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11-16-13

Jackie Henderson

From: William Skrabak
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 5:11 PM
To: Allison Silberberg; Del Pepper; Jackie Henderson; John Chapman; Justin Wilson; Paul Smedberg; Timothy Lovain; William Euille; Rashad Young
Cc: Jerome Fletcher; Rich Baier; Mark Jinks; City Council Aides
Subject: Parkside soundwall letter

Mr. Mayor & Council Members,

Tomorrow the City will be presented the following letter (see below) from Parkside Condos relating to the I-395 VDOT Noise Wall public process. VDOT will be following a federally prescribed process which defines: the affected stakeholders (who have voting rights), the analysis of the noise walls and the types of barriers considered acceptable. Here to for, the City has allowed the State/Federal process to unfold like the Woodrow Wilson Bridge project, and not necessarily taken a position.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me or Rich Baier.

Bill Skrabak



"Sign-up today for Environmental Quality E-news (<https://enews.alexandriava.gov/>) to receive updates on volunteer opportunities and environmental events including the Eco-City Alexandria Project"

email address: william.skrabak@alexandriava.gov

William J. Skrabak, Director, Office of Environmental Quality
Department of Transportation & Environmental Services
City Hall, Room 3000 (Box 66)
301 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Phone: 703-746-4073 or Office number 703-746-4065
Fax: 703-519-8354

From: Elaine Scott
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 4:25 PM
To: Jackie Henderson
Subject: RE: Parkside Noise wall comments for hearing on 11-16 - Thank you!

Jackie,

Let's try it this way:

These comments are formally submitted for your consideration at the 11-16-13 public hearing held by the City of Alexandria concerning VDOT proposed noise abatement walls along Van Dorn in Alexandria.

Parkside formally requests that these comments be read at the public hearing in their entirety and be made part of the formal record of the public hearing on the proposed noise walls scheduled at City Hall on Saturday, 11-16-13.

Parkside at Alexandria condominiums consists of 378 units and circa 1200 residents. We are strongly and unanimously opposed to the erection of ANY noise abatement wall along Van Dorn in front of Parkside. Such a wall is NOT needed and is NOT supported nor justified by any accurate and fair noise level testing on Parkside property by VDOT. VDOT has been formally advised of Parkside's formal opposition to any noise wall for months and before exploratory core drilling was done by VDOT in anticipation of erecting the wall – causing public safety hazards and environmental damage even before VDOT formally surveyed "affected and benefited" properties at Parkside. The Parkside Owners Association and Board feel that ALL 378 units at Parkside and ALL Owners would be severely adversely affected by any wall and NO Owner or property would receive any "benefit" by the erection of the wall.

Parkside for decades – since it was first built in the early 1960s – had an unobstructed view of the green space and mature urban canopy across I-395 from Parkside. All of that beautiful natural environment, including the Winkler Preserve, was devastated by the clear cutting required by the construction of the BRAC-133 facility. Estimates of fair value to replace and restore the many hundreds of lost trees was valued at \$14 million; DoD reimbursed the City only \$1.5 million, an egregious insult to the citizenry as well as the environment. Now, in late 2013, the view Parkside has is only of a monstrosity of a building with no green space or urban canopy to soften it.

Noise walls are erected to reduce traffic noise; the facts in this case are: full occupancy of BRAC-133 has NOT reduced in the greatly increased traffic we feared and it has certainly not resulted in increased levels of traffic noise on either I-395 or N. Van Dorn; any fair and legitimate VDOT noise study will confirm this. VDOT has twice tested for traffic noise on the Parkside property, but has refused to share those noise test results with the Parkside Board or Association. Worse, erecting ANY wall above I-395 along Van Dorn will immediately have the severe adverse affect of reflecting currently abated Van Dorn traffic noise directly back into Parkside homes thereby creating a noise problem where none exists now and where none has EVER existed!

Numerous studies have shown the immediate and severe adverse economic impact on the value of properties facing such walls. Parkside Owners have struggled to retain their property values since the recession in 2008 and are just now in 2013 starting to see them recover. VDOT's proposed walls would once more devastate the salability and value of Parkside units – especially all of those facing Van Dorn.

The proposed walls would be graffiti magnets creating horrible eyesores and requiring million in Alexandria taxpayer dollars to keep clean over time. Tagging by local gangs could even lead to violence right in front of peaceful Parkside homes endangering children, adults and pets. The walls would also immediately create public safety hazards by impairing with driver vision on Van Dorn and endangering pedestrians and cyclists using Van Dorn.

Alexandria traffic engineering study groups have great plans for what they refer to as "Corridor C;" those plans include the widening of Van Dorn to put in dedicated transit lanes in the middle of Van Dorn requiring widening of Van Dorn from Kenmore and Sanger and beyond. That expansion is totally incongruent with the idea of VDOT's noise walls along Van Dorn and will only make an already bad situation worse making Van Dorn seem terribly narrow and crowded with often obstructed sight lines – all without need, purpose or rationale justification.

Worst of all, the proposed noise walls are an obscene waste of taxpayer dollars. Just because we thought these would be needed because of traffic impacts after BRAC was completed and fully occupied – which it now is and has been for

sometime – does not mean that we should now blindly steer a course no longer required based on actual facts. The Moran surface parking cap at BRAC-133 will not be lifted for decades to come. The HOT lanes on I-395 are not coming this far north. VDOT has absolutely NO rationale or fact-based justification for these walls. VDOT is simply blindly following a bureaucratic course charted by idiocracy instead of rationally dealing with current reality.

Parkside respectfully submits these comments and formally petitions VDOT and the City of Alexandria Government to oppose as strenuously as possible this latest travesty occasioned by BRAC-133. The City should NEVER have allowed BRAC-133 to begin with; the City can at least mitigate the damage sustained by citizens of Alexandria by NOT allowing VDOT to erect the proposed noise abatement walls above I-395 along Van Dorn. **Please** do not add this insult to the injury we have already irreversible sustained.

Thank you for your serious consideration of these formal comments. **Parkside formally requests that these comments be read at the public hearing in their entirety and be made part of the formal record of the public hearing on the proposed noise walls scheduled at City Hall on Saturday, 11-16-13.**

For the Parkside at Alexandria Condominiums Association and Board, I am

Sincerely,

Mark J Benedict, J.D. - Sr. Vice President & Public Affairs Officer
Parkside at Alexandria Condominiums Board of Directors

Phone: 202 205-7913 E-mail: mark.benedict@fsis.usda.gov

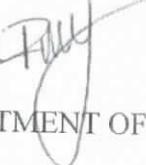
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11-16-13

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: NOVEMBER 15, 2013

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

THROUGH: RASHAD M. YOUNG, CITY MANAGER 

FROM: JEREMY MCPIKE, DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES

SUBJECT: BEATLEY LIBRARY WATER LEAKS UPDATE

This memorandum is a follow up to the concerns raised about the status of improvements to the Beatley Library and the May 1, 2013 Beatley Library Water Leaks memorandum.

Staff from the City Manager's Office and the General Services Department have followed up on the status of the improvements, and I believe we are making progress in our efforts to correct the conditions that have led to various water leaks. Below is a status of the repair of the three primary leak sources that were identified in that memorandum. The local architect that managed the construction administration work for the architect Michael Graves endorsed all planned repairs.

- Repair of Window Flashing – We had learned that the window flashing at the library was installed without the proper window detail by the original construction contractor. Early this year, City contractors were hired to remove all precast material (also referred to as blue stone) from under the windows on the first floor and to install the correct flashing and moisture barrier and to replace all broken window seals. This project has been completed, and water is no longer penetrating the building at slab level.
- Repair of Radiator Valves - The radiator valves throughout the building were found to be leaking near the base of the windows. In some instances it was thought to be a wall or window leak, but was later determined to be bad radiator water valves. This project was completed in October 2013.
- Roof/Gutter seams. Several roof seams have been repaired. In addition, gutter repairs have been made in the Children's Area and so far, there have been no reported leaks. The remaining repairs to the external gutters should begin in the next two weeks. This project will be completed in 30-60 days (weather dependent) following award of the contract.

Funding in the amount of \$565,000 was approved in the FY 2014 capital budget to remedy the building leaks. In addition to the repairs discussed above, the funding will also cover the following projects:

- Brick Point, Tuck, and Caulking – This project will seal other areas of the building with potential water penetration. Proposals are due on November 20th, and we anticipate an award by the end of the month. This project will complete in 60-90 days (weather dependent) following award of the contract.
- Flooring and Painting– Installation of new flooring and painting of areas affected by the water leaks is planned following the completion of the Gutter and Brick Point projects. Since we believe that the leaks have been repaired in the Children’s Area, General Services is working with the Library staff to move forward now to replace the existing flooring and paint this area, before the larger projects are completed.

The attachments are provided for your review. They show active and repaired leaks as well as before and after pictures of cosmetic repairs made following leak repairs.

As a follow up to the 2012 Air Quality (Mold Assessment) test that came back with normal environmental levels, General Services is preparing to contract for another Air Quality Test to ensure that there are no environmental/air quality concerns in the facility. We will also address any outstanding mold issues promptly.

Attachments:

Beatley Leaks First Floor Schematic
Beatley Library Before Leak and After Leak Pictures
May 1, 2013 Beatley Library Water Leaks Memorandum

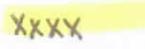
cc: Michele Evans, Deputy City Manager
Rose Dawson, Library Director

MICHAEL GRAVES
ARCHITECT

341 HARBARD STREET
PRINCETON, NJ 08540
TEL: 609 951-6800
FAX: 609 951-1700

LIBRARY ENTRANCE



 - Active Leak
 - Repaired Leak
LEGEND

FIRST FLOOR FURNITURE PLAN
1/12/99



NOTE: DRAWING IS FOR FURNITURE PLACEMENT ONLY.

NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION
01	01.12.99	
02	01.12.99	
03	01.12.99	

PROJECT NUMBER	0010
PROJECT NAME	CENTRAL LIBRARY CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
PROJECT LOCATION	ALEXANDRIA VIRGINIA

FIRST FLOOR
FURNITURE LAYOUT
PLAN

DATE	01.12.99	SCALE	1/8" = 1'
DESIGNER			

FF1

DATE PLOTTED: 01/12/99 10:58 AM

CHARLES BEATLEY CENTER BRANCH LIBRARY

Picture 1 Before



Picture 1 After



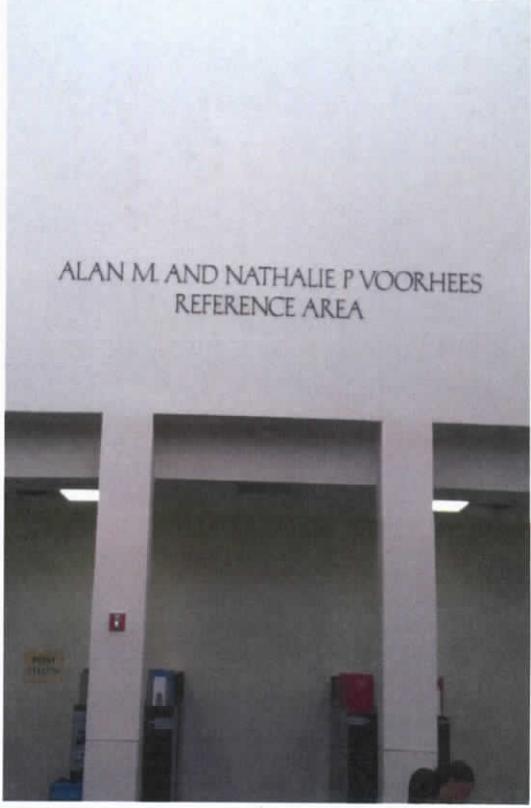
Picture 1 (a) Before



Picture 1 (a) After

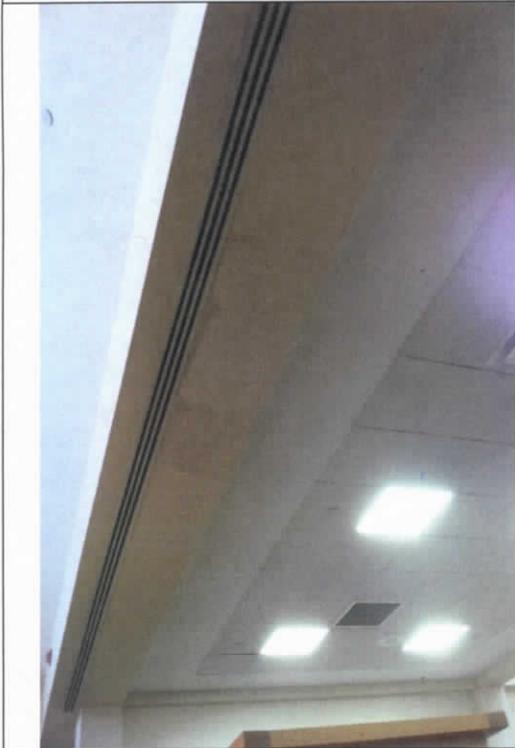


CHARLES BEATLEY CENTER BRANCH LIBRARY

Picture 2 Before	Picture 2 After
	
Picture 3 Before	Picture 3 After
	

CHARLES BEATLEY CENTER BRANCH LIBRARY

Picture 4 Before



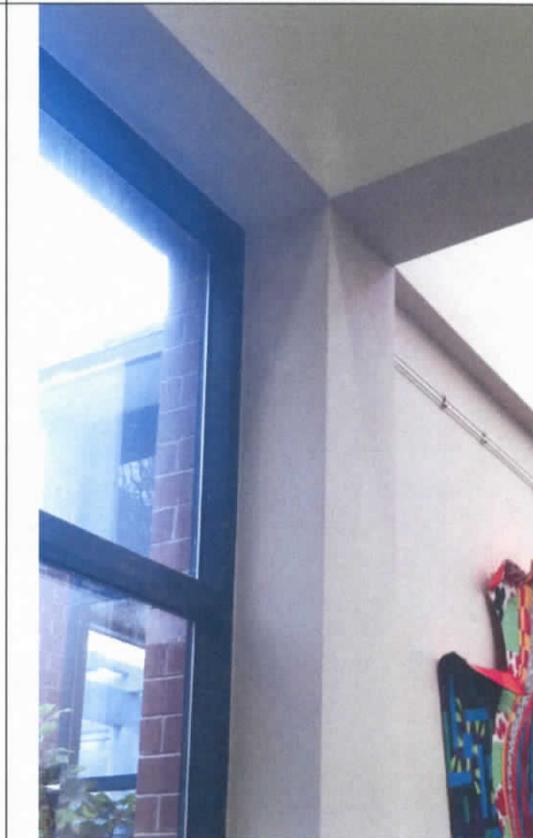
Picture 4 After



Picture 5 Before



Picture 5 After



CHARLES BEATLEY CENTER BRANCH LIBRARY

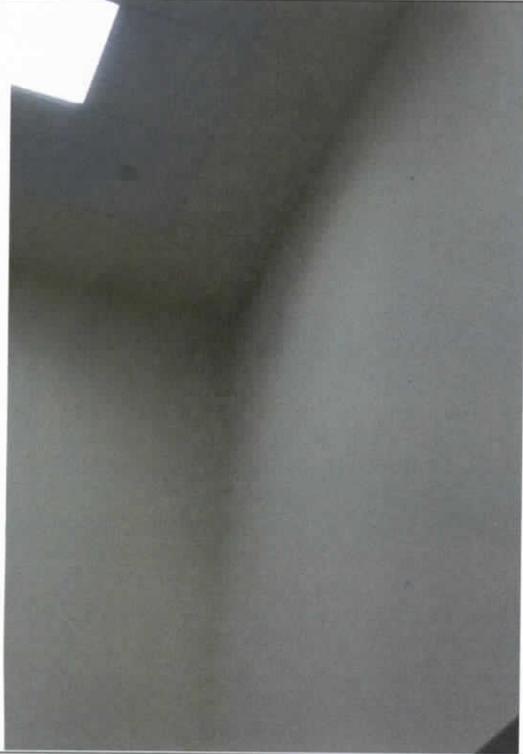
Picture 6 Before



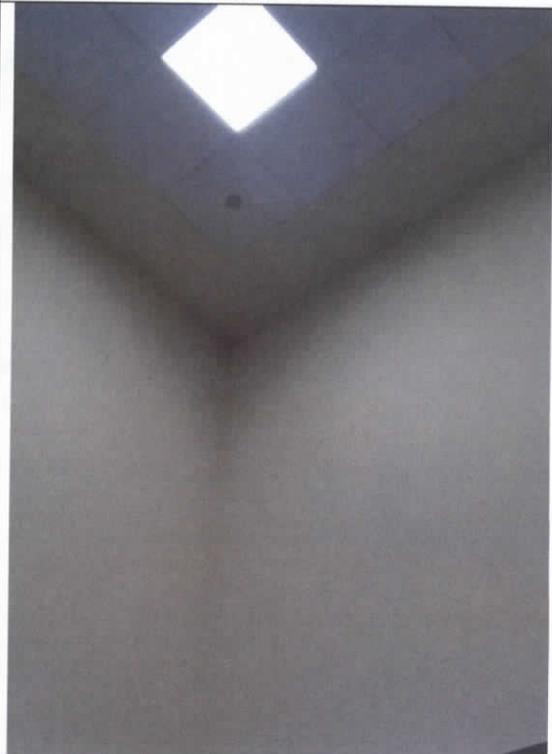
Picture 6 After



Picture 7 Before



Picture 7 After



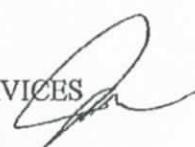
City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MAY 1, 2013

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

THROUGH: RASHAD M. YOUNG, CITY MANAGER 

FROM: JEREMY MCPIKE, DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES 

SUBJECT: BEATLEY LIBRARY WATER LEAKS

This memorandum is provided as a follow-up to the discussion at Council's April public hearing meeting about the status and disposition of leaks at the Beatley Central Library which opened in 2000. Over the last few years staff has identified several sources of roof and window leaks that have been difficult to track down and remedy. Three primary sources have been identified through process of elimination and consultation with the local architect that managed the construction administration work for architect Michael Graves.

The first item was flashing of the windows that were found to have been installed without the proper detail. After removal of some of the exterior block it was discovered that flashing was not installed correctly, and no moisture barrier was installed. City contractors were hired to remove all precast material from under the windows on the first floor and to install the correct flashing, moisture barrier and replace all broken window seals along the first floor. This project has been completed with positive results.

The second item also impacting the difficulty tracking the sources of leaks has been valves that serve radiators throughout the building at the base of windows. In some instances, what was thought to be a wall or window leak was later found to be a bad water valve. In other instances where there were leaks, it was both water valves and window issues. This spring staff is working to replace all the valves in the building.

The third item was the roof seams. Several areas have been repaired and gutters inspected for separation. The building was designed with integrated gutter details making it difficult to track leaks. Roofing contractors have relined the gutters around the Children's Area to address the problem. Since that repair was made several weeks ago, no new leaks have been reported in that section. Additional window and flashing repairs are necessary. Once these repairs are completed, we will replace the carpet and have the interior walls repaired and painted.

Funding in the amount of \$565,000 is proposed in the FY 2014 capital budget for this project. The remaining wall and roof repairs will be completed followed by carpet replacement.

The original contractor involved in construction of the building went out of business several years after project completion. While several subcontractors have honored their warranties many of the areas in question are out of warranty and the statute of limitation on claims has expired since it has been more than 13 years since the library was completed.

NOISE WALLS ALONG VAN DORN STREET

- **VDOT is planning to construct noise walls along Van Dorn St. This entails removing all the trees between Van Dorn St. and I-395 in our neighborhood.**
- **Removal of the trees will affect property values as well as reduce the visual appeal of the trees.**
- **Trees already buffer the sound from 395.**
- **VDOT says it would put in shrubs along the right side of Van Dorn. Shrubs are not well suited to the wear and tear of traffic.**
- **You can weigh in with your concerns about this fast moving VDOT plan by contacting Larry Tomilson @ VDOT and your City Council members.**
- **The \$3,177,660 proposed for the Noise Wall is our tax money. Why not use those funds instead to enhance our neighborhood with more attractive healthier trees and bushes that will screen the traffic, and be pleasant to look at? Instead of building the wall we, as concerned citizens, recommend creating a landscape that enhances the neighborhood.**
- **Following 9/11, DOD built the BRAC building. We lost trees at that site. The Beauregard Plan also calls for loss of more trees. Many, many residents feel very upset about the loss of trees and tree canopy in the area.**
- **So the loss of trees at the BRAC site, and in the Beauregard Plan Area also play into residents sensitivity about the loss of trees on Van Dorn due to the Ramp and the Auxiliary Lane. That is why anything that VDOT can do to address this lost of trees and the green barrier between Van Dorn and 395 is so critical. The loss of trees is important whether we have a Noise Wall or not.**

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My name is Emily Brown.

I live at 701 N. Pegram St. in the Seminary Valley - Brookville neighborhood.

I have lived here for over 30 years. One of the nicest things about our neighborhood is the tree canopy.

Beginning with the BRAC Building, our neighborhood has been treated as a stepchild. Our concerns as a neighborhood have not been addressed.

The latest (but not only) attack on our neighborhood is from VDOT's proposal to remove all the trees along Van Dorn St. and put up noise walls. We do not need or want noise walls. We want to keep out trees along Van Dorn St. They add to the ambience and the value of our neighborhood. Noise Walls will reduce property values.

Testimony On VDOT Proposed Noise Walls on Van Dorn

**City Council Public Hearing,
November 16, 2013, 9:30 AM**

Offered By: Shirley Downs

**Resident KMS Townhouses
1007 North Vail Street
Alexandria VA 22304**

First came BRAC, then the 30 Foot high HOV Ramp into the BRAC building and the Auxiliary Lane that will run from Duke Street to Seminary Road on 395. Now VDOT, the Virginia Department of Transportation, wants to erect Noise Walls along Van Dorn which will be from 15 to 20 feet high, and run from just below Sanger up to Seminary Road. VDOT has indicated that they intend to use the same surfacing as the Noise Walls down at the 395 Springfield Mixing Bowl.

I am a resident who lives in KMS a community of townhouses located at the corner of Van Dorn and Rickenbacker, where Rickenbacker runs under I 395 and becomes Sanger. Our community is right next to the proposed Noise Walls and therefore will be greatly impacted by what takes place on Van Dorn relating to this project. Other homes that will be impacted include: Seminary Towers and the Seminary Towers Garden Apartments owned by Home Properties 840 rental units; the condos of Parkside at Alexandria, 378 units and the Overlook Condos 180 units in back of them; the 100 Hollandtowne Townhouses; the 96 KMS townhouses: the 399 Willow Run Apartments: and the 378 Brookville Townhouses. In total there are 2,375 residences adjacent to the project area which will be impacted. Unfortunately not everyone who lives in this area next to I-395 will have a say about what happens in their community.

The VDOT Noise Study

When the public hearing on the BRAC Ramp was done VDOT produced a Noise Study in December of 2011. Since then VDOT has done another Noise Study but we have not yet received the results. Many of us have asked for copies of the latest study at the October 1, 2013 hearing, and in emails and phone calls. The message was always the same. VDOT said "We can not give you the study because it is in draft form." It was not official or final so it could not be released. We have waited and asked and have now been told that the new Noise Study will go up on their website on or about November 22, 2013. But then we were also told that instead of allowing residents who will be impacted by this project time to examine, digest and weigh this new information and ask questions about the new Noise Study VDOT instead intends to go ahead and send out Noise Wall letters and ballots to the "impacted receptors" (residents) they believe are "impacted" in late November and December.

Because these letters will arrive during the middle of the holidays when people are focused on their families, shopping, and holiday events these letters and the information they contain will not receive the focus and attention the issue deserves. Many feel that this is inappropriate and unfair because residents who are going to be profoundly impacted by the proposal will not have an opportunity to study the New Noise Report. It would be far better and fairer if VDOT would give us an opportunity to see the report and analyze its impact. We need a delay in this process. It would be far better for VDOT to allow us to study this new Noise Report and wait until after the holidays before sending out the letters and ballots relating to the proposed noise wall. This is a matter of informed consent.

The Noise Wall Balloting Process

By law VDOT is required to study the effects of the Traffic Noise and to solicit the views of residents adjacent to the proposed barrier. This is done by placing noise receptors in the area and measuring the impact of the sound. Only those residences within 500 feet of the edge of I 395 will be allowed to vote and not even all of them will be able to vote because of the differing levels of noise that the noise receptors recorded. VDOT has stated that if 50 percent of the "impacted" residences vote in favor of the Noise Wall it will be approved. Those who receive the letters and ballots will have 30 days to respond to VDOT with a YES or No vote on the proposed Noise Walls. But it is not as straight forward as that because after the ballots are returned to VDOT they are subject to a weighted vote analysis. For example homes that have a higher noise volume recorded have more weight and so do the votes of homeowners whose votes receive greater weight than the votes of renters. So not all voters are created equal. This analysis of the various weights assigned to the ballots cast is done by VDOT.

Further this ballot process does not take into account the views of residents who live further than 500 feet from the proposed wall no matter what those residents may hear or think about the traffic noise levels. At the VDOT hearing on the Noise Walls held on October 1, 2013 many residents were upset because they learned that while one neighbor might get to vote someone who lived right next door, or a few doors down from them could not.

This process only considers Traffic Noise. While there are residents who are more concerned about noise, many residents who live adjacent to the proposed wall are more upset about the appearance of the proposed Noise Walls than traffic noise. The visual impact of the walls and aesthetic issues are more important to them. But they have no official way for their views to be registered relating to the visual impact of the proposed walls.

In effect residents feel that they will be disenfranchised because they will not receive ballots from VDOT and will not be able to vote on the proposed Noise Wall. They feel disenfranchised because their votes and their views will not be officially recorded on a ballot in spite of the fact that they live right next door to

the proposed wall. To many residents this feels as if VDOT has cherry picked who has standing and gets to vote on a feature that will impact all residents and they do not think this is fair or very democratic. A one residence one vote balloting process would allow everyone who lives next door to I395 an equal opportunity to register their opinion and vote.

The Appearance of the Proposed Walls.

The proposed walls are 15 feet for most of the way along Van Dorn and would rise to a height of 17 feet at Van Dorn and Kenmore and then rise to 20 feet at Seminary. As the December 2011 Noise Analysis Technical Report accompanying the I-395 Ramp at Seminary Road and Mark Center indicates. Barrier I, the name of the proposed Noise Wall on Van Dorn will be 3,679 feet long along I-395. The total area of the barrier would be 105,955 feet and would cost a total of \$3,177, 660. VDOT has indicated that the contractor for the noise walls wants to use the same material used down at the Mixing Bowl at Springfield. Many residents feel that this is going to be a high, forbidding, ugly, oppressive wall and that it will in fact allow more noise to bounce back on their homes from the traffic along Van Dorn. While other more attractive wall surfaces have been used in other parts of the country to date VDOT has not offered us other noise wall surface choices which might be more attractive to residents.

People fear that such walls could become magnets for graffiti and become even more unattractive very quickly, If the very textured surface of the wall down at Springfield is used it would be very difficult to remove the graffiti from the walls. Other VDOT property such as the walls of the tunnel under Seminary where Van Dorn turns into the Magruders Shopping Mall and the Courtyard Marriot on Kenmore do not provide much reassurance because the VDOT solution to graffiti there has been to paint over it. This creates patches of paint on the wall and is not at all attractive.

The Trees and Landscaping Plan

What residents would like is a beautiful, thick wall of evergreen and hardwood trees along Van Dorn to shield and enhance their view. What they fear they will get is a barren moonscape with no trees or very few stick like trees. Residents who are upset about loosing all the trees pressed VDOT about how many trees are going to come down as a result of this project but they did not get very concrete answers. At the October 1st hearing VDOT representatives were sketchy about how many of the current trees will come down. We do know that all of the trees for 39 feet on each side of Sanger will all be removed to accommodate the bridge or the Auxiliary Lane, which will run from Duke up to Seminary. The Auxiliary Lane will be 12 feet wide and VDOT plans to also have a 9 to 14 foot pull of lane next to the Auxiliary Lane as well. Thus the Auxiliary Lane and pull off area will take additional land from the median. This in turn means that far fewer trees can be planted in this area.

The area available to accommodate such landscaping will vary in width from approximately 35 to 60 feet. Most of it will be a buffer area of about 45 feet from the edge of 395 to the edge of Van Dorn. And in some areas such as intersections there are restrictions on where trees or other landscaping materials can be planted.

What we greatly fear is that VDOT will create a barren moonscape such as we now see down at Turkeycock. The landscaping contract for this project calls for replacing each tree of a 6 inch diameter with one 2 caliper tree, and each tree of 12 inches diameter or more with two 2 caliper trees. This will result in replacing the current green barrier with a pretty dismal landscaping plan. The picture of the proposed noise wall provided by VDOT with a few skimpy trees in front of it is not attractive. Further the landscaping contract with VDOT only calls for a one year warranty on the replacement of any trees that are planted, rather than a three year warranty. This will mean that trees will die and will not be replaced.

Further there are no provisions that we are aware of for a watering plan for the trees that are planted. It is critical that any trees and shrubs that are planted are watered and properly maintained or they will not remain healthy and thrive. We want to plant beautiful trees which enhance our view, provide a tree canopy over Van Dorn and grow rapidly so that they will screen either the traffic on 395 or the proposed Noise Wall.

Either with a Noise Wall or without a Noise Wall we need a much more robust landscaping plan than currently appears to be in place. Since I do not favor a Noise Wall I feel it would be far better to take the \$3,177,660 budgeted for the wall and use it to create a really beautiful landscape plan that would enhance the neighborhood and mitigate some of the damage done to our area because of the Ramp, the Auxiliary Lane and the proposed Noise Wall.

If the Wall is built I still believe the City of Alexandria and VDOT need to do much more to improve the appearance of the area through the selection of a more attractive Noise Wall surface and more thoughtful and dense landscaping.

Economic Impact

I never wanted to live next to an off Ramp or a Noise Wall but as a result of a series of decisions starting with BRAC both may be put into place. People have expressed opposition to Noise Walls because they do not like the way the proposed walls will look, fear they will be magnets for graffiti, and will greatly lower the value of our homes which are most families greatest asset. According to a 2007 article in the International Real Estate Review on "The effect of Noise Barriers on the Market Value of Adjacent Residential Properties" the value of homes adjacent to noise barrier walls may decline as much as 6% in the short run and 9% in the long run. " This kind of decrease in the value of our homes is devastating. For example a home in Hollandtowne recently sold for \$425,000. A 6% reduction in home value would result in a \$25,500 reduction in the homes future resale price in the near term. In the long term a reduction in value of 9%

would result in a loss of \$38,250 on the same property. Reductions of the value of our homes of this magnitude are not chump change. This is not only a tremendous decrease in net worth for residents it will also negatively impact the taxes the City receives.

Homeowners believe that all of the projects that have taken place starting with and because of BRAC have had a negative impact on their quality of life, the appearance of their neighborhood, and the amount of traffic they are experiencing in their daily lives. The traffic projects and plans have all had a dramatic and negative impact on our lives. The view of the 30 foot Ramp from the homes of residents living on Van Dorn is extremely unattractive.

Recommendations and Requests for Assistance From Our Elected Representatives.

- I. Your assistance and support is urgently requested to ask VDOT to allow us to read, digest, review, and ask questions about the most recent Noise Report which we still haven't seen. We encourage you to request time for us to review it after it is posted on their website on or about November 22, 2013. We also seek your support in having VDOT delay sending out the Noise Barrier Letters and Ballots until January after the holiday season. This is much to important a decision to be rushed along without careful deliberation and input by the impacted residents.
- II. Your support for not erecting a Noise Wall if an actual majority of residents who live in the areas next to the wall do not wish it to be built. This would include people who are now prohibited from voting or offering their opinions in the VDOT ballot process.
- III. Your understanding and support in addressing the problems our neighborhood faces as a result of the approval of BRAC, the Ramp, the Auxiliary Lane and if approved the Noise Wall. Whether VDOT acknowledges it or not our property values have been damaged and so has the city's tax base. Your assistance is needed to:
 - a) Request that VDOT only take the 12 feet needed for the Auxiliary Lane itself and not take additional land for a pullover lane of of between 9 and 14 feet. This is all land from the median that we rely on as a barrier buffer between our homes and I-395.
 - b) Request that VDOT and the City work with the community to create a more comprehensive and robust landscaping plan along Van Dorn designed to mitigate the damage caused by cutting

down the trees and creating a landscaping plan that is far more attractive, comprehensive and robust. This would include:

- a. Pressing for changes in the VDOT landscaping contract to provide for a 3 year warranty on the trees that are planted instead of the 1 year warranty currently in place to insure that we do not end up with dead trees that are not replaced.
 - b. Adding more trees to the landscape plan.
 - c. Creating a plan to insure that the trees that are planted are well watered and maintained so that the hardwoods and evergreen plants that are installed will be healthy, and grow rapidly to screen I395 or the wall and enhance our view and tree canopy.
- c) If a Noise Wall is approved request that VDOT provide options that residents could choose from that would make the walls more attractive. Other states and localities have done this.
- d) If there is no Noise Barrier wall but a fence is necessary for safety that you urge that VDOT replace the current chain link fence with one that is more attractive such as a wrought iron fence similar to the one over at BRAC and near the Beatley Library.

BEAUREGARD – Overall





Ground View From Seminary Towers



Aerial View From Seminary Towers

Gary Carr

The Gettysburg Address

November 19, 1863

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11-16-13

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure.

We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live.

It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate -- we can not consecrate -- we can not hallow -- this ground.

The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract.

The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.

It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced.

It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us

-- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause

for which they gave the last full measure of devotion

-- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain

-- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom

-- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Abraham Lincoln

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November 19, 1863

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PHOTOS/ANNA HARRIS

HELPING HANDS Employees with McLean-based Integrity Management Consulting hand out new shoes and books to 15 at-risk preschoolers at the Child and Family Network Centers' classroom in the Chirilagua Cooperative on Monday. "For [our] children, getting something like a new pair of shoes that actually fit can be life changing," said Margaret Patterson, CEO of the organization.

Honoring Lenny Harris

City council renames park in honor of murdered activist

BY DERRICK PERKINS

Jubilation filled the city council chamber Saturday after Alexandria's top elected officials unanimously agreed to rename Braddock Field for slain activist Lenwood "Lenny" Harris.

The room's usually formal atmosphere gave way to bittersweet joy as friends and family remembered Harris, who championed youth, the city's minority population and the impoverished. Harris, 53 when he died, was murdered in 2011.

"I think we've all heard the kind of tremendous impact this extraordinary man had," said City Councilor Del Pepper. "I



Lenny Harris

think that the naming of this field is really going to remind people that his spirit does live on, and the kind of person that he was and the kind of dreams that he had for everyone will live on."

Harris founded Operation Hope (which has become the Lenny Harris Legacy Corp.), a local organization that supported youth programs and ran

the annual One Love Festival. The Del Ray family man also was known for tackling contentious community disagreements head on.

Just months before his death, Harris organized a neighborhood get-together after tensions between Chatham Square residents flared up. Reports of lawlessness in the mixed-income community in north Old Town had left the neighborhood's public housing and minority populations shamed and outraged.

Harris hoped to bring residents of the traditionally black community together with their new neighbors. But in September 2011, Harris hopped into his car and vanished into the night.

His disappearance stumped

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HARRIS

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police and worried family and friends. From the beginning, they believed the longtime activist was in danger.

Though authorities quickly located Harris' discarded phone and circulated images of a tattooed man attempting to use the activist's credit card, a big break in the case eluded investigators until January 2012.

That's when an anonymous tipster led Prince George's County police to a well situated on a vacant lot at the 11900 block of Old Fort Road. Harris was shot and killed after the abduction, and his assailants later dumped his body.

Three men were quickly charged in connection with the

young daughter.

"When I returned home, I was greeted by a bunch of drug dealers, drug users, people to get me high because nobody knew how to deal with a loss or tragedy like that," Suggs said. "But then I met Lenny, who taught me how to grow up, be a man, to face life's situations. He was my sponsor, my mentor, my friend — you know — my brother."

More than honoring Harris, naming the park after the activist will serve as an inspiration to the city's youth, said his brother, Harold Harris.

"This is much bigger than Lenny, and I think about the youth, especially our black American youth. When they grow up, one of the questions we always ask is what do you aspire to be? And a lot of our

“ But then I met Lenny, who taught me how to grow up, be a man, to face life's situations. He was my sponsor, my mentor, my friend — you know — my brother.”

**- Tony Suggs
Motivational speaker and Harris' friend**

slaying: Linwood Johnson, 49; Tyrone Lewis, 26; and Ivan Newman, 20. A Prince George's County jury found Lewis guilty last month on a slew of charges, including first-degree murder, robbery and kidnapping. He will be sentenced November 1.

According to prosecutors, the trio hoped to steal enough money to bail out another friend.

But those who knew Harris did not dwell on the circumstances of his death Saturday. Instead, they recalled his legacy and good deeds.

Tony Suggs, a motivational speaker and one-time top boxer, remembered how Harris pulled him out of a downward spiral following the death of his

black youth do not have any aspirations," Harold Harris said. "[The] youth that pass this field and see Lenny's name, they can say, 'Oh my goodness, I knew him. I can aspire to help someone out like he did.'"

It was a theme others touched upon, including Mayor Bill Euille, who described Lenny Harris as a mentee and mentor in the years they knew each other.

"Lenny certainly had an impact on each and every one of us and will dearly and sorely be missed," Euille said. "But he left us with something; he left us with an inspiration. He left us with hope. He left us with a desire to continue his legacy — and that's important."

Letter to the Editor
Alexandria Times
November 14, 2013

Dear Editor,

I read with interest your front page article on Lenwood “Lenny” Harris (*Honoring Lenny Harris* October 23, 2013). The story describes the renaming of Braddock Field near the Metro in honor of the late civic activist. By a unanimous vote the City Council changed the name of a field, that both symbolically and practically, is at the center of the community. What the article failed to note is the woeful state of repair of the formerly designated Braddock Field.

I knew Lenny Harris. I make no claim of having a close relationship, but I can say with confidence he would count me among his many friends. We are the same age, and he frequently stopped at a business I owned on Mount Vernon Avenue. I also frequented his spot, “Pieces by Lenny”, that he used to run nearby. We had the synergy of interest that made for quick companions. He knew I had a pulse of the community, and we would shoot the breeze, discussed the happenings, and I helped him on a project or two. All that is to say, that he was likely aware of my long-time advocacy for the improvement in the City's running tracks, including the one at the adjacent George Washington Middle School. I can't recall a specific conversation, but his general response would be to “keep on push-in”, eventually my efforts would bear fruit.

If I could say something to him now it might start like “Hey Lenny, they just named the worst field in Alexandria after you.” I would continue by saying “they don't have a plan to improve, it in spite of a pressing need.” He would probably laugh, and nod knowingly. He would expect me to tell it like it is. “Continue the effort”, would likely be his reply, knowing change often comes slowly. I would also tell him that nobody deserves to die like he did, and that there are many people that love and miss him.

Lenny Harris Field and its surrounding environs should to be a place that is representative of the spirit of the person who bears the name. To “serve as an inspiration to the city's youth”, as his brother has said, the area with so much potential needs to become a center of the community. The real honor to Lenny Harris will come when the field designated in his name, and the adjacent fields, fulfills the enormous potential he saw in every child.

Respectfully,

Gary J. Carr

Good Morning. I'm Kathleen Schloeder, chair of the Alexandria Library Board.

Later this morning you are going to hear from the Friends of the Beatley Library about the water damage there. I am here to represent the Board's concern that the pace of the repair project has seemed slow.

We are very grateful to have received the money in this fiscal year's capital improvement budget to make the repairs. We just heard yesterday from General Services that they hope to get a lot of the work done before Thanksgiving. We hope this is so, as the building has suffered more damage in the October rains and we have had to close part of it.

We appreciate the fact that the City Manager has appointed a deputy city manager for special oversight of this project, and General Services has also kept us informed, but we urge that repairs get going before winter weather makes working on the roof difficult.

I also want to give Council a heads up that the library requested capital funds for FY15 in order to renovate the first floor of Burke Library, now that the public schools office is moving out. We are looking forward to having more capacity for Special Collections storage, a larger community meeting room and more study carrels.

Lastly, I just want to mention that we are conducting a needs assessment. We have collected over 3,000 surveys from library users and conducted focus groups with parents, business groups and young professionals. We will have the results in the spring.

TO: Alexandria City Council hearing on Nov. 16, 2013
FROM: Kathleen Burns, 1036 N. Pelham St., Alexandria, VA 22304

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11-16-13

I am a long-time resident of the West End, and it is beginning to feel like our part of town is under siege from outside interests that are ignoring the input from local residents. At the top of this list is the billion dollar state agency, VDOT. Although citizens fund its budget, it continues to ignore their wishes and it seems to lack accountability. If VDOT was an orchestra, we could accuse it of being tone deaf. The latest crusade is to impose Sound Walls in the area around Seminary and #395.

At several recent hearings, VDOT officials refused to make public the private sound wall testing and have told us they will release it---at the same time they mail out letters asking a very limited number of residents to vote. This process is skewed and lacks transparency and honesty. Many of those who will be affected aren't included in the secret formula VDOT is using to decide who can and cannot vote. This is not how a democracy works. They don't even refer to "residents" in their written and oral communication, and view people who live in this area more as collateral damage.

The City Council is composed of people elected to represent their constituents. Their job is not to merely rubber stamp whatever plans VDOT offers. I live in the KMS townhouses and we had to point out to VDOT officials their drawings of the area from Seminary to Sanger were wrong. If you can't even do an accurate map, how can we trust them to create factual plans.

Another sore spot that VDOT officials emphasized is that the agency 'hates to return any money if they have to change plans.' Thus the goal is to forge ahead, period. A case in point are the hundreds of mature trees that line the east side of #395 and Van Dorn. The official said they don't want to change any of the tree plans and said none can be saved. But they hastened to explain they'll all be replaced----with trees that resemble twigs. Given the significantly expanding traffic along #395 due to BRAC and to the VDOT road widening schemes, no thought is given to the impact on Climate Change and Global Warming by denuding once leafy areas. The tree canopy will be no more, and the important role that trees play is removing CO2 from the air will be minimized.

I call on the City Council---in emphatic terms---to direct VDOT to truly listen to the hundreds of West Side residents who want immediate access to the so-far secret studies conducted on these sound walls, and the purported "positive" aspects---which are not documented for the residents. Visual pollution is every bit as viral and sound pollution. We have seen the aberration of clearcutting as vast amounts of greenery are removed along #395---like Sherman marching north, causing ugliness in its wake. We do not wish our many West End neighborhoods to look like the Urban Ghettos that were created when 30-foot high cement sound walls were imposed on the residents living in the Southwest Freeway corridors or in parts of Springfield.

We are aware that several cocky VDOT officials have told us at these hearings---over and over---that these changes are "done deals" and we should basically shut up and fall into line.

This has been an insulting process and one that does little to foster confidence in the pretense that VDOT cares at all about the surrounding communities as they storm ahead. This is not a transparent, open, honest and effective process and I have been disappointed that some of these sessions would even masquerade as "hearings." We can do better and we ask the Council, as our representatives, to insist that a fairer and more equitable voting process be open---and not one limited to a few in certain spots 500 feet from the highway.

Ramming the VDOT plan through on Nov. 22 and then immediately sending out letters to very few "eligible" voters on the Sound Walls makes a farce of an open and transparent form of government. VDOT needs to be reminded that its job is to serve the people, not their own internal goals.

Do not let this go through in its current form!

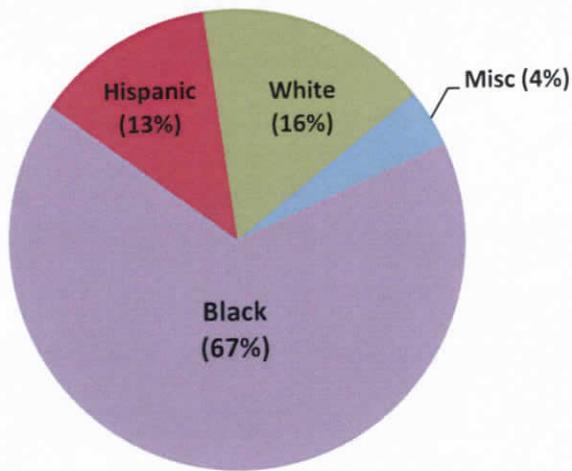
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Leslie Zupan

Jefferson-Houston's Five Year Plan: Success or Failure?

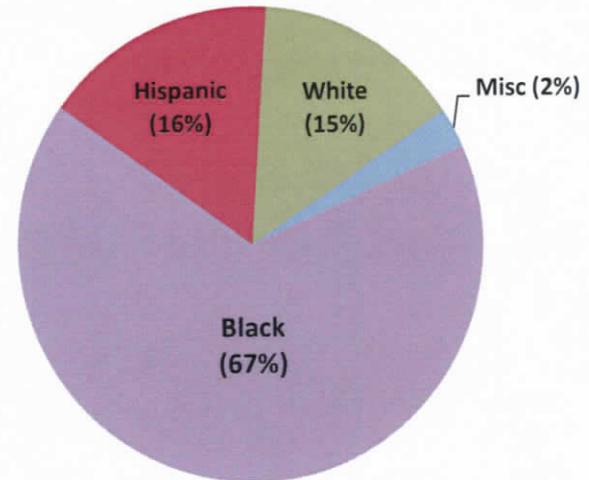
Demographics for All Grades

2007-2008



Children in school year 2007-2008 took the SOL exams spring 2008, achieving AYP under No Child Left Behind and full state accreditation effective school year 2008-2009.

2012-2013



Children in school year 2012-2013 took the SOL exams in spring 2013. The school was not accredited by the state effective school year 2013-2014. This was the fifth successive year without accreditation.

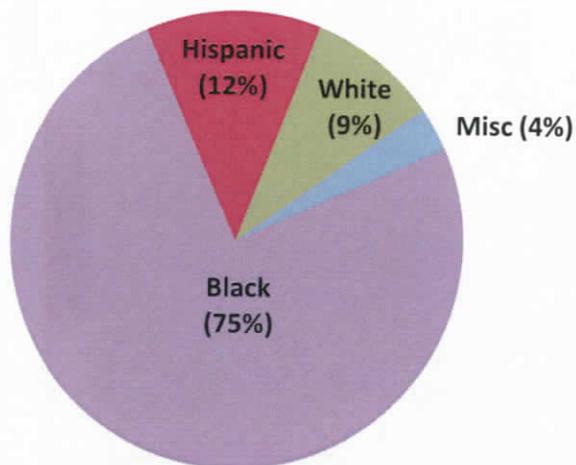
*Grades 6, 7 and 8 added after 2007-2008

Data source: Virginia Department of Education Annual Fall Enrollment Census

Jefferson-Houston's Five Year Plan: Success or Failure?

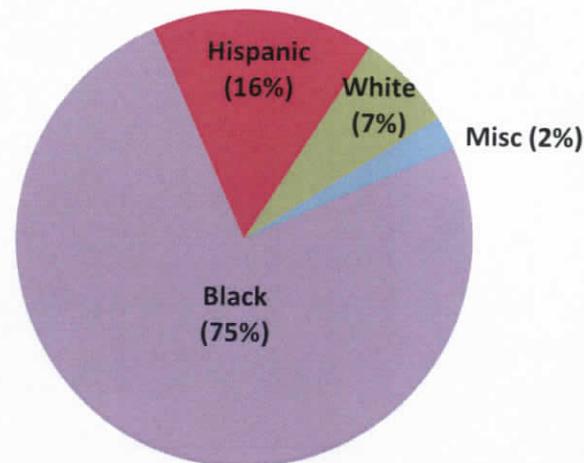
Demographics for Grades 1-5

2007-2008



Children in school year 2007-2008 took the SOL exams spring 2008, achieving AYP under No Child Left Behind and full state accreditation effective school year 2008-2009.

2012-2013



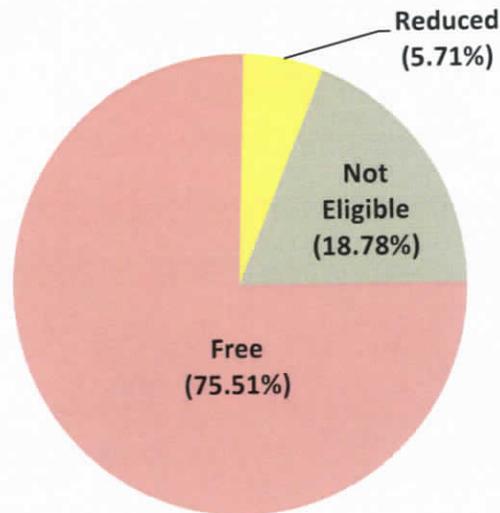
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Data source: Virginia Department of Education Annual Fall Enrollment Census

Jefferson-Houston's Five Year Plan: Success or Failure?

Free and Reduced Meals Eligibility Statistics (Measure of Poverty)

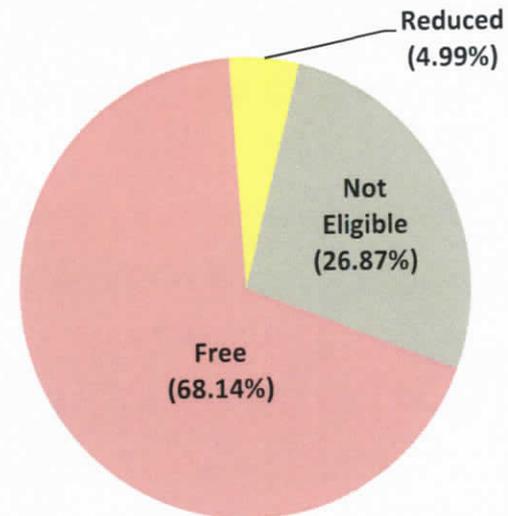
2007-2008



Total Free/Reduced Meals: **81.22%**

Children in school year 2007-2008 took the SOL exams spring 2008, achieving AYP under No Child Left Behind and full state accreditation effective school year 2008-2009.

2012-2013



Total Free/Reduced Meals: **73.13%**

Children in school year 2012-2013 took the SOL exams in spring 2013. The school was not accredited by the state effective school year 2013-2014. This was the fifth successive year without accreditation.

Data source: Virginia Department of Education School Nutrition Program Statistics and Reports

School Name	Grade	FY2012 10/1/2011	FY2013 10/1/2012	FY2014 10/1/2013	FY15 ModOpEn Transfers	FY15 Total Enrollment with MOE Transfers
Jefferson Houston	PK	62	69	52		50
	K	49	60	49		58
	1	40	42	54	4	49
	2	42	39	40		54
	3	29	41	37	2	43
	4	31	31	37		36
	5	42	29	29		39
	6	27	28	28		24
	7	25	15	19		18
8	17	18	11		15	
Jefferson Houston Total		364	372	356	6	386
John Adams	PK	145	128	107		110
	K	139	143	170		164
	1	124	132	149		164
	2	100	110	116		131
	3	121	105	116		114
	4	88	111	106		106
	5	101	91	110		106
John Adams Total		818	820	874		895
Lyles-Crouch	PK					-
	K	90	88	82		94
	1	72	86	83	(4)	80
	2	74	64	75		79
	3	71	60	62	(2)	68
	4	62	72	60		63
	5	46	57	75		57
Lyles-Crouch Total		415	427	437	(6)	441
Matthew Maury	PK					-
	K	79	91	59		83
	1	81	85	93		65
	2	68	64	83		84
	3	54	71	67		87
	4	59	55	67		66
	5	55	56	49		63
Matthew Maury Total		396	422	418		448