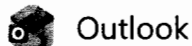


11  
4-18-26



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**[EXTERNAL]Written Statement for 4/18 Council Meeting**

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**From** Hilary Tomeny <hilary.tomeny@gmail.com>

**Date** Thu 4/16/2026 6:13 PM

**To** CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov <CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov>

1 attachment (22 KB)

ALXAA grant Budget Support Statement 18APR26.docx;

You don't often get email from hilary.tomeny@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello, please see attached a written statement for the record on behalf of the Alexandria Arts Alliance in support of docket item #11: the addition of \$30,000 to the arts grant budget. I will also plan to attend in-person and read this statement if time allows.

Thank you,  
Hilary Tomeny  
614-208-4619

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11  
4-18-26

On behalf of the Alexandria Arts Alliance, thank you to Mayor Gaskins and Councilmembers Bagley and Aguirre for advancing the proposed \$30,000 increase for arts grants in the FY2027 budget.

Representing more than 60 member artists and arts organizations, the Alliance sees firsthand how these grants directly sustain local creatives—helping artists produce new work, remain in Alexandria, and continue contributing to the city’s cultural and economic life.

This investment will have an immediate and meaningful impact—supporting working artists, expanding access to arts programming across our neighborhoods, and strengthening the cultural vitality that makes Alexandria a vibrant place to live, work, and visit. Arts grants are a high-return investment: they leverage additional funding, support small creative businesses, and ensure that residents of all ages and backgrounds can participate in and benefit from the arts.

We respectfully urge the Council to adopt this amendment and continue prioritizing the arts as an essential part of Alexandria’s economic health and community well-being.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to our city’s creative future.

11  
4-18-26

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**FW: Cut Sheriff Casey's Budget**

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From Kenstace@comcast.net <kenstace@comcast.net>

Date Tue 4/14/2026 10:29 AM

To COU-City Council <CityCouncil@alexandriava.gov>

Cc CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov <CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov>

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I concur and would like to offer my support to reduce Sheriff Casey's budget by the proposed \$200000 as well.

Thank you,  
Kenneth Brown  
405 S. Lee street  
Alexandria, Va.22314

Sent from my Galaxy

----- Original message -----

From: Stacey Becker <travel212.sb@gmail.com>

Date: 4/14/26 10:09 AM (GMT-05:00)

To: citycouncil@alexandriava.gov

Cc: councilcomment@alexandriava.gov

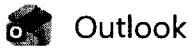
Subject: Cut Sheriff Casey's Budget

Dear City Council,

As an Alexandria City concerned citizen, I agree with cutting Sheriff Casey's budget by the proposed \$200, 000 due to his continued practice of Inmate transfers to ICE. Please consider this when making your decisions.

Stacey Becker  
405 S. Lee Street  
Alexandria, VA  
22314

11  
4-18-26



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**[EXTERNAL]Cut Sheriff Casey's Budget**

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**From** Stacey Becker <travel212.sb@gmail.com>  
**Date** Tue 4/14/2026 10:09 AM  
**To** COU-City Council <CityCouncil@alexandriava.gov>  
**Cc** CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov <CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov>

You don't often get email from travel212.sb@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear City Council,  
As an Alexandria City concerned citizen, I agree with cutting Sheriff Casey's budget by the proposed \$200, 000 due to his continued practice of Inmate transfers to ICE. Please consider this when making your decisions.

Stacey Becker  
405 S. Lee Street  
Alexandria, VA  
22314

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11  
4-18-26

**Donita Greene:**

Cutting the budget by any amount is not reasonable. We have to do the best, if not the best in the state.

Close

11  
4-18-20

COL (Ret.) Jim Paige

Dear Members of the Alexandria City Council,

I write to express my strong and unwavering support for Sheriff Sean Casey and the Alexandria Sheriff's Office. As a committed member of this community, and as someone who has worked alongside many dedicated leaders and organizations in Alexandria, I have witnessed firsthand the positive impact the Sheriff's Office continues to have on public safety, community engagement, and the well-being of our residents. I respectfully urge you to reject any proposed budget cuts and to keep the jail in its current location.

Under Sheriff Casey's leadership, the Alexandria Sheriff's Office has demonstrated a clear commitment to professionalism, accountability, and service. The Office's receipt of the National Sheriffs' Association's 2023 Triple Crown Award is a powerful testament to its excellence in law enforcement, corrections, and correctional health care. This level of recognition is not easily earned and reflects a standard of performance that should be supported and sustained.

The Sheriff's Office plays an essential role in maintaining the safety and efficiency of our city. Its responsibilities, including operating the Adult Detention Center, providing courthouse security, serving legal processes, and transporting individuals, are critical to the integrity of our justice system. These services are foundational and must remain strong and well supported.

Equally important is the Office's deep and ongoing commitment to the community. I have personally observed Sheriff Casey's engagement with local organizations, faith leaders, and residents. Whether through outreach efforts, support for families, or participation in collaborative public safety initiatives, the Sheriff's Office has demonstrated that it values partnership and understands that true public safety is built on trust and connection.

I am also encouraged by the Sheriff's Office's forward-thinking approach to accountability and care. The Adult Detention Center's achievement of federal PREA certification in 2024 reflects a meaningful commitment to safety, transparency, and dignity for those in custody. Additionally, the Office's efforts to address mental health challenges through partnerships with health professionals, academic institutions, and community stakeholders show a clear understanding of the complex needs within our justice system.

Maintaining a local detention facility is both practical and necessary. Keeping the jail in Alexandria preserves important connections between individuals in custody, their families, and the support systems that are critical for successful rehabilitation and reentry. Relocating the jail would likely increase operational costs, create inefficiencies, and place unnecessary burdens on families, ultimately undermining the progress that has been made. It could also increase the risk of the facility being considered for ICE detention use, an outcome that would be deeply troubling to many in our community.

At a time when many communities are striving to build trust and effectiveness within their public safety systems, Alexandria already has a model that works. Sheriff Casey and the Alexandria Sheriff's Office represent leadership, accountability, and a genuine commitment to the people they serve.

This decision is about more than budget considerations. It is about values, responsibility, and the future of our community. I respectfully urge the City Council to maintain full funding for the Alexandria Sheriff's Office and to keep the jail in its current location.

Thank you for your leadership and your continued commitment to the City of Alexandria.

Respectfully,  
COL (Ret.) Jim Paige

11  
4-18-26

**Dane Lauritzen:**

I support the proposed \$200k budget cut from the sheriff's office, and would urge the City to go further.

Close

11  
4-18-26

## Who Gets Hurt When You Cut the Sheriff's Budget

Public comment | Alexandria City Council | FY2027 budget

My name is Silda Nikaj, and I am a member of this community. I come before you with a perspective that I believe is relevant here: I have had the unique experience of working with one of the largest sheriff's offices in the country. I share these thoughts not as an outsider, but as a neighbor — one who understands firsthand both the essential services a sheriff's office provides and what budget cuts actually do to those services when they land.

Most people don't think about their detention facility very often. When it is functioning as it should, nothing bad happens. No inmates escape into the community. No one's constitutional rights are violated.

Detention facilities are among the most difficult law enforcement environments in the country to staff and sustain. Deputies report for shift knowing they will spend the next twelve and a half hours inside a locked facility, managing a population in crisis, often already short-staffed, often on mandatory overtime they did not ask for. The work is difficult in a way that is hard to explain to anyone who has not seen it. It takes a rare kind of commitment to keep showing up for that — a commitment these deputies make to this community every single day.

When you cut that budget, you do not cut the workload. The inmates are still there. The shifts still have to be covered. But something does get cut — and in corrections, it is always the same thing. It is the GED program. The vocational training. The Second Chance Unit. The sobriety programs. The reentry services that connect people leaving that facility to housing, employment, and community support.

The people who lose those programs are not abstractions. They are low-income residents of color — the same people this council says it is trying to protect. They leave that facility with nothing, and the community absorbs the cost.

The Alexandria Adult Detention Center holds roughly 300 people on any given day. These are fathers, brothers, sons, and neighbors of the very residents filling this chamber. What happens inside that facility — how safe it is, how humanely it is run — is not a peripheral concern for this community. It is a direct one.

When a jail is understaffed, the constitutional risks fall entirely on those same people. An Eighth Amendment violation is not a legal abstraction. It is an inmate who did not get medication in time. A person in mental health crisis left alone in a cell. Someone assaulted while the deputy on shift was managing four emergencies at once. The population most vulnerable to those failures is the population the advocates say they are organizing to protect.

The Sheriff's Office also runs security for more than 48,000 court proceedings a year. Those courts are where tenants fight evictions. Where parents navigate custody disputes. Where crime victims seek protective orders. Where people fight for benefits they are owed. Degrade the staffing that keeps those courts running safely and efficiently, and the people who suffer are not the ones with attorneys. They are the ones for whom the court system is the only recourse they have.

This community relies on the services the Sheriff's Office provides every single day — safe courts, a professionally run jail, civil process that works, and reentry programs that give people a second chance. These are not abstract government functions. They are the infrastructure of daily life for thousands of Alexandria residents.

And this community has already rendered its verdict on Sheriff Casey. He ran for reelection. He won. The residents of this city — including the communities most affected by everything this office does — chose to keep him in this role. Using the budget process to pressure him into a policy position the voters never demanded is not accountability. **It is the council substituting its judgment for the community's.**

I understand the concern driving this campaign — the desire to protect vulnerable community members from a system that too often treats them as less than fully human.

But an immigrant community member inside that facility is better protected by a fully staffed, fully accredited, professionally run operation than by one that has been deliberately weakened as a political statement.

**The advocates are wrong about targeting a functioning facility with budget cuts — it defeats their own stated goal of protecting vulnerable populations.**

Fund this office fully. The inmates, the detention staff, and this community are all depending on it.

11  
4-18-26

## Hilary Tomeny:

Will be speaking in support of the proposed \$30,000 increase in funding for arts grants

Close