services program. We are excited to see the increase in funding for community and emergency services and homeless services in the FY 2012 adopted budget. We hope you are able to provide a similar increase in funding for homeless prevention as it experienced a decrease from FY 2011 (\$1,208, 499) to FY 2012 (\$745,070). For the last several years, the Chapter has partnered with ALIVE! Inc. to help address the short and

Jackie Henderson

From: Martin Menez <mmenez1981@kellogg.northwestern.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, October 25, 2011 8:51 AM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: Alexandria Library's budget.
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Tue Oct 25, 2011 08:50:30] Message ID: [34275]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Martin
Last Name: Menez
Street Address: 4924 Donovan Drive
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22304
Phone: 703-751-3433
Email Address: mmenez1981@kellogg.northwestern.edu

Subject: Alexandria Library's budget.
Mayor and Members of City Council,

As a library patron, I would like to

thank Council for providing additional funding for the library to open each branch one additional night starting in July 2011. However, I understand from the Library Director that those extra hours and other items are now at risk in the new budget being discussed, although the City had a surplus of 9.8 million dollars from last year's budget.

The Library Director

Comments: explained that the budget requests she makes are based on the City's Strategic Plan, the Library's 5 -Year Plan, the Budget Performance Measures, and citizen input. Our library system has always been heavily used, but the usage during these difficult economic times is especially important. I would like to see new or additional funding for the following:

1. Restore Hours (\$158,000): Restore the money to open the library for the hours it offered in July 2009. This would allow more usage of the libraries, especially by patrons who can't arrive during the day.

2.

Increase Materials Budget (\$85,000): Restore the money to bring the materials budget to the 2010 level. Over the last 3 years, the library cut its book and other materials budget by \$200,000. As a family, we use books

and DVDs, but are considering the purchase of a Kindle or iPad to allow us

access to ebooks and at the library. Waiting times for popular books and demand for ebooks books are both increasing.

3. Conduct Needs Assessment

(\$40,000): Add funds to conduct a needs assessment .This initiative has been in Goal 7 of the City's Strategic Plan since June 2010. The library system has wanted to conduct a needs assessment for an even longer period

since the last assessment was conducted 16 years ago. The library needs of

patrons are changing. We need to study and understand those needs.

During difficult economic times in Alexandria, the Library has been a real team player, instituting major budget cuts as requested in the areas noted above as well as in personnel and maintenance of our facilities. I ask that during the current budget development cycle that the library be given additional funds, not asked to make more reductions.

Thanks for your consideration,

Martin Menez
Friend of Beatley

Library

Jackie Henderson

From: David Letizia <dtletizia@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 27, 2011 12:05 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: Library Budget
Attachments: dd4899fa341bd6b444f6b37cf5166b00.docx; ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Thu Oct 27, 2011 12:05:08] Message ID: [34337]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: David
Last Name: Letizia
Street Address: 260 S. Reynolds Street, #1409
City: Alexandria
State: Virginia
Zip: 22304
Phone: 703-751-1504
Email Address: dtletizia@yahoo.com
Subject: Library Budget
Comments: See attached letter. Thank you.
Attachment: dd4899fa341bd6b444f6b37cf5166b00.docx

To Whom It May Concern,

As a library patron, I want to thank the Council for providing additional funding for the library to open each branch one additional night, starting in July 2011.

However, I understand from the Library Director that those extra hours -- and other items -- are now at risk in the new City budget being discussed, although the City had a surplus of 9.8 million dollars from last year's budget.

The Library Director explained that the budget requests she makes are based on the City's Strategic Plan, the Library's 5 -Year Plan, the Budget Performance Measures, and citizen input. Our library system has always been heavily used, but usage during these difficult economic times is especially important. I would like to see new or additional funding for the following:

1. Restore Hours (\$158,000): Restore the money to open the library for the hours it offered in July 2009. This would allow more usage of the libraries, especially by patrons who can't arrive during the day.
2. Increase Materials Budget (\$85,000): Restore the money to bring the materials budget to the 2010 level. Over the last 3 years, the library cut its book and other materials budget by \$200,000. As a family, we use books and DVDs, but we are considering the purchase of a Kindle or iPad to allow us access to e-books at the library. Waiting times for popular books and demand for e-books books are both increasing.
3. Conduct Needs Assessment (\$40,000): Add funds to conduct a needs assessment. This initiative has been in Goal 7 of the City's Strategic Plan since June 2010. The library system has wanted to conduct a needs assessment for an even longer period, since the last assessment was conducted 16 years ago. Library patron needs are changing. We need to study and understand those needs.

During these difficult economic times in Alexandria, the library has instituted major budget cuts as requested in the areas noted above, as well as in personnel and in maintenance of our facilities. I ask that during the current budget development cycle, the library be given additional funds, not asked to make more reductions.

Thanks you,

David T. Letizia

Alexandria Library Supporter

5
10-15-11

Jackie Henderson

From: Brenda D'Sylva <brendadsylva@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 27, 2011 5:25 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: FY2011 Surplus
Attachments: cbcfb9b481ecbd2d2eba5f08305310ee.doc; ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Thu Oct 27, 2011 17:25:05] **Message ID:** [34349]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Brenda
Last Name: D'Sylva
Street Address: 181 E. Reed Avenue #111
City: Alexandria
State: Virginia
Zip: 22305
Phone: 703-329-6761
Email Address: brendadsylva@yahoo.com
Subject: FY2011 Surplus
Thank you for your consideration. I really look forward to hearing from
Comments: you and hopefully you can accommodate some our my requests.
Attachment: cbcfb9b481ecbd2d2eba5f08305310ee.doc

DATE: OCTOBER 1, 2011
TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL
FROM: BRENDA A.D'SYLVA, PRESIDENT, AGEA
SUBJECT: PERCENTAGE OF FY 2011 SURPLUS FOR EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION

The purpose of this memo is to request Council's consideration and support for putting aside funds from the FY2011 Surplus of \$9.8m to express appreciation to all City employees. This is a unique opportunity, in the middle of a recession, for the City's leaders to stand up and recognize the continuing dedication, sacrifice, and professionalism of City staff. You have always said that "if we could do something for the employees, we would." This is the first time in over 4 years that an opportunity arises for Council to live up to those words and fulfill their stated desire to look out for the employees. This is your unexpected window of opportunity during difficult times, giving you the chance to properly reward staff and an important step.

This surplus was realized in no small part through the hard work of City employees. The \$5.57 million saved is from expenditure savings directly resulting from employees working within budget restraints, working shorthanded, and working longer hours. The remaining \$4.26 million is from employees who developed innovative ways to expand efforts to collect taxes and other revenues owed to the City.

Here are a few options for your consideration:

- 1) Pay the last FY2012 installment of the health-care benefits for all employees. This will give employees a one-year reprieve from the added burden as health care costs continue to rise.
- 2) Give a one-time bonus of \$1,000 to all full time employees and \$500 to all part-time employees. The funds that are being considered to be set aside for the unspecified fund balance could possibly be used here. This will be a one-time bonus that will not cost the city money towards retirement or fringe benefits. The bonus in conjunction with the merit pay will for the first time in 4 years give the majority of employees relief and a chance to catch up.
- 3) Give a 1% MRA to all employees.

While the need to maintain fiscal strength is valid, so is the need to adequately compensate a work force that regularly exceeds their goals and has earned the confidence of their employers and the public. None of these council actions would place additional burdens on the taxpayer. It is simply giving back to the employees who work so hard for the City. The realization of this one-time goodwill gesture will lead to higher morale and overall genuine appreciation for City leadership. There comes a time when words no longer satisfy. The time for action is now.

During a recent visit to Alexandria's new Police Headquarters, Vice-President Joe Biden said of government, "Don't tell me what your values are, show me your budget and I'll tell you what you value." What do **You**, as the leaders of City employee's value?

Jackie Henderson

From: Mary Ann Rehnke <mrehnke@verizon.net>
Sent: Sunday, October 30, 2011 6:24 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: budget for library
Attachments: ATT00002.txt

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

Time: [Sun Oct 30, 2011 18:23:49] Message ID: [34394]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Mary Ann
Last Name: Rehnke
Street Address: 10 West Oak Street
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22301
Phone: 703-836-7142
Email Address: mrehnke@verizon.net

Subject: budget for library

As a library patron, I would like to thank Council for providing additional funding for the library to open each branch one additional night starting in July 2011. However, I understand from the Library Director that those extra hours and other items are now at risk in the new budget being discussed, although the City had a surplus of 9.8 million dollars from last year's budget.

Whenever I visit the library, I see a very diverse group of

people using the library. It is a wonderful means of helping those new to

Comments: our area become full members of our community. Evening hours are especially important for students and workers who are using library tools to advance their careers. Please try to enhance rather than cut the library budget.

Cordially,

Mary Ann Rehnke
Alexandria Library

Supporter