

Alexandria City Council,

I am writing in concern
for your proposal to close Engine
Station 204 on Poubatan Street.

Really very concerned that you
would even give this consideration.

A well run government's ^{first} concern
is the well are of their citizens, &
Closing a fire station is not a good
idea.

I am sure in your budget
there must be some "junk" somewhere
you can cut instead of trusting the
safety of your people to Arlington &
the airport.

Over)

I am a 90 year old woman
who has lived in this area all
my life & I always felt safe &
know help was there if needed.

I ask you very sincerely to
reconsider this idea,

Thank you,

Betty J. Kessler

MAR 18 2014

Helen R. Desfosses

400 Madison St, Alex 22314

March 10, 2014

TESTIMONY TO CITY COUNCIL ON
ALEXANDRIA PUBLIC LIBRARY BUDGET

I Good afternoon. My name is Helen Desfosses and I am a member of the Alexandria Library Board. I'm delighted to be here to thank you for your responsiveness in the past to the needs of the Alexandria Library System, and to ask for your responsiveness to our real needs this year.

II BURKE LIBRARY I strongly support the case that Kathleen Schloeder has made for a commitment by the city that the library will take over the first floor to the Burke Library building once the school system has left, and that funds will be provided in the CIP to allow General Services to reorganize the space accordingly. As we all know, the only thing as rare in a city as money is space, and here we are requesting both for the Burke branch. The Burke Library desperately needs that space and the residents of that catchment area deserve an array of services—and space for them—equivalent in quality to what we can provide to residents served by other library branches.

III MATERIALS BUDGET

I also want to make a strong plea for a restoration of funds to our materials budget, and to discuss one population group, Alexandria's entrepreneurs, whose needs symbolize the importance of this request. Last year, I discussed the importance of libraries to young people and to people who are looking for jobs; in fact, I quoted Andrew Carnegie, who called libraries "universities of the streets." This year, I would like to emphasize the importance of libraries to entrepreneurs, people who create jobs. But both groups have told us that they need more materials at our libraries, and they need them to be open more hours.

Fortunately for all of us who care about the economic growth of the city of Alexandria, the group of entrepreneurs is growing. As a result of the outstanding customer satisfaction survey administered by the library system this past year—and the focus groups that were convened to discuss these results—we found out how much new entrepreneurs are relying on the services and materials of our public libraries to establish, create, and grow their new businesses. They told us how much they appreciate what our library branches can provide to entrepreneurs; as one printed source put it, “if you’re on the hunt for business development services, don’t overlook your local public library. There, you may find] facilities, resources and other positive benefits that come at the right price for a fledgling entrepreneur—free!”

So let’s look in detail at some of the ways that our libraries have been serving Alexandria’s entrepreneurs:

- a) Facilities—we can’t underestimate the importance of the free and available wi-fi that we provide, which is particularly important to the new entrepreneurs just starting out. As one report stated, “many a would-be businessperson, lacking the funds for an office, has set up camp in the quiet confines of the library.” We have meeting spaces for these entrepreneurs as well, meeting spaces that can be used for lectures, finance book clubs, grant-writing teams, and informal networking groups. We need our branches to be open more hours in order to respond to the needs of entrepreneurs, who are often working day and night on their great ideas.
- b) Materials—our libraries have a business section with materials that can help entrepreneurs young and old to envision a business, develop and research a concept, construct the business and marketing plans, do the competitive analysis, raise funds and locate people, and keep up with the all-important legal and tax laws that need to be honored.

Restoring our materials budget will help us to keep these critical materials current and up-to-date. Resources for business start-ups are not cheap,

and must be up-to-date. They include books, newspapers and periodicals on business planning, demographic and financial databases, as well as annuals and almanacs to provide “guidance on financial planning, one of the most daunting tasks for new entrepreneurs.”

I was proud and delighted to hear that focus groups of business and community leaders in our city of Alexandria have noted the role that our library branches have played in supporting entrepreneurs and reinforcing that all-important connection between them and economic recovery. We have expanded services to people who are looking for jobs; now let’s expand our hours and our attention to the needs of people who are creating jobs—entrepreneurs in fields like technology, restaurants, design, writing, and the finance industry, to name just a few.

Entrepreneurs are risk-takers, they are agents of change, they are growing in importance as employers and taxpayers. They are also growing in importance as patrons and beneficiaries of the Alexandria public library system. Please restore the proposed \$30,000 cut in our book and materials budget—a book budget that has not grown since FY06—in order that we can help them even further. It was once anticipated, as the New York Times pointed out in an article last Saturday, that “in the digital age, libraries—those hushed sanctuaries of the past—had gone the way of the Postal Service.” Instead, they have become even more important to groups like our entrepreneurs “for a variety of reasons, librarians say, including the recession, the availability of new technology, and because libraries have been reimagining themselves.”

As one librarian put it, libraries have long facilitated the “finding” of information. “Now they are facilitating the creating of information,” and I would emphasize, the creating of more jobs by our city’s impressive entrepreneurs.

THANK YOU.

3/12/2014
Wednesday

MAR 18 2014

An Open Letter to All City Council Members:

This is an Open Letter in regards to the shutting down of Engine Company 204 as proposed for the Budget. A drastic cut like this has to be considered 3 or 4 times over by all Parties involved. I think if we had another 9/11 or impelling local emergency, this area could be lost.

A lot of Senior Citizens, Afro-Americans & Latino-Americans would be affected by this closure. It would be harder for them to get the beginnings of adequate treatment in personal crisis or emergency situations. It would be harder for me to get timely and effective treatment with adequate health care needed ASAP in a case of personal crisis. I am sure people on SSDI or Retirement benefits would be losing a vital service.

Please consider this Option for Cutting the Budget several times and please do not make a rash judgement.

Sincerely,
Bill Kingston,
A Concerned, Disabled & Aging
Alepeandian

Jackie Henderson

From: john.scalia@att.net
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 6:16 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #47806: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council Last week I e-mailed regarding the closi

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 47806.

Request Details:

- Name: John Scalia
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 202-664-0846
- Email: john.scalia@att.net
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council
- Request Description: Last week I e-mailed regarding the closing of Station 204. One of you e-mailed back to say that Station 204 was not closing only that the Engine 204 was moving over to the Cameron Station area. Attached is an excerpt from the NorthEast Civic Association Newsletter that indicates that LADDER 204 and the EMS supervisor will also move once Station 205 is rebuilt. I don't like to call a prevaricator a LIAR but when the word fits, well lets not used SAT-level words when kindergarten words will do.

Just be honest with people. Close the station. Sell the land to a developer and generate some revenue from it.
- Attachment: <http://request.alexandriava.gov/GeoReport/UploadedFile.ashx/jpg/593930fb-437f-4fa8-9dc1-e999d43f0dad>
- Expected Response Date: Friday, March 21

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at the *Call.Click.Connect.* staff interface.

If you need assistance with handling this request, please contact CommunityRelations@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.HELP.

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Jackie Henderson

From: jonesmjones@live.com
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 9:36 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #47810: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council Hello Mayor Euille and City Council,Re

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 47810.

Request Details:

- Name: Randy Jones Sr.
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: (301) 379-0234
- Email: jonesmjones@live.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council
- Request Description: Hello Mayor Euille and City Council,
Recently I was notified that my position has been selected for the RIF in the upcoming 2015 proposed budget. I have attended the last two city council meetings and noticed that in the last meeting everyone has a support group e.g. (Police / Fire / Recreation Centers) but I was the only person in my division that was selected for the RIF and I have this enormous uphill climb by myself to remain to be a dedicated city employee.
*More with less, I have always had to utilize this practice, I worked 19 yrs, 12 years as the Waterfront Supervisor overseeing the safety and maintenance of all the parks along the waterfront with 2 seasonal staff, the next season I convinced my management to give me an opportunity to save the department valuable funding that was going towards the mowing contractor with a new standard of quality turf maintenance. That was the beginning of the beautiful turf in Founders Park and Oronoco Bay Park that host a majority of the City functions and events. That successful turf management program lead to the all of the improvements in the areas Waterfront Parks.

My dedication to the city has involved many projects, including the flood clean-up and weather related emergencies, I also worked along with the special events department to prepare and support for basically all of the events along the Waterfront for my entire 19 year tenure. I feel that I have been pushed out of the area that I have dedicated my services for 19 years and would like to continue my services even if I have to relocate at another capacity in the city if necessary.

I would like to request the honorable mayor and council to reconsider the funding for my position or consider to transfer me to another department in due faith to my admirable service that I have presented over the years.

I have many accolades that can sustain my claims from every City Manager from Vola Lawson to Mr Young, the letters of commendation from the Waterfront citizen have always been my driving force to customer service throughout my tenure with the recreation department.

I appreciate your time,

Randy Jones, Waterfront Supervisor
1108 Jefferson Street
Alexandria VA 22314
randy.jones@alexandriava.gov
Office 703-746-5486
Mobile 571-238-0301

- Expected Response Date: Friday, March 21

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at the *Call.Click.Connect.* staff interface.

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Jackie Henderson

From: jmb.beaver@gmail.com
Sent: Saturday, March 15, 2014 12:30 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #47816: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council Dear Mr. Mayor and Alexandria City Council

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 47816.

Request Details:

- Name: Julie Beaver
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: No Phone
- Email: jmb.beaver@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council
- Request Description: Dear Mr. Mayor and Alexandria City Council Members,

I am writing to ask you to please not close Engine 204 on Powhatan Street. I live in the condo section of Old Town Greens. There are 128 condos in my community alone. Everyone has a covered deck on which they are allowed to grill. A fire could start at any moment if one is not careful. Chances are that a fire would not damage one condo but the entire block of condos. Response time is critical.

Please keep the population density in mind when you are discussing the closing of Engine 204. Old Town Greens is just one of many communities in North Old Town.

Please consider all alternatives, including higher taxes, before closing Engine 204.

Thank you.

Regards,

Julie Beaver

- Expected Response Date: Monday, March 24

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at the [Call.Click.Connect. staff interface](#).

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Jackie Henderson

From: Jlachance@sla.org
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 3:40 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #47787: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council 14 March 2014 Dear Mayor Euille and M

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 47787.

Request Details:

- Name: Janice Lachance
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 703-647-4933
- Email: Jlachance@sla.org
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council
- Request Description: 14 March 2014

Dear Mayor Euille and Members of the City Council,

As a longtime resident of Alexandria since 1991, an attorney, and the CEO of the Special Libraries Association (a global information organization of 8,000 members headquartered in Old Town), I urge you not to eliminate the city's portion of the funding for the Alexandria Law Library as proposed in the city budget for FY 2015.

The Alexandria Law Library is an excellent example of public and private partnerships and moneys, and a model that should be replicated rather than eliminated. It is a successful, 35-year old venture between Alexandria Bar Association and the City of Alexandria, who have divided responsibilities and funding to provide critical resources and support to its citizenry and area businesses.

It is my understanding that the physical Alexandria Law Library might remain open as it is supported by the Alexandria Bar Association, but without a professional law librarian to staff the facility, as the position is subsidized by the city.

This would be a critical error. A law librarian is a crucial resource to the citizens of Alexandria and those who utilize the court (by choice or demand). The public rely not only on timely access to information, but also on the professional librarians, who proactively collect, analyze, and disseminate information necessary for accurate decision making. What good is a room filled with books and computer access to specialized databases if there is no one to teach, coach, coordinate, direct, and navigate the legal issues for the patrons? Who would guide our fellow citizens to the appropriate, current, validated resources other than a professional law librarian? How could we expect average citizens to walk in off the street and be able to decipher densely written law books, case law, and complex databases intended to be used by educated professionals?

Understandably, these difficult economic times require hard decisions and budget cuts, but it is imperative to fully understand the impact of these cuts beyond the immediate goal of saving money. What will the impact be when a distressed citizen is seeking basic resources for a divorce, and has no idea where to start? Where does an uninformed citizen turn when they are faced with a legal issue they must research, but have few or no financial resources? The Alexandria Law Library provides this critical resource for everyone, all our neighbors, and serves as an information safety net for those most vulnerable.

The ongoing economic climate has affected everyone and every municipality, and tough decisions must be made. But these decisions must be made prudently, with an eye on the future and the needs of all Alexandria's citizens. As brutal and unfortunate as the budget cuts can be, it is crucial that the City of Alexandria remain committed to excellent access to services and professional guidance for its citizens. If the funding for the one position for a law

librarian is eliminated, it is much more than reducing a service by 5%, 10% or even 50%—it 100% eliminates the service. There would be no well-informed library professional to provide needed help to Alexandria's citizens.

I urge you to reconsider this proposal and seek alternative ways to save money while retaining funding for the Alexandria Law Library and its professional staff.

Janice R. Lachance, CEO
Special Libraries Association

Email: Jlachance@sla.org
Phone: 703-647-4933

- Attachment: <http://request.alexandriava.gov/GeoReport/UploadedFile.ashx/pdf/a7a1afb9-ba23-4b5a-beab-18066bef1412>
- Expected Response Date: Friday, March 21

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14 March 2014

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I urge you to reconsider this proposal and seek alternative ways to save money while retaining funding for the Alexandria Law Library and its professional staff.

Sincerely yours,



Janice R. Lachance, CEO
Special Libraries Association

Email: Jlachance@sla.org
Phone: 703-647-4933

Jackie Henderson

From: plborn@msn.com
Sent: Sunday, March 16, 2014 5:52 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #47839: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council No descriptive text provided

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 47839.

Request Details:

- Name: Peter & Judy Born
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 703-338-2902
- Email: plborn@msn.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council
- Request Description: No description provided.
- Attachment: <http://request.alexandriava.gov/GeoReport/UploadedFile.ashx/docx/a1891701-867a-47e2-a9c7-768fdd1443bf>
- Expected Response Date: Monday, March 24

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As a resident of Powhatan Street across from Engine Company 204, I have watched an explosion of new building. It therefore follows that we have had and are continuing to have a large increase in the population. All of those residing in this area and all of Old Town should have an unwritten guarantee that there are adequate resources to meet public safety needs. To reduce the capabilities of 204 company is inexcusable and frankly I don't understand how the city council can justify this action. Our area must rely on another company which adds to response time and jeopardizes the safety of the firemen and the public. Time is paramount in fires but especially in an area primarily populated by row houses.

It would seem only just that a major portion of the new tax monies in our growing area be used primarily for the good of the residents that populate that area. We ask for no more than fairness in providing for the good of all residents, no matter what section.

Thank you for your attention.

Peter and Judy Born
935 Powhatan St
Alexandria 22314

Jackie Henderson

From: joseph.mansour@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, March 16, 2014 5:14 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #47837: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council I've recently moved to the neighborhood

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 47837.

Request Details:

- Name: Joe Mansour
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 202-431-4844
- Email: joseph.mansour@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council
- Request Description: I've recently moved to the neighborhood of Warwick Village from Washington DC and while I adore my new community, I'm deeply concerned by the recent city budget that does not fund Warwick Pool for 2015.

I urge the City Council to reconsider this action, and continue to allocate funds for the public pool.

I've visited the pool frequently over the past two summers and always seen it crowded with Alexandrians young and old. It would be a shame to deny so many taxpayers the pleasure of a swim on a sweltering summer day.

It'd be penny-wise and pound foolish to not keep an existing pool open -- but it'd also be disservice to our residents. Closing Warwick Pool will mean a poorer quality of life, for those - like myself, who call Warwick Village home.

Respectfully,

Joe Mansour
2929 Landover St.

- Expected Response Date: Monday, March 24

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at the [Call.Click.Connect. staff interface](#).

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Jackie Henderson

From: kirby.reiling@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, March 16, 2014 9:47 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #47849: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council Dear City Council Members, Because I

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 47849.

Request Details:

- Name: Kirby Reiling
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 9376267278
- Email: kirby.reiling@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council
- Request Description: Dear City Council Members,

Because I won't be able to attend Monday's Council meeting, I am writing to express how important Warwick Pool is to me and the whole Del Ray/Alexandria community. I live in Warwick Village, and the pool is such an important element of our neighborhood. It is one of the reasons my wife and I were attracted to living in this area. Now, so many of the swimming facilities in Alexandria have been closed, I worry there are fewer and fewer places for families like ours to spend a day at the pool. Furthermore, Warwick Pool and the pool house are not just a swimming place, but a community hub and meeting spot. If the pool were to close, this community linkage would be hurt, even though it is precisely this sense of community that makes the area so desirable—and therefore so attractive to developers. Meanwhile, a vacant pool facility would be a risk and a blight on the neighborhood. I realize there are budget realities and structural concerns (and I would like to thank Council Member Wilson for helping to explain the scope of the issues and otherwise being a champion on this issue), but surely there is a way to make the ends meet to keep such a vital community asset operational. Please make sure the final city budget includes adequate funding for Warwick Pool this year and into the future. Thank you for your consideration and public service.

Regards,
Kirby

- Expected Response Date: Monday, March 24

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at [the *Call.Click.Connect.* staff interface.](#)

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Jackie Henderson

From: pollyjmo@verizon.net
Sent: Sunday, March 16, 2014 9:49 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #47850: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council Dear Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Silberberg

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 47850.

Request Details:

- Name: Polly Morrison
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 7035819893
- Email: pollyjmo@verizon.net
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council
- Request Description: Dear Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Silberberg and City Council Members:
I'm writing to request your support to keep Warwick Pool open. As a long-time resident of Alexandria, and Warwick Village in particular, my family and I have used the Warwick Pool for many years and look forward to doing so again this year. It's an asset not only to Warwick Village, but to nearby neighborhoods as well and provides a valuable community recreation outlet during the hot summer months in our area. I urge you to support the necessary budget allocation to keep this pool open.

Thank you very much,
Polly Morrison

- Expected Response Date: Monday, March 24

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Jackie Henderson

From: mdanforth2@comcast.net
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 9:00 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #47730: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council The Commission on Aging has identified a

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 47730.

Request Details:

- Name: Mollie Danforth
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 703-370-9454
- Email: mdanforth2@comcast.net
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council
- Request Description: The Commission on Aging has identified a budget cut proposed that seems wrong to me. Cuts to senior taxi service are proposed that will save only \$60,000. Many seniors when pushed will probably chose to become DOT users so the City won't save money. Also, for the safety of all citizens programs that make it easier for seniors to give up driving as they lose skills should be encouraged. Providing alternatives to driving will make us all safer.
- Expected Response Date: Thursday, March 20

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Jackie Henderson

From: stewartjarrett@comcast.net
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 9:18 AM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #47655: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council I am a City of Alexandria resident and p

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 47655.

Request Details:

- Name: Stewart Jarrett
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 7032120479
- Email: stewartjarrett@comcast.net
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council
- Request Description: I am a City of Alexandria resident and parent with a daughter attending Samuel Tucker Elementary School. I am writing the full council and executive today to raise my voice in support. As a parent that is active in my community and local school, I support the full-funding of our educational system at the level our trusted superintendent, Dr. Crawly, recommended. I do this knowing that there is not an endless supply of funds available and that tough budgetary decisions must be made.

Contrary to our collective American beliefs, we do not have "the best" school and healthcare systems in the world. Americans are asking ourselves to step up to the plate and recognize these hard truths and make the tough decisions to put us in the right direction. There is no better forward-thinking decision than to invest in our most precious resources – our children. We have the power to make that commitment to them and our children have the obligation to live up to our belief in them. If we set the right example of believing and investing in them, they will learn from us and continue to make the tough decisions themselves to ensure this commitment lives on for their children.

I do not envy the council and executive being in a position of such power. As I've said, they are no easy answers. I do know that it helps to keep a clear mind as to what is important to carry us forward as a thriving community. Allow us to invest in all our children, The ROI will benefit not only us, but their children as well. Isn't that clear enough?

Stewart Jarrett
261 Cameron Station Boulevard
Alexandria, VA 22304

- Expected Response Date: Thursday, March 20

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at [the *Call.Click.Connect.* staff interface](#).

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Jackie Henderson

From: dillard.daria@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 2:20 PM
To: Jackie Henderson
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #47704: City Clerk and Clerk of Council March 13, 2014Dear City Council and

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 47704.

Request Details:

- Name: Daria Dillard
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: No Phone
- Email: dillard.daria@gmail.com
- Service Type: City Clerk and Clerk of Council
- Request Description: March 13, 2014

Dear City Council and Mayor Euille,

I write this letter fully aware of the current budget situation but believe that no one on the City Council would allow such an oversight to occur at the expense of the health and safety of our children.

The Armistead Boothe Park Construction project begins next week and I have had the opportunity to attend multiple pre-construction meetings as PTA President of Samuel Tucker ES and as a parent of a third grader. Of major concern is the final plans for the children's play areas, which are located close to the street and do not include a surrounding protective fence.

It is my understanding that the plans previously approved and funded by both the City Council and the School Board had a protective fence, which would encircle the new play areas. Who from the City approved the work order for an item of this magnitude to be eliminated from the project? Who will be responsible and held accountable should a child run into the street since they are positioned right next to the school's parking lot? Why were parents not notified prior to the week before construction that an item that is important for the protection and safety of their children would not be budgeted?

I have been working with the project manager and worry that the proposal for a temporary fence will not materialize when the construction exceeds its budget as almost all projects do. I also was told this fact at our preconstruction meeting last night. In addition, after speaking with the Campagna director at Tucker, she informed me of a city ordinance that restricts Campagna children from utilizing a play area that is not surrounded by a fence when it is a certain yardage from the road. Can you please check this city ordinance because if that is the case our Campagna kids will have no outside playground?

I am asking the city to investigate why a major change was authorized without notification to all parties. I also would like to know if the city can provide the additional \$49,000 that is needed to construct the fence that was in the original park plans. Thank you very much for your assistance with this matter.

Signed,

Daria Dillard, a concerned parent

- Expected Response Date: Thursday, March 20

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at the [Call.Click.Connect. staff interface](#).

If you need assistance with handling this request, please contact CommunityRelations@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.HELP.

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Jackie Henderson

From: mariamercedes.white@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 12:16 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #47606: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council I am writing to request that Fire Depart

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 47606.

Request Details:

- Name: Maria Mercedes White
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 703-739-0511
- Email: mariamercedes.white@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council
- Request Description: I am writing to request that Fire Department Engine 204 in Powhatan Street, not be relocated. Relocating this fire station will (1) leave a large number of North Old Town residents without a fire station. I personally have found comfort in knowing that they are close to my residence. They have come many times to help me with my almost 100-year-old mother when she has fallen and they are here in no time when there is a fire in the building. When the fire alarm goes off, I know that the fire trucks from Powhatan are not far behind. (2) If the plan is that the fire station at Potomac Yard will cover North Old Town, I believe you are putting a tremendous burden on that station, given the extraordinary amount of residential buildings coming up in the Yard. (3) Eisenhower Avenue is not close to North Old Town and all trips from this location will always face the high possibility of traffic in the City, particularly Duke Street. Please consider this decision carefully because this decision involves the lives of many residents. Thank you so much for listening.
- Expected Response Date: Wednesday, March 19

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at [the *Call.Click.Connect.* staff interface](#).

If you need assistance with handling this request, please contact CommunityRelations@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.HELP.

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Jackie Henderson

From: dalesanders@sanders.org
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 2:13 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #47620: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council RE: Budget-Objection to Law Library Defu

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 47620.

Request Details:

- Name: Dale Edwin Sanders
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 7038371650
- Email: dalesanders@sanders.org
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council
- Request Description: RE: Budget-Objection to Law Library Defunding

I write to voice my objection to the plan to eliminate funds for the law library. The law library and its librarian are valuable resources to the residents and business owners of this city, all of whom pay taxes to live or work here (gross receipts tax, personal property tax, real estate tax).

"Relative value" should be measured not only in the context of direct benefit to the user, whether legal or non legal, but also in consideration of the indirect benefit to the city resident or business represented by the lawyer using the library.

I have enjoyed the practice of law in this enlightened city for over 36 years, either in small law firms or as a sole practitioner. With rare exception, I represent individuals in disputes with institutional authority- employment law, civil rights, privacy law, personal injury, criminal defense. Opposing counsel are among the largest firms in the region, or the government, usually with resources that exceed my ability to match. Perhaps you have heard the expression: "zero for claims, millions for defense"; well, in this day of so called "tort reform", it is more true than ever before.

As you may have surmised, I am a regular user of the library. On nearly every visit I see members of the general public using it, and interacting with a patient and engaging librarian, Christine Hall. She has been of great assistance to me and others (both young and old) as we navigate the magnificent online westlaw system, she has installed.

Like it or not our city is a litigation hub of a great diversity of court systems:

- 1) The Circuit Court for the City in which 7 full time judges ably manage multiple daily busy dockets.
- 2) The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Va is based here-with the nationally renowned "rocket docket".
- 3) The Federal Bankruptcy Court is located in the old Post Office Building on Washington Street.
- 4) The US Patent and Trademark Office is based here.

When the new Federal Courthouse was built Judge Albert V. Bryan Jr., decided against the allocation of space and budget for a law library-presumably because he knew that need was met by the existing law library. The courthouse was named for his father.

All of the Northern Virginia suburban and exurban courthouses have managed to fund at least one full time librarian and a law library. These libraries in Manassas, Leesburg, Fairfax, and Arlington all support only one courthouse each. To eliminate this vital public service would be a grave mistake of enormous consequence.

- Expected Response Date: Wednesday, March 19

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at the **Call.Click.Connect.** staff interface.

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Jackie Henderson

From: Sam Davidson <s.davidson.c@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 9:43 AM
To: Jackie Henderson
Subject: Fire Engine 204 (budget comment)

Ms. Henderson,

I was given your email address when I called City Council. Since the town hall meetings are during the work day, I am instead writing to express my opposition to potentially closing Fire Engine 204 on Powhatan Street in light of budget constraints. This proposal is disturbing and not in the best interest of the health and safety of Alexandria residents.

Please be so kind as to forward my comments to the appropriate City Council members and/or Mayor.

Thank you,
Samantha Davidson

Jackie Henderson

From: bethlyone@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 4:35 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #47509: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council I am writing to urge you to fully fund S

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 47509.

Request Details:

- Name: Beth Richardson
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 703-370-7522
- Email: bethlyone@aol.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council
- Request Description: I am writing to urge you to fully fund Superintendent Crawley's school budget request. The requested budget amount is necessary to maintain current programs in light of the steadily increasing enrollment. As the parent of a sophomore at TC Williams, I do not want a decrease in current staffing cause disruption to the current stable situation that Ms. Maxey and her staff have worked so diligently to achieve.

Docket #142302

- Expected Response Date: Tuesday, March 18

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Jackie Henderson

From: melynda.wilcox@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 7:41 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #47537: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council Dear Mayor Euille and City Council Membe

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 47537.

Request Details:

- Name: Melynda Wilcox
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 703-549-3865
- Email: melynda.wilcox@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council
- Request Description: Dear Mayor Euille and City Council Members: Switching hats from schools to pools, I am writing to let you know how pleased the Advocates for Alexandria Aquatics are that the CIP budget continues to reflect a significant planned investment in our aquatics facilities. We are concerned about the imminent closing of Warwick for this summer, given the construction surrounding the Old Town pool and the lack of other outdoor pools to serve our children and families. But we are also concerned about minimizing future unwise investments in the existing pool and urge you to carefully consider the most prudent course for that facility in the years ahead. As we await the results of the Chinquapin feasibility study, we are excited about the prospects of applying for one of the 2016 USA Swimming Olympic Qualifying Pools, which are state-of-the-art pools that are sold to local jurisdictions at deep discount after the Olympic qualifying is completed. We will be sharing additional information and timelines with you as soon as we have it. In the meantime, our membership is now up to around 150, with another 200 to 300 on our email list for regular updates. Thank you for your support of aquatics and increasing recreational opportunities for all ages in our city.
- Expected Response Date: Tuesday, March 18

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at the *Call.Click.Connect.* staff interface.

If you need assistance with handling this request, please contact CommunityRelations@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.HELP.

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Jackie Henderson

From: tumsdai@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 8:49 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #47539: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council Please fully fund the superintendents 7.

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 47539.

Request Details:

- Name: Daina Tums
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: No Phone
- Email: tumsdai@yahoo.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council
- Request Description: Please fully fund the superintendents 7.4 million school budgets. Our schools really need it.
- Expected Response Date: Tuesday, March 18

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at the *Call.Click.Connect.* staff interface.

If you need assistance with handling this request, please contact CommunityRelations@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.HELP.

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Jackie Henderson

From: rgoldberg1@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 9:39 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #47540: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council I am writing to request that the city co

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 47540.

Request Details:

- Name: Rachel Goldberg
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: No Phone
- Email: rgoldberg1@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council
- Request Description: I am writing to request that the city council keep funding for schools at the same level per student as in prior years (an increase of \$2.4 million over the current council proposed amount). Thank you.
- Expected Response Date: Tuesday, March 18

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at the *Call.Click.Connect.* staff interface.

If you need assistance with handling this request, please contact CommunityRelations@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.HELP.

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Jackie Henderson

From: nancysalemi@apta.org
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 7:39 AM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #47545: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council Mr. Mayor and Members of CouncilI am

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 47545.

Request Details:

- Name: Nancy Salemi
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: No Phone
- Email: nancysalemi@apta.org
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council
- Request Description: Mr. Mayor and Members of Council

I am a Facilities Director for an Association of 3 buildings on North Fairfax Street. As much as I cringe during our inspections by the Fire Marshalls, I just cannot understand the city's position on wanting to eliminate Engine 204. The fact that they are located in such close proximity to us brings a very real sense of security to the area. I also have lived in the affected area since moving to Alexandria, 29 years ago. Over the years, Engine 204 has always been there for us. EMT's have responded to two family emergencies, saved a dog while battling a house fire 2 doors down and also responded to numerous emergencies at the workplace. Heck my dog even learned to howl by listening to them ride down the street. I'm sure I speak for all of us in the area that this would be a huge mistake to close Engine 204. I question the City's rationale if they REALLY have the taxpayers best interest at heart. They keep building more housing to bring more and more people into the area yet they want to take away something so vital that would keep them safe?? I respectfully request that you reconsider this action.

Nancy Salemi
Concerned Resident and
Director of Facilities Management
American Physical Therapy Association
1111 North Fairfax Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

- Expected Response Date: Wednesday, March 19

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at the *Call.Click.Connect.* staff interface.

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Jackie Henderson

From: allen.irwin@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 11:37 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #47542: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council As you debate the new budget, I encourag

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 47542.

Request Details:

- Name: Allen Irwin
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 202-374-9736
- Email: allen.irwin@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council
- Request Description: As you debate the new budget, I encourage you to maintain Fire Engine #204 at the Fire Department HQ on Powhatan St. The density of the area, combined with the frequent heavy traffic along the main arterial roads, suggests that moving this engine will place the adjacent neighborhoods at significant additional risk. As a neighbor of the station who has a view down Henry Street, I notice the many calls Engine #204 answers in the immediate vicinity at locations such as Carpenters Shelter, McDonalds, and the Samuel Madden homes which would be delayed if Engine #204 was relocated. Furthermore, as redevelopment results in increased density (and, perhaps, increased traffic congestion), the need for a fire engine in northern Old Town will only grow. Please don't effectively cut this core city service to the residents of NorthEast, Northern Old Town, Del Ray, Old Town, Potomac Greens, Old Town Greens, and Rosemont as proposed in the budget.

Thank you,
Allen Irwin
1023 Vernon St
Alexandria, VA 22314

- Expected Response Date: Tuesday, March 18

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at the *Call.Click.Connect.* staff interface.

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Jackie Henderson

From: roxaneschmittel@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 5:19 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #47522: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council Closing of 204: The fact that the city i

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 47522.

Request Details:

- Name: Roxane Yakoub
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 7032202927
- Email: roxaneschmittel@yahoo.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council
- Request Description: Closing of 204: The fact that the city is even thinking about closing a fire station is incredibly stupid to me! And why would we want to get rid of fire marshal positions when they are essential to our safety and well being. I hope that you reconsider this decision, Public Safety should NEVER be a cut!
- Expected Response Date: Tuesday, March 18

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at the [Call.Click.Connect. staff interface](#).

If you need assistance with handling this request, please contact CommunityRelations@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.HELP.

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Jackie Henderson

From: bess_flick@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 4:48 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #47511: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council Please approve the 7.4 million budget fo

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 47511.

Request Details:

- Name: Bess Flick
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 5712150726
- Email: bess_flick@yahoo.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council
- Request Description: Please approve the 7.4 million budget for our school system. It is do important for kids to have a well-supplied, well-staffed and well-kept learning environment. It is the foundation if their day and,consequently, their lives.
- Expected Response Date: Tuesday, March 18

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at the *Call.Click.Connect.* staff interface.

If you need assistance with handling this request, please contact CommunityRelations@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.HELP.

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**Testimony before the Alexandria City Council on behalf of the
Commission on Aging– March 10, 2014**

Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council: I also thank you for this opportunity to speak to you today. My name is Jane King, I live at 118 East Randolph Avenue and I am here today representing the Alexandria Commission on Aging.

The commission has three additional and very serious concerns:

1. Senior Taxi: Elimination of this program is proposed. Senior Taxi is limited to those with incomes \$48,150 and below. 85% of rides are for medical visits. The program's overhead has been substantially reduced since operations were moved in-house to the division on aging. Currently, 95 percent of funds go directly to support rides.

The city manager's budget proposes to terminate this program based on the assumption that these riders can be accommodated by two other City transportation programs -- the Department of Transportation paratransit service and the division on aging's buses. This assumption is flat-out wrong. DOT riders must be physician-certified as unable to use the bus system because of disability. The division on aging buses provide group transportation, but not for individual appointments. Most current users are not eligible for DOT, which, in fact, tends to be more costly to the city than Senior Taxi.

2. Guardianship Legal Fees for Incapacitated Seniors: Our community has few legal resources to address the help needed by low-income seniors who are unable to manage their own health, safety, and financial affairs due to mental or physical

disability. Most have no family or other resources to call upon. These clients represent the City's most vulnerable adults, and without guardians, City staff is powerless to provide the protection they need. Legal documents must be prepared to enable service provision; court fees must be paid. The amount needed per person is modest, with a life-saving payoff. The Commission strongly supports keeping the current 2015 budgeted amount and adding an additional \$36,000 on a permanent basis. These funds would provide for an existing 19, plus 8 wait-listed clients.

3. Senior Employment Services. We are also very concerned about the proposed termination of JobLink's support for older job seekers. The New York Times recently described their searches as so difficult as to be "brutal". Last spring, with the encouragement of Mayor Euille and Council member Pepper, JobLink launched a special program to address this issue. Since then, the Older Worker Program has been working with 57 ongoing clients, of whom 29% have found permanent employment. This program enables these clients to remain in our community as contributing workers and tax-paying citizens.

Jackie Henderson

From: rameegentry@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 11:09 AM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #47439: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council As a proud parent of 2 children in ACPS

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 47439.

Request Details:

- Name: Ramee Gentry
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 7035674676
- Email: rameegentry@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council
- Request Description: As a proud parent of 2 children in ACPS I urge you consider leaving yourself "wigggle room" as you consider the tax rate this evening, in order to keep our schools from suffering significant cuts to services. We recognize and are grateful in the increase in funding to ACPS as proposed in the City Manager's budget. However, without additional funding, we will not be able to maintain the level of instruction we need for our students.

This is not because the school system is being inefficient with the funds it receives from the City. On the contrary our new superintendent Dr. Crawley and his staff found millions of dollars in cuts in preparing their proposed budget.

It is not because ACPS intends to embark on new, untested programs. Indeed, our communities have used a combination of honest discourse and data-driven analysis to limit funding to programming only where they have demonstrated proven success and support. This has led to further economies in the budget.

The reason ACPS needs more funding is very simple. We have more students!!! Our enrollment has been increasing for years, and join City-School projections show this increasing enrollment will continue. We not only have more students, but we are proud to have the most diverse population in the region.

We know City Council also celebrates and supports this diversity. You have shown it in the numerous city services designed to support recent immigrant families with limited English, and your frequently cited commitment to preserving affordable housing for families.

I have heard Council members state that funding to schools can not be increased further because it might impact other City programs designed to support families, but I urge you to consider that for families in Alexandria, there is no more vital service than schools. It is schools that most directly connect with children and their families, and provide access to an array of support, resources, and community, while in addition to providing the education essential to creating productive 21st century citizens for our City.

If you truly intend to embrace diversity for our City, you must include sufficient support for our schools so that they can meet the needs of their diverse student population.

I end my appeal with a final observation. I am an 11 year homeowner on the city's West End. I am aware that my taxes will increase this year, due to a higher assessment. I note with interest that, due to significant decline in commercial tax revenue, an increasingly high percentage of the revenue comes from residential revenue. While we all hope to see increases in commercial revenue, the economic realities indicate it will take time to reverse this trend. So you on the City Council are increasingly relying on individuals like me to provide the funds to make Alexandria the wonderful community we all want it to be. I tell you now that I accept this challenge, and indeed would consider a small increase in the tax rate to be a prudent, sound investment. I ask you to at least permit yourself the flexibility to consider a tax rate increase, so you can have further discussions with ACPS, other City agencies, and the community in order to ensure the best possible budget. You need my residential tax dollars. I tell you I am happy to give them to you, but I ask you in return listen to me, and understand that what I need more than any other service is high quality schools for my children.

Thank you for your time and efforts on behalf of our City.

Sincerely,
Ramee Gentry

- Expected Response Date: Tuesday, March 18

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at the **Call.Click.Connect.** staff interface.

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Jackie Henderson

From: Susan Drachsler <susandrachsler@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 11:23 AM
To: Jackie Henderson
Subject: Testimony at City Council Budget Hearings March 10, 2014
Attachments: City Council Testimony 2014c.docx

Hello, Ms. Henderson.

I forgot to give you my written testimony after I spoke at the hearing last night. I'm attaching it to this email. I hope you can place it with the other papers you received.

Thank you!

Susan Drachsler

Testimony at City Council: March 10, 2014

I'm Susan Drachsler, a board member of The Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center.

I am concerned about a proposed staff reduction in the Office of Communications at the Department of Community and Human Services. These staff not only serve 650 people at the DCHS, which is our largest city agency, but they also play a vital role in ensuring that Alexandrians thrive and are in good health. This small staff of three serves as the city's voice for informing residents about the literally hundreds of programs and services that our DCHS provides. Part of ensuring good health is knowing when one needs help and where to get it. Residents not only need this information, they want their city to provide it to them.

As an in-house public information team, these staff members are knowledgeable about the policies, programs and goals of their agency. Each member contributes a special expertise to the creation of printed text, graphic design, video, and online communications. They manage a huge workload and also promote more than 40 public presentations each year, some of which the DCHS cosponsors with partnering boards, community groups, and commissions.

In addition, this staff handles vital communications within the DCHS. One example of their internal communications is an employee newsletter that familiarizes staff with one another's services and provides information on internal and external agency initiatives, programs, and procedures.

Here's what I learned about the impact of this cut:

- News releases, social media, eNews releases, web updates, and time-sensitive materials would be reduced and delayed, and assistance would be requested from the City Manager's over-stretched Communication Team.
- Important communications documents such as the community and employee newsletters and brochures about services would be eliminated or delayed.
- Support of several DCHS partner organizations, such as volunteer community groups, (who support the City's goals and who ask for little City assistance in return), would be reduced or eliminated.
- DCHS Communications staff would need to withdraw from many important initiatives that benefit the staff and clients of the DCHS including carrying out DCHS strategic initiatives.

Prompt, accurate information and communications about our health and social service resources are key elements in a thriving and healthy community. I urge you to maintain this full time staff position to provide our residents and agency's staff with the diverse and responsive public information they need and want.

Jackie Henderson

From: cbptapresident@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 11:26 AM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #47441: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council Dear City Council, It's time to act...

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 47441.

Request Details:

- Name: Jerica Webber
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 703-212-4972
- Email: cbptapresident@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council
- Request Description: Dear City Council, It's time to act...

Please support our schools by fully funding the ACPS \$7.4M budget increase proposal submitted by Dr. Alvin Crawley. We need ACPS fully funded in order to continue the work of this school district.

The draw of families to any specific area or city is safety and investment in the schools and community. If this city does not invest in this school district above the bare minimum we will see lots of changes take place, starting with the departure of families. Let's not allow our school system to struggle for resources, struggle to maintain programs or struggle to keep the best teachers. Let's invest in our children of Alexandria City. Sow a seed today and support fully funding the ACPS schools of tomorrow. Let's not be mediocre, Let's be the BEST!

History:

Since 2012, Alexandria's population has grown by 4.94%, ACPS's enrollment has grown by 9.91%, and our city appropriation per student has DECREASED by 3.47%.

Sincerely ,

Jerica

Jerica Webber
PTA President
Charles Barrett Elementary School

- Expected Response Date: Tuesday, March 18

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at [the *Call.Click.Connect.* staff interface.](#)

If you need assistance with handling this request, please contact CommunityRelations@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.HELP.

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Jackie Henderson

From: mariamercedes.white@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 11:50 AM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #47448: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council I am writing to request that the Council

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 47448.

Request Details:

- Name: Maria Mercedes White
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 703-739-0511
- Email: mariamercedes.white@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council
- Request Description: I am writing to request that the Council does not eliminate the payment of the City's life insurance portion for its retirees. The retirees' incomes are fixed and the annual increases are very small (if any) and creating another expense for retirees is burdensome. Thank you for your positive response.
- Expected Response Date: Tuesday, March 18

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at the *Call.Click.Connect.* staff interface.

If you need assistance with handling this request, please contact CommunityRelations@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.HELP.

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Jackie Henderson

From: michye00@hotmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 12:43 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #47459: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council This evening you will be considering a p

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 47459.

Request Details:

- Name: Micheline Eyraud
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 7035678896
- Email: michye00@hotmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council
- Request Description: This evening you will be considering a proposal to give away docking rights to a non profit in which the city will assume responsibility for all associated charges (e.g., utilities). At the same time we are talking about raising taxes because you apparently don't have enough already. I think that if the city has enough money such that they can give away services then they already have enough money (or too much). If you want to give away money then why don't you send a rebate to Alexandria taxpayers? I am sure it would be appreciated.
- Expected Response Date: Tuesday, March 18

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Jackie Henderson

From: tplatt12@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 12:37 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #47458: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council Dear Mayor and Council, Please allow

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 47458.

Request Details:

- Name: Thomas Platt
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 848-992-2388
- Email: tplatt12@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council
- Request Description: Dear Mayor and Council,

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Thomas Platt and I live on North Pitt Street. I am a full-time licensed fire protection engineer and investigator for the federal government, as well as a volunteer fire/EMS lieutenant in Prince George's County. In my full-time role, I am responsible for establishing fire protection requirements for building construction and emergency response for federal facilities, as well as investigating fire and explosion incidents. In my volunteer role, I am responsible for responding to fire, medical and hazardous materials emergencies throughout Prince George's County.

As a government employee, I understand the restrictions of an agency's budget; however, I am respectfully writing to voice my concerns over the proposed closure of Engine 204. While the retention of Truck 204 allows for quick response to my neighborhood and others in its response area, this densely populated and highly residential area will now be deprived of prompt fire suppression capabilities, since Truck 204 carries no water or hose. We will now be reliant upon an engine from either Station 201, 205 or 209, each of which have their own busy response areas and traffic issues. The congestion of Route 1, Washington Street and the King Street vicinity on any given rush hour, weekend, holiday or event will likely cause significant delays in responding to North Old Town, assuming they are even available to respond and not tied up on another incident.

This is relevant because I have been personally involved in incidents where both civilians and fire fighters were injured, burned and/or killed due to a delay in water being applied to a fire. Two years ago in Prince George's County, mere blocks from a fire station without a staffed engine, nine fire fighters were burned in a house fire due to the delay in water application. Two of the fire fighters are still undergoing rehabilitation and the only reason no civilians were killed was because the house was vacant.

Having lived off of Eisenhower Avenue previously, I am excited about the opening of Station 210. I think it will provide much greater fire department access to the Eisenhower corridor that was previously difficult to access. Nevertheless, this corridor is highly commercial, with many buildings left unoccupied after business hours. On the contrary, North Old Town and Station 204's response area is highly residential and densely populated during both the day and night hours. While I agree about the need for staffing at Station 210, the number one priority of any fire department is life safety.

It is contrary to the mission of the fire department and the city government to delay fire suppression capabilities from a highly residential area of loyal Alexandria residents and the members of Truck 204. As a fire protection professional and proud Alexandria resident, I strongly hope that you reconsider closing Engine 204.

Very respectfully,
Thomas Platt

- Expected Response Date: Tuesday, March 18

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Jackie Henderson

From: Blake H. <BlakeMSU02@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 12:33 PM
To: Jackie Henderson
Cc: blakemsu02@yahoo.com
Subject: Save Engine 204

Ms. Henderson:

I called the Council members office today and was told that I could email you to voice my concerns about the recent budget proposal to eliminate Engine 204, as well as several other FD positions, from the Powhatan Street Station. I was told that you would kindly forward this concern to the Council members and ask that you please do.

As a resident of Old Town Commons, I am just a few a blocks from the Powhatan Station. Firefighters responded to a blaze in one of the newest blocks of our development on January 1. I wonder how much worse the damage would have been--which was previously estimated at over \$150,000--had the engine not been stationed close by? In addition, as a resident who pays exorbitant property taxes for the privilege of living in North Old Town, I cannot begin to understand why public safety in our neighborhood would be jeopardized. Surely, considering all of the money the City is taking in with these new developments and new residents, money can be found to save this engine. It is completely irresponsible of you to do anything less. And let's not even get started about the lack of budgetary resources for our police department given the amount of crime in the area. The City government should be doing everything in it's power to lure new residents into these developments and assure them that our neighborhoods are safe and will be tended to quickly in the event of an emergency. If the City wants to bring in ever more tax base, it must provide essential services such as adequate police and fire protection.

As a concerned citizen and resident, I urge you to reconsider the budgetary proposals affecting Engine 204 and the Powhatan Street Station and keep these vital resources in our neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Blake Harden
818 N. Alfred St.
Alexandria, VA 22314

Jackie Henderson

From: deannemcnulty@mac.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 1:09 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #47466: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor and City Council

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 47466.

Request Details:

- Name: Deanne and James McNulty
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 703-618-7243
- Email: deannemcnulty@mac.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council
- Request Description: Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor and City Council members,

Thank you for the \$5 million that you have allocated for ACPS to help give our students an education that will help them become productive citizens in the near future.

We are writing to request that you find money in the Alexandria City Budget to fund the additional \$2.4 million that is requested by Dr. Crawley and our School Board to allow our students to maintain the current level of services in education that ACPS is currently providing.

If this means that the tax rate in Alexandria must be raised to cover these costs... then raise the tax rate!

The City of Alexandria is putting in thousands of hours and more dollars to develop the Child and Youth Master Plan at this time. It only makes sense that the schools, where the majority of the City youth are during 5 days of the week, are equip with the funds to provide those children the services they need.

We appreciate your careful consideration and efforts to providing the funds that are desperately needed for our children in ACPS.

Sincerely,
Colonel James and Deanne McNulty
304 Yale Drive
Alexandria, VA 22314
703-618-7243

- Expected Response Date: Tuesday, March 18

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at [the Call.Click.Connect. staff interface.](#)

If you need assistance with handling this request, please contact CommunityRelations@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.HELP.

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Jackie Henderson

From: lauravetter@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 1:09 PM
To: Jackie Henderson
Subject: PRAC Budget Hearing Remarks
Attachments: PRAC Presentation to City Council 3-10-14 Final.pdf

Hi Jackie,

Would it be possible to submit the remarks I made on behalf of PRAC at yesterday's budget hearing? I was not able to submit them in advance, because I made a few modifications during the hearing.

Thanks,
Laura Vetter

**Public Records Advisory Commission Presentation to City Council
at the March 10, 2014 Special Public Hearing Meeting on the 2015 Budget**

Vice-Mayor Silberberg and members of City Council, on behalf of the Public Records Advisory Commission thank you for having me today. I am Laura Vetter, Vice-Chair of the Public Records Advisory Commission, also known as PRAC.

PRAC supports the CIP request submitted by General Services for \$680,000 to expand the city's public records and archives facility to meet the archives and records storage needs for next fifteen years and to meet the maintenance needs of this facility. This item can be found in Appendix D, page 16-13 of the proposed FY 2015 budget.

The additional space requirements can be met within the existing footprint of the building, thanks to General Services' offer of a portion of their vacated space within the building. This solution is both cost effective and makes sense, as it is adjacent to the current records center facility, avoiding the cost of new construction or the on-going expense and inconvenience of off-site storage. This allocation will also cover the cost of high density shelving to ensure that the most effective use of this space will be achieved. **The volume of records produced by our city and the mandated retention periods, set by the Commonwealth of Virginia, for those records continue to grow. And yes, these records must be kept in paper form.**

In addition to meeting the space requirements of the city's records, this allocation will address needed upgrades to the facility's fire suppression, HVAC, electrical and lighting systems. An architectural survey commissioned by the Department of General Services has concluded each of these systems requires major upgrades. For example, the fire pump lacks sufficient water pressure to effectively fight a fire and this has been confirmed by the Fire Marshal.

This allocation is currently unfunded in the FY 2015 budget. The Office of Historic Alexandria, having already dedicated \$210,000 for the architectural assessment and design work supports this allocation, but your support of the allocation is needed to ensure the archives and records needs of the city are met. **This is the facility that literally houses our city's history.** At this hearing today, we have learned about many functions of city government: Parks & Recreation, Transportation, and Public Safety. Each one of these departments produces records, which are housed and managed by the city archives, and each department of the city is served by an effective records management program. **It is Alexandria's history, which is preserved at this facility and it is your history, too.** For instance, in the archives room, city council meeting records are held in perpetuity. The proceedings from today's meeting will also be transferred to this facility in the future.

The Public Records Advisory Commission urges your support of the \$680,000 allocation to fund the archives and records center upgrade and expansion. Thank you.

Jackie Henderson

From: gblewis425@comcast.net
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 2:04 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #47473: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council Please see attached Testimony presented

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 47473.

Request Details:

- Name: Gwendolyn Hubbard Lewis
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 5715270399
- Email: gblewis425@comcast.net
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council
- Request Description: Please see attached Testimony presented at the Public Hearing on 3/10/2014 by Gwendolyn Hubbard Lewis, Executive Director, Concerned Citizens Network of Alexandria (CCNA).
- Attachment: <http://request.alexandriava.gov/GeoReport/UploadedFile.ashx/docx/6d8b497e-05a4-4727-b28a-d8d1e9a03f0c>
- Expected Response Date: Tuesday, March 18

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City Council Budget Hearings
March 10, 2014
Gwendolyn Hubbard Lewis, Executive Director
Concerned Citizens Network of Alexandria (CCNA)

Good evening, Mr. Mayor, Madam Vice Mayor, and distinguished members of the City Council. I am here to urge you to reinstate the CCNA \$20,000 budget line item. It may not seem like a lot but it is significant to 30 students who would not ordinarily receive our support. We want to continue to provide this critical support now. We are the Concerned Citizens Network of Alexandria (CCNA). I am Gwendolyn Hubbard Lewis, Executive Director. As you know we are the only comprehensive middle school program in the city who Tutor and Mentor our "at promise" middle school students, help them with their homework, provide critical wrap around services and train and coach their parents all on the Hammond Middle School campus location. We are headed into our fourth year and we have continued to improve and upgrade our stellar services. Over the last three years we have provided outstanding service to more than 50 RARE students and their families.

We have been urged to take our model to the George Washington Middle School Campus and to Minnie Howard. We are struggling, we can't do this alone. We are trying to find other private and government funds. We are

not there yet. We still need this support. You have given us \$10,000 in 2011, \$20,000 in 2012 and \$20,000 in 2013, \$50,000 over the past three years, matching ACPS Funds and we, thank you. In the meantime we still need this funding as an ACPS match.

I am not going to take up a lot of time because I have briefed you individually and collectively since 2009. As a result of our early talks, CCNA ideas, concepts and vision have evolved into the draft Master Plan and the Children, Youth and Family Collaborative Commission. However, this new paradigm is also evolving and is currently on paper. We have a long way to go, through planning and implementation.

Mayor Euille and Council Member Chapman both you and I were one of these students, we know what they need. CCNA adults understand that need and how to help RARE students to mature and catch up academically. We have that formula of nurturing, coaching, and molding the whole child academically, socially and emotionally.

Ms. Pepper you understand because you voted in favor of the funding the last two years. Council Member Smedberg, I hope you have changed your position. I urge Council member Silberberg, who visited our children last year, Council member Lovain who appointed me to the Economic

Opportunity Commission, and Council member Justin Wilson to also vote to return the funds.

CCNA Board Chair, Gwen Day-Fuller, who will speak next, one of our RARE Certified Teachers, Ms. Deborah Mills, two of our RARE students, Cyrus and Keyatta will also speak.

Why aren't we included under the budget topic "Healthy & Thriving Residents"? We did not ask the city to reimburse us for the backpacks of school supplies, new shoes, new coats, large baskets of food for Thanksgiving and Christmas including gifts for the entire family so they would have Christmas. Over the last two years, through various collaborative partnerships, we have serviced over 23 families. I'm glad those partnerships get it. This budget makes it obvious that the City is abdicating its responsibility as part of the village/community role in our children's lives. It takes a village/community to save our children. Recently, two high school students committed suicide. Their voices are silent, now can you hear them? Middle School is the last opportunity for our programs to give them a positive direction.

To delete our funds is going backwards. We are not moving forward fast enough to help our children. The two students standing before you are

relevant. They are getting older by the minute. Deleting our funds and possibly diminishing our presence in their lives could be detrimental to them as well. Can we afford to take that chance and lose these two students? Don't pull the rug from beneath these students. They are not covered by any other program.

This is not the time to take back the small amount of funds that you did provide. My mother would say that you gave a good bucket of milk and now you're turning it over. We must do more not less. We can't change this crisis without a focused sustained effort. God Bless you and Thank you for this opportunity to speak.