

Jackie Henderson

From: randy@dingwell.net
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 10:41 AM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #70989: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council i am writing to urge you to fund the Ale

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 70989.

Request Details:

- Name: Randolph Dingwell
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 561-818-2656
- Email: randy@dingwell.net
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: i am writing to urge you to fund the Alexandria's Complete Streets program in a manner consistent with the new budget for Street Reconstructing and Resurfacing.
I was dismayed to learn that the Complete Streets program which makes the city safer - especially for those not in cars - has been cut even though we will be spending a great deal more on paving
More street repairs means more opportunity to make these streets safer for our pedestrians as the city considers Complete Street possibilities as each street comes up for repaving. But these possibilities will be limited with a budget reduced by almost a third.
A better allocation of the total to be spent on street repair and on Complete Street treatments would be a proportionate increase in both. In my mind anything less prioritizes convenience for us as we drive over safety for us as we walk.
I know that you will want to prioritize safety.
Randy Dingwell
- Expected Response Date: Wednesday, April 29

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: Anna Leider
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 9:15 AM
To: City Council
Cc: Mark Jinks; Laura Triggs
Subject: Voting Equipment Security

Thanks for the questions last night. As soon as I left the table, I realized I should have given you some additional information about our current voting equipment.

- The touch screen system the state recently de-certified was singled out for security concerns. It could be programmed wirelessly and it uses a very simple password for access.
- In contrast, our system has no wireless components. It is not connected to the Internet. And it cannot be programmed unless it is physically attached to a specific computer that contains a unique encryption key. Furthermore, the computer we use to program each election is never connected to the Internet.

So, unless the General Assembly decides to ban “Direct Recording Equipment” (DREs) (for not having a paper trail), we will not need to consider replacing our system until the 2020 Presidential Election. If the state DOES ban DREs, however, we would have to replace our system sooner. (The ADA component of our system is a DRE.) If that happens, we would be prepared to make a quick recommendation to Council—there are only four new systems certified in Virginia, and we are already familiar with the pros and cons of each of them.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Anna Leider
General Registrar
Office of Voter Registration and Elections
City of Alexandria
132 North Royal Street, Suite 100
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

703.746.4050; Direct: 703.746.4527; Fax 703.838.6449
Anna.Leider@alexandriava.gov
www.alexandriavoter.org

Jackie Henderson

From: kposey45@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 9:07 AM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #70964: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council I'm told that Council is considering a c

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 70964.

Request Details:

- Name: Kevin Posey
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 7035353367
- Email: kposey45@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: I'm told that Council is considering a cut of nearly a third to the Complete Streets budget. That such a scheme to reduce access for those who walk or bike would even be discussed seriously is troubling. But what's more troubling is that it fits a pattern of disregard for legacy issues involving accessibility. I've uploaded a picture of the entrance to your own ADC party HQ. Those with mobility impairment must sometimes be carried down these steps. You all use this office, yet to my knowledge none of you have publicly called for this condition to be remedied or have the office removed without delay. Now your City Manager, whose permanent hiring you just approved, is proposing to cut a budget that, among other things, fixes sidewalks and adds curb ramps for those with mobility impairment. How do you think that looks?
If you can scrounge up the cash over the years to offer enticements to large federal and quasi-federal institutions to locate their gargantuan security fortresses within our city (PTO, BRAC, NSF, & whatever else you're after), you can cough up the \$300k (and then some) to make this city safe and accessible for those who either don't want to drive, can't afford to drive, or are unable to drive.
Thank you for your attention.
- Attachment: [image.jpg](#)
- Expected Response Date: Wednesday, April 29

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Jackie Henderson

From: michellekrocker@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 8:32 AM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #70956: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Mayor Euille and City Council members, A

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 70956.

Request Details:

- Name: Michelle Krocker
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 703-919-0049
- Email: michellekrocker@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Mayor Euille and City Council members, Attached is a letter from our Housing and Human Services coalition with recommendations for the FY16 budget. Thank you for your time and consideration of our requests.
- Attachment: [HousingandServicesFY16budget recs.pdf](#)
- Expected Response Date: Wednesday, April 29

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

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April 22, 2015

Mayor Euille and Members of City Council
City of Alexandria
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Mayor Euille and Members of City Council,

We are writing to you as members of a coalition of housing, human service and advocacy organizations who work to secure adequate safety net services for low-income residents in the City of Alexandria. We would like to take this opportunity to offer recommendations for the FY2016 budget proposal to better meet the needs of low-income residents, and we have aligned our comments with the framework provided in the Statement of Priorities for the development of the Fiscal Year 2016 budget.

Priority II – Sustained Citizen Health and Social Equity

Opportunities to Elevate the Standard of Living for the Economically Vulnerable

Rent Relief for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities. We acknowledge and thank you for funding the shortfall in this program in the FY2015 budget. Currently there are 31 households on the waiting list, and so **we recommend that this program be funded at a level that would eliminate any waiting list by serving all those who qualify and are in need.**

Homeless Prevention Services. DCHS and its non-profit and faith-based partners are receiving requests for assistance from a significant number of families with income above the eligibility threshold for these funds, which are available through the state. Currently, eligibility for assistance is limited to households who earn less than 30% of the area median income (AMI). However, persons earning up to 50% AMI in the city cannot be assisted due to the guidelines. Preventing homelessness is an investment that pays long-term dividends by keeping these individuals/families off the streets and out of shelters where assistance is more costly. **We recommend that the City provide local funding for homeless prevention services to households with greater than 30% but no more than 50% AMI (\$32,000 - \$50,000), so that all persons needing assistance in these low income categories can be served.**

Alexandria Fund for Human Services. The organizations receiving funding provide critical services to the recipients, and the modest City funding is leveraged significantly with private contributions. **We support the three-year award cycle, and we thank the City Manager for no reduction in funding for this investment by the City. We urge the Council to maintain this funding in the adopted budget.**

Opportunities to Ensure Housing Stability and Housing Choice across a Broad Economic Spectrum to Include Very Low Income to Workforce Income Level Housing Options

A recent needs assessment from the Alexandria Council of Human Services Organizations (ACHSO) found that “The lack of affordable housing options was identified as the most significant factor affecting progress across the broad range of human services issues in the city.” The shortage of accessible, affordable housing affects low-income households including those who are homeless or have extremely

low incomes, persons with disabilities, children and youth, seniors, those working in our city, and immigrants. Adequate resources of affordable, accessible housing strengthen Alexandria by providing stability for individuals of all ages and abilities, so they may continue to live here and contribute to the community. Additional revenue to develop or preserve housing has been identified as a priority strategy in the Housing Master Plan (adopted by the City in December 2013), and the strategic plan for the Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness, which was adopted by City Council in January 2015. Local revenue is critical as federal programs like CDBG and HOME funds, which make up a significant portion of the city's revenue for housing initiatives, are both insufficient given the housing needs, and diminishing each year as federal spending is cut.

In adopting the Housing Master Plan, the Council established a goal of adding 2,000 units - 200 units per year - by 2025. However, to achieve the objectives of the plan, we need to do much more. Approximately 14,000 units are needed during the plan period, taking into consideration both the loss of 9,000 market affordable units and the development of 5,687 new units to meet existing gaps and projected demand.

If these needs are not met, people living in Alexandria today, who are either homeless or struggling to pay for housing they cannot afford, will be adversely affected. In addition, the city will have created little housing for the workforce projected to move here. This will impact the city's economic outlook if there is not enough housing at different income levels to accommodate anticipated growth.

A troubling consequence of lack of investment in housing is reflected in the city's draft Consolidated Plan and FY16 Action Plan which states that "through the use of current resources, the City projects it can preserve 30 rental housing units during FY2016." This projection falls far short of the 200 unit annual goal, and is of greater concern given the loss of almost 1,000 assisted units over the next 5 years (as stated in the Consolidated Plan).

Preserving and producing 200 units per year will require \$8 million annually at the City's current gap financing rate of \$40,000 per unit. Housing for households with extremely low incomes may require even deeper subsidies. In the past, the city has used tools like revenue bonds which provide significant resources to leverage funding for large-scale housing and other capital commitments. We recommend that the city:

- **establish a significant, reliable source of revenue needed to address these rising unmet housing needs; and**
- **begin with an annual allocation of \$5 million to a fund that could be leveraged through a bond issue.**

We urge the city to commit to growing this fund each year in order to increase the capacity to issue additional bonds which will fund additional needed units. The city might also consider borrowing against future developer contributions to the Housing Trust Fund which will grow considerably in the coming years as new commercial and residential construction is completed. Both sources of revenue - from the public and private sector - will be needed to address this growing affordable housing shortage. Land use and regulatory tools, such as co-locating housing with public facilities, and increased density in appropriate areas of the city, should be utilized as well.

The magnitude of this challenge; and the broad sweep of city residents who are impacted - at all ages and all stages of their lives - call for a significant investment in housing. We understand the difficult decisions that you must make, but we also believe that these investments are critical to the health, well-being and prosperity of the city. Without an adequate supply of housing for all members of the

community, Alexandria will struggle to accommodate growth and to remain a resilient, prosperous community.

Sincerely,

Alexandria Commission for Persons with Disabilities, Mollie Danforth, Chairperson
Alexandria Economic Opportunities Commission, Joe Valenti, Chairman
Alexandria Housing Development Corporation, Daniel Abramson, Board President
ALIVE! Inc., Diane Charles, Executive Director
The Arc of Northern Virginia, Rikki Epstein, Executive Director
Bridges to Independence, Michael O'Rourke, Executive Director
Carpenter's Shelter, Mary Parker Lamm, Interim Executive Director
Coalition for Smarter Growth, Stewart Schwartz, Executive Director
Community Lodgings, Lynn Thomas, Executive Director
Enterprise Community Partners, David Bowers, Mid-Atlantic Region Leader
Habitat for Humanity Northern Virginia, Rev. Jon Smoot, Executive Director
New Hope Housing, Pam Michell, Executive Director
Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance, Michelle Krockner, Executive Director
Rebuilding Together Alexandria, Katharine Dixon, President & CEO
Wesley Housing Development Corporation, Shelley Murphy, President & CEO

Jackie Henderson

From: Sherry Clarke
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2015 5:18 PM
To: William Euille; City Council
Cc: Mark Jinks; Emily Baker; Yon Lambert; Sandra Marks; Morgan Routt; Christopher Bever; City Council Aides; Sermaine McLean; Julie Fuerth; Eleonore Cox; Sherry Clarke; Steve Sindiong; Jennifer Moore; Annika Moman; Bob Garbacz; Carrie Sanders; Christine Michaelis; Jake Jakubek; James Lewis; Jerry King; Karen Callaham; Maria Wasowski; Nathan Macek; Scott Anderson; Stephen Klejst; Steve Sindiong; Timothy Lovain
Subject: Letter From TC to Honorable Mayor Euille and Members of City Council re: Transportation Budget
Attachments: 2015-04-21 TC Letter to Mayor Euille_City Council re FY 2016.pdf

Attached please find a PDF of a letter from the Transportation Commission to Mayor Euille and the City Council regarding the FY 2016-2025 Transportation Budget. Hard copies will be delivered to Mayor Euille and the City Council tomorrow morning.

SHERRY CLARKE

Administrative Support, Transportation
Transportation and Environmental Services
703.746.4025



Alexandria Transportation Commission
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

www.alexandriava.gov

Phone: 703.746.4025

Mayor William D. Euille and Members of City Council
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

April 21, 2015

Re: FY 2016-2025 Transportation Budget

Dear Mayor Euille and Members of City Council:

This letter summarizes recommendations of the Transportation Commission on the City's FY 2016-2025 Transportation Budget given reductions in funding required for two major components of the budget.

At the April 15, 2015 meeting of the Transportation Commission, City staff shared with the Commission that the City can expect a decrease of approximately \$1.45 million in funds required to fund the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) in FY 2016. In addition, the City has refined the cost estimate for the King/Quaker Lane/Braddock Road intersection project, resulting in approximately \$1 million that will remain available in the City's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

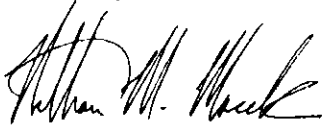
Given the reduced WMATA funding contribution and refined King/Quaker Lane/Braddock Road intersection project budget, the Transportation Commission requests that the funds all revert to the TIP to fund fiscal year (FY) 2016 implementation of the following transportation priorities:

- The Commission supports the expansion of Capital Bikeshare as an important element of the City's transportation system, connecting people to transit and enhancing mobility and active transportation in the City. The City has previously committed to expanding Capital Bikeshare in Alexandria through prior-year appropriations towards the capital cost of bicycles and stations. Developer contributions and grants provide all funds to purchase, equip, and install 16 new stations. The operating cost of this program is small, just \$10,000 per station, and the cost recovery factor is 70%. The Commission recommends that Council approve a budget that includes full funding for the operating cost of the 16 station expansion.

- The expansion of DASH service is a high priority of the Transportation Commission. The City Manager's proposed transportation budget anticipates very limited expansion of DASH service over the next 10 years. DASH is a critical element in moving people efficiently, supporting the City's development plans and promoting economic sustainability. The Commission recommends the purchase of additional DASH buses with the available TIP funds. (It should be noted that meeting the amount of FY 2016 funding approved in the FY 2015 budget would allow the City to leverage grant reimbursement funds from the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation to purchase these buses).
- The Commission recommends the acceleration of design for the Cameron Run trail project.

We appreciate your consideration of the Commission's input on proposed FY 2016-2025 budget during this difficult budget year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathan M. Macek". The signature is stylized with a large initial "N" and "M".

Nathan M. Macek
Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
Mark Jinks, City Manager
Emily A. Baker, Acting Deputy City Manager
Yon Lambert, Director, T&ES
Sandra Marks, Deputy Director, T&ES
Morgan Routt, Acting Director, OMB
Chris Bever, Assistant Director, OMB

Jackie Henderson

From: jjkingconsulting@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2015 5:41 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #70939: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Mayor, Vice Mayor, and City Council mem

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 70939.

Request Details:

- Name: Jerry King
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 7036841688
- Email: jjkingconsulting@yahoo.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and City Council members,
I am writing to request that you support reallocation of funds to the Transportation Budget. A good transportation system moves our residents to work and shop and moves tourists to our city. Investing in transportation now has payoffs in the future. Funds are needed for Alexandria's transportation systems as an investment in Alexandria's economic growth; economic growth is the key to providing needed funds in future years for schools, public safety and other important areas.
The information presented at the April 23rd "Livable, Green and Prospering City" Budget work session indicated that as much as \$1M from the King-Braddock-Quaker intersection improvement project and \$1.45M of the funds set aside in Transportation budgets for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) would be available to be reallocated.
Request that you restore investments in non-motorized transportation to the three projects mentioned below. The first two are investments in the city's economic and environmental health. Subsequently, it was apparent that the proposed budget would include a 25% increase in the FY16 street re-paving budget (to \$5.6M) while proposing to cut the Complete Streets budget by 28% in FY16, from \$900,000 to \$641,000. The Complete Streets budget includes pedestrian safety and accessibility improvements which are most efficiently made with street repaving. It would have been most logical to increase the Complete Streets commensurate with the increase in the street re-paving. BPAC requests that you at least restore the Complete Streets budget to the previously planned amount of \$900,000.
Request you support three low cost/high payoff investments in FY 16 for improving Alexandria's economic and environmental health and for pedestrian safety and accessibility.
 1. Provide operating funds in the amount of \$160,000 for Capital Bikeshare expansion for the 16 stations for which installation funds are available.
 2. Invest \$500,000 in the Old Cameron Run Trail project for design efforts in FY16. Initiating the design in FY16 will help ensure that the project is ready for the grant funding originally allocated to this project in FY17.
 3. Restore the \$259,000 proposed to be cut from the Complete Streets program budget to ensure that pedestrian safety and accessibility improvements can be accomplished coincident with street re-paving. With an increased paving budget, now is not the time to cut the program that ensures our streets meet federal accessibility program standards and incorporates safety features such as pedestrian count-down signals.I recommend that the Council return the funding previously set aside for WMATA to the transportation projects shown above as well as funding from the King-Braddock-Quaker intersection project estimate revision.
Jerry King
- Expected Response Date: Tuesday, April 28

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

Jackie Henderson

From: Alexis Quinn
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2015 4:23 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides
Cc: Sandy Modell; David Kaplan; Emily Baker; Kerry J. Donley; Laura Triggs; Max Williamson; Meredith MacNab; Paul Abramson; Steve Klejst; Yon Lambert
Subject: Chairman's memorandum of City Council - FY16 CIP
Attachments: Memo to Council 2016-2025 CIP Budget.pdf

Good afternoon,

On behalf of the Chairman of the ATC Board of Directors, please find attached a memorandum providing the Board's input on the City Manager's proposed FY2016-2025 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Thank you.

Alexis Quinn
ATC Board Secretary
Alexandria Transit Company – DASH
3000 Business Center Drive
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 746 - 5637



Alexandria Transit Company
3000 Business Center Drive
Alexandria, VA 22314

703-746-3274 (DASH)
703-746-5641 (fax)
www.dashbus.com

April 21, 2015

MEMORANDUM for Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council.

RE: FY2016-2025 Transportation CIP and TIP

The ATC Board of Directors understands that there are limited funds to support all of the City's growing transit and transportation needs, and, as a result, supports much of the City Manager's proposed transportation budget. However, the Board would like City Council to consider prioritizing both DASH's replacement and expansion program for the following reasons:

1. Operating old and obsolete buses that have passed their lifecycle replacement age increases operating and maintenance costs.
2. Newer low floor buses are more accessible, environmentally friendly, and offer a higher level of service to Alexandria's residents, workers, and visitors.
3. The DASH 10-year expansion plan included in the FY2015 CIP/TIP prioritizes service frequency improvements to current routes, over starting new routes. Service frequency and reliability are two critical components of operating attractive, high quality transit service.
4. City Council has been supportive of the ATC Board's priority of moving the DASH system to "urban transit standards," which will attract new riders by making transit connections between DASH and Metrorail or VRE, and bus-to-bus easier, more convenient, less time consuming, and more reliable.

During the past four years, DASH has not experienced the same significant ridership growth that it had in previous years, and in fact, we have seen a plateau. Lower gas prices, a decrease in the federal transit subsidy, the region's job loss and recession have all impacted ridership. As the City works to develop a very robust transportation network that includes Capital Bikeshare and the free King Street Trolley, some of DASH's ridership may divert to these other transportation modes. DASH's planned expansion program includes service frequency improvements to current routes, which will provide the impetus to jump start significant ridership growth again. All DASH routes should ultimately operate at 10-15 minute frequencies during the morning and evening peak periods, instead of 25-30 minutes.

The ATC Board of Directors requests that should there be any reduction to the FY16 WMATA capital and/or operating contribution, that the City Council reprioritize the funding to allow for the continuation of both DASH's replacement schedule and the implementation of much needed service improvements. The large scale developments currently under construction or anticipated will require investment in both the regional and local transit services. Funding DASH's replacement and expansion programs should be one of City Council's highest CIP/TIP priorities.

The Board appreciates your consideration of its input on the proposed FY2016-2025 CIP/TIP programs during this difficult budget year. Thank you for your continued support of DASH.

Sincerely,

Paul Abramson
Chairman

cc: ATC Board of Directors
Sandy Modell, General Manager

Jackie Henderson

From: melynda.wilcox@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2015 10:54 AM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #70863: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council School and pools...more specifically, sc

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 70863.

Request Details:

- Name: Melynda Wilcox
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 7035493865
- Email: melynda.wilcox@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: School and pools...more specifically, school facilities that are optimal for learning and pools that open for business, not closed indefinitely. You have tough choices to make. Nevertheless, we have an obligation to invest in our children and equip them to be productive workers and good citizens in the future. Making a sound investment in new aquatic facilities will not only meet the needs of all of our residents, from infants to 90-year-olds, they could also attract new economic activity. My hope is that those of you who are re-elected will focus on how we can attract--not discourage--economic development and to grow our commercial tax base to generate the income that our city needs. Our ability to fund future school improvements to meet the needs of ever-larger enrollments and to maintain and improve our pools and other recreational facilities depends upon it. Thank you all for your service to our city.
- Expected Response Date: Tuesday, April 28

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Jackie Henderson

From: adrienkay@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2015 10:24 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #70431: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Dear Mayor Euille, My name is Adrien

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 70431.

Request Details:

- Name: Adrien Lopez
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 907-321-7739
- Email: adrienkay@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Dear Mayor Euille,

My name is Adrien Lopez, and along with my husband Rafael Lima, are part of a Steering Committee representing concerned residents living in the areas of Potomac Yard that will be affected by the Special Tax District instituted by the City of Alexandria to fund the proposed Potomac Yard Metro Project.

While we are in favor of the proposed metro station, we believe our community is being uniquely – and unjustly – targeted by the city. In particular, we are concerned by how the special tax district was defined in an inequitable way, excluding other neighboring communities who will certainly benefit as much from the project, particularly Potomac Greens, Old Town Greens and the new Oakville Triangle Development.

After carefully reviewing the statement from the City of Alexandria dated March 4, 2014 which confirmed that Old Town Greens was not subject to the Special Tax District and the memorandum from the Acting City Manager dated May 19, 2011 later excluding Potomac Greens from the area in which a special assessment would be applied, our community believes that the residential area of Potomac Yard was only included in the Tier II portion of the Special Tax District due to the fact that residents could not be represented in the deliberation process at the time and, as a result, the tax burden was passed along to us.

The problem is that the other communities will benefit as much if not more from the metro, since they are geographically closer and have more residents. We want to ask the City to either apply the tier II of the special tax district to all residents within a set radius or also exclude us from the tier II.

We look forward to hearing from you. Attached is our petition which will be delivered at the May 16th Public Hearing of the Alexandria City Council.

Thanks in advance for listening and caring about this issue as the Mayor of our community.

Best regards,
Adrien Lopez & Rafael Lima
717 Diamond Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301

- Attachment: [Potomac Yard STD Petition.docx](#)
- Expected Response Date: Wednesday, April 22

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

To: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: Potomac Yard Residents

RE: Potomac Yard Metro Project - Special Tax District Boundaries

WHEREAS, the Alexandria City Council has established two special tax districts (Tier I and Tier II) to help finance the redevelopment of the Potomac Yard Area.

WHEREAS, the "Tier I Special Services District," which City Council approved in December of 2010, encompasses North Potomac Yard (Landbay F) as well as Landbays G, H and the multi-family portion of Landbay I.

WHEREAS, beginning in calendar year 2011, Tier I properties are assessed a tax of \$0.20 per \$100 in assessed value in addition to the City's base real estate tax rate (for a tax rate of \$1.238 per \$100 in calendar year 2013).

WHEREAS, the "Tier II Special Services District" encompasses all of Landbay I not in the Tier I District and all of Landbay J, generally including southern part of Potomac Yard and not including the development sites south of the Monroe Avenue Bridge and Potomac Greens.

WHEREAS, beginning in calendar year 2016, Tier II properties will be assessed a tax of \$0.10 per \$100 in assessed value in addition to the City's base real estate tax rate.

WHEREAS, previous documents considered by the City Council indicate that the Tier II Special Services District initially encompassed a broader area including at least Potomac Greens as confirmed by the statement from the City of Alexandria dated March 4, 2014; a decision which was later reverted as indicated in the memorandum from the Acting City Manager dated May 19, 2011.

WHEREAS, Potomac Yard Residents believe that some residential areas of Potomac Yard (namely Landbay I not in the Tier I District and all of Landbay J) were only included in the Tier II portion of the Special Services District due to the fact that residents could not be represented in the deliberation process at the time and, as a result, the tax burden was passed along to such community.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, the concerned residents of Potomac Yard, INDICATE that while we are strongly in favor of the Potomac Yard Metro project and will not seek to deliberately delay it in any way, WE AIM at bringing forth an equitable status for the residents of Potomac Yard who currently find themselves alone in the Tier II "special tax district" that would otherwise normally be defined by some logical geographic boundary, such as "within a 0.5 mile radius" or some other equitable and democratic zoning.

IT IS HEREBY REQUESTED that, either through the act of the Mayor or the Members of the City Council, a review of this matter is requested, deliberated, voted and, as a result, a decision is made to adopt one of the options outlined below:

1. REDEFINE the "**Tier II Special Services District**" to include all the neighborhoods within walking distance (or some specific radius) of the Metro station, as they will all share equally in

the benefits, considering a proportional reduction in the assessed tax of \$0.10 per \$100 in assessed value; or

2. REMOVE the residential areas of Potomac Yard included in the **"Tier II Special Services District"** as you did previously for neighboring communities, particularly Old Town Greens and Potomac Greens, therefore recognizing that the amount of funds to be raised by the levying of the special Potomac Yard tax is negligible compared to the scope of project funding, yet is a substantial and disproportionate burden on each of the families of Potomac Yard.

Respectfully,

The following residents of Potomac Yard

1. Robert Giroux, 2103 Jefferson Davis Hwy
2. Cindy Xu, 2103 Jefferson Davis Hwy
3. etc...
4. etc...
- 5.

Jackie Henderson

From: dgorrasi@msn.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2015 10:19 AM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #70861: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Please make sure that our children have

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 70861.

Request Details:

- Name: Debra Rosario
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 7038614970
- Email: dgorrasi@msn.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Please make sure that our children have the same chances for a better education. Please fund there budget so schools can get the technology they need and the kids can get the right education to succeed in the world
- Expected Response Date: Tuesday, April 28

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: wagnerek@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2015 9:23 AM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #70852: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Dear Mayor Euille, dear Vice Mayor Silbe

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 70852.

Request Details:

- Name: Eric Wagner
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 7035495261
- Email: wagnerek@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Dear Mayor Euille, dear Vice Mayor Silberberg, dear City Council Members,

I am writing you today regarding a funding inequality issue in the proposed FY 2016 budget.

The budget contains a proposed 41% increase in funding for paving from \$3.975 million to \$5.6 million. At the same time, there is a 29% decrease in funding for Complete Streets from \$900,000 to \$641,000. That is a net funding increase of \$1.366 million.

Alas, this budget as proposed makes no sense. Our City needs to do more, not less, for Complete Streets. Our citizens don't want to drive everywhere. However, they feel forced to do so by the lack of a pedestrian- and bicyclist-friendly infrastructure. Cutting funding for the small Complete Streets budget while at the same time substantially increasing the already much bigger budget for paving sends exactly the wrong message.

Here are two proposals to remedy the situation:

- Split the proposed increase of \$1.366 million to create a powerful Complete Streets program with \$1.583 million while still providing a much improved paving budget with \$4.658 million.
- Distribute the proposed increase proportionally to each budget, i.e., 81.5% for Paving and 18.5% for Complete Streets for \$5.089 million and \$1.152 million, respectively.

Alexandria's citizens rely on each one of you to make their City more livable and less dependent on personal automobile transportation. Keep this in mind when you review the budget and do not allow a reduction in funding for Complete Streets.

Best regards,

Eric Wagner
18 West Uhler Avenue

- Expected Response Date: Tuesday, April 28

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Jackie Henderson

From: ronna.traylor@me.com
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2015 2:05 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #70782: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council I'm writing to request that the City Cou

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 70782.

Request Details:

- Name: Ronna Traylor
 - Approximate Address: No Address Specified
 - Phone Number: 703.801.1865
 - Email: ronna.traylor@me.com
 - Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
 - Request Description: I'm writing to request that the City Council support ACPS by fully funding our schools' operating and capital improvement budget. My husband and I have lived in Alexandria for almost 20 years. Our involvement with ACPS began as our son, who is now a 3rd grader at Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy, entered kindergarten-- though we knew of ACPS's good reputation years before he entered school. We'd specifically heard great things about LCTA's Core Knowledge Curriculum and the Character Counts program at the school. Great things still happen at LCTA, but I'm concerned that the needs of the school will overshadow the current strengths. LCTA's building needs work. Specifically, we need a new roof and work or replacement of the building envelope. These projects have been delayed year after year. I'm confident that there are other building maintenance issues at other schools as well. Our students and our city residents need the schools to be supported. The students need classrooms free of rushing water coming in through windows on heavy rain days. Both students and teachers need classrooms free of mold and other health risks due to leaks and water run-off. Our city's residents need our schools to continue to be an incentive for folks to move to or remain in Alexandria. Should City Council cut the budget request by 3 million this year, facility repairs and maintenance will again, be delayed. Please work amicably with ACPS and fully fund our schools' operating and capital improvement budget. The investment is worth it!
- Many Thanks,
Ronna Traylor
Alexandria Resident
LCTA Parent
LCTA PTA President
- Expected Response Date: Monday, April 27

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: melissaharrington33@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2015 2:25 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #70795: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council April 20, 2015 Dear Mayor Euille and

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 70795.

Request Details:

- Name: Melissa Harrington
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 7035494121
- Email: melissaharrington33@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: April 20, 2015

Dear Mayor Euille and City Council Members,

As a parent of ACPS students and President of the George Mason Elementary School PTA, I am writing to implore you to fully fund the budget put forth by ACPS.

While I am grateful that the City Manager's 2016 proposed budget includes a 3.1% increase over current funding to ACPS, this still leaves ACPS \$3.2 million short of the \$201 million of City funds they need to cover the budget the school board passed in February.

The School Board's proposed budget is lean and modest. Even though ACPS is projected to rise by more than 500 students or 3.7% in the coming year (a pattern we've seen for several years), the ACPS combined funds budget is only 2.8% higher than last year.

George Mason Elementary is projected to serve 570 students next year. This year GMES serves 540 but only 8 years ago GMES served approximately 370; over a 50% increase in less than a decade. And the schools on the West end are facing even larger increases.

Alexandria schools are not only faced with an increase in students; the schools are seeing an increase in English Language Learners (ELL) and students on free and reduced lunch. This is significant because all of the research and history shows these students require greater services and support.

In the last 10 years Alexandria schools have grown and changed; so much so that many families who left the public school system, returned. At this point and time, ACPS is serving a vast majority of families in the City. It is amazing that Alexandria City serves all students; not just poor students, not just privileged students, not just students of any one race or religion but all students. However, this progress is fragile and without the proper support ACPS could easily slide backward. With a decrease in funding, ACPS will be forced to choose what students and programs to serve.

While Alexandria City's budget and funding process is much different than that of Arlington and Fairfax County, we are faced with many of the same issues as our neighbors. Compared to Arlington County our appropriation per student are significantly less. In addition, their ELL and reduced lunch populations is less than Alexandria City's; 57.5% of students in Alexandria City are receiving free and reduced lunch but in Arlington this number is 32.1%. Likewise, 28.4% of students in Alexandria require ELL services while this number in Arlington is only 18%.

Communities that value public schools are rewarded with lower crime, higher property values and more

importantly, the knowledge that they are providing all school age children with access to a brighter future.

With ACPS buildings with years of deferred maintenance, with yearly increases in enrollment, with an increase in students with special circumstances, with the lack of raises for our teachers for several years and a push to get all ACPS schools to the high standards of our neighboring school districts, is now the time to ask ACPS to do more with less?

Thank you for taking time to read my letter. I look forward to hearing how you will choose to advocate for the public schools.

Best,
Melissa Harrington

- Expected Response Date: Monday, April 27

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Jackie Henderson

From: randallmw@comcast.net
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2015 5:09 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #70828: 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 70828.

Request Details:

- Name: Marie Randall
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 703-888-1730
- Email: randallmw@comcast.net
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Dear Mayor Euille and City Council Members,

As a parent of two George Mason students and one George Washington student, I am writing to not only highly encourage, but plead that you fully fund the budget put forth by ACPS. While I appreciate that the City Manager's 2016 proposed budget that includes a 3.1% increase over current funding to ACPS, this still leaves ACPS \$3.2 million short of the \$201 million of City funds they need to cover the budget the school board passed in February.

The School Board's proposed budget is very tight. Even though ACPS is projected to rise by more than 500 students or 3.7% for the 2015-16 school year, the ACPS combined funds budget is only 2.8% higher than last year. George Mason Elementary is projected to serve 570 students next year. This year GMES serves 540 but only 8 years ago, when my 7th grader started at George Mason, the school had approximately 370 students; over a 50% increase in less than a decade. This is not just happening at GMES, but most of the City's schools and the schools on the West end are facing even larger increases.

The challenge that Alexandria schools are facing are not only an increase in students; but the increase is in English Language Learners (ELL) and students on free and reduced lunch. This is especially significant because all of the research and history shows these students require greater services and support – and consequently, it costs more per pupil than it does for a student from a household with a higher income and without any special service needs.

The return to ACPS by many City families has been fantastic. There are very committed parents and community members who want to support the school system and help it become a flagship system and a showcase for all of its diversity. We are fortunate that there are so many parents and alum who provide so many volunteer hours – but you cannot keep advocating for more volunteers. However, when the budget doesn't keep up with enrollment and ACPS is asked to do SO MUCH MORE with less, then difficult decisions have to be made. If ACPS must serve all of its students, then who should it prioritize? Who would the Council choose not to serve? If this sounds callous, that is because those are the decisions that have to be made. We are well past cutting extras – we are increasing class sizes, using facilities that are in dire need of repairs, and many other desperate measures.

Compared to Arlington County, our appropriation per student is significantly less. In addition, their ELL and reduced lunch populations is less than Alexandria City's; 57.5% of students in Alexandria City are receiving free and reduced lunch but in Arlington this number is 32.1%. Likewise, 28.4% of students in Alexandria require ELL services while this number in Arlington is only 18%. Additionally, with years of deferred maintenance on our facilities, with yearly increases in enrollment, with an increase in students with special circumstances, with the lack of raises for our teachers for several years and a push to get all ACPS schools to the high standards of our neighboring school districts, how does City Council expect ACPS to be able to do this? Unlike private schools, ACPS cannot turn anyone away – not because of what they could pay, how they look, or if they have a special

need. ACPS is extremely challenged by the diverse population it serves – and we should not be punished for that – we need commitments from our elected officials to understand what that means – and responsibly provide funding.

Thank you for your time and thanks for meeting with many of us. Continue to get to know us and our families – because it isn't the School Board who will be most affected by your decision – it is your community members and their children.

Best,
Marie Randall

- Expected Response Date: Monday, April 27

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Jackie Henderson

From: pogicusak@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2015 10:49 AM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #70753: 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 70753.

Request Details:

- Name: Austin Cusak
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 8013694114
- Email: pogicusak@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor and City Council,

The Potomac Yard community would like to start a meaningful dialogue about the Special Tax District put in place to support the Potomac Yard Metro Station Project.

Please see the attached document explaining our concerns, potential solutions, and a request to meet with us before the public hearing in May.

Please contact me to schedule a time convenient that we can meet with you.

Best,

Austin Cusak
801.369.4114
pogicusak@gmail.com

- Attachment: [PY Letter - Special Tax District - 20 APR 2015.pdf](#)
- Expected Response Date: Monday, April 27

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

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Special Tax District Response
April 20, 2015

Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor and City Council Members:

We are writing to introduce ourselves as your neighbors, supporters of the Potomac Yard Metro Station Project and concerned residents living in the areas of Potomac Yard that will be affected by the Special Tax District instituted by the City in connection with such project.

While we are in favor of the proposed metro station that has been in the planning phase for many years, we believe our community is being uniquely – and unjustly – targeted by the city. In particular, we are concerned by how the special tax district was defined in an inequitable way, excluding other neighboring communities who will certainly benefit as much from the project, particularly Potomac Greens, Old Town Greens and the new Oakville Triangle Development.

After carefully reviewing the statement from the City of Alexandria dated March 4, 2014 which confirmed that Old Town Greens was not subject to the Special Tax District and the memorandum from the Acting City Manager dated May 19, 2011 later excluding Potomac Greens from the area in which a special assessment would be applied, our community believes that the residential area of Potomac Yard was only included in the Tier II portion of the Special Tax District due to the fact that residents could not be represented in the deliberation process at the time and, as a result, the tax burden was passed along to us.

As a consequence, our community would like to start a meaningful dialogue about this situation before the public hearings scheduled for May take place. This is particularly important as the continuous support of many of the residents of Potomac Yard for this project relies upon having this conversation in a timely manner.

Our community believes that either:

- (i) The Tier II of the special tax assessment should be applied to all residents within a set radius of the planned metro station, thus reducing the burden placed on Potomac Yard residents; or alternatively
- (ii) Potomac Yard should also be excluded from the Tier II of the Special Tax District, as the justification used to exclude other neighborhoods are equally and largely applicable to our community as well. It is flagrant that the amount of funds to be raised by the levying of the special Potomac Yard tax is negligible compared to the scope of project funding, yet is a substantial and disproportionate burden on each of the families of Potomac Yard.

We invite you to have this conversation with us and look forward to hearing from you within five business days, which is justifiable given the urgency of the matter and the upcoming May 16 meeting. Please contact Austin Cusak at (801) 369-4114; pogicusak@gmail.com to schedule a convenient time for us to meet.

Kind regards,

Potomac Yard Residents

Visit our website at: <http://www.pystd.org/>

Ref: North Potomac Yard Small Area Plan

Jackie Henderson

From: camyx115@me.com
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2015 10:27 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #70657: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Dear City Leaders,As a parent of a L

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

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Request Details:

- Name: Cheryl Amyx
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: No Phone
- Email: camyx115@me.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Dear City Leaders,

As a parent of a Lyles-Crouch elementary student and a long-time resident of Alexandria, I am concerned about funding for our schools.

A healthy and vibrant school system is at the cornerstone of being a great City. The better the schools, the more families will flock to the city -- not just for a historic tour but for a promising education and ultimately a great future. The end result is a higher economic advantage for all. Your support of ACPS is at the heart of our City's future.

It is my understanding that there is a potential lack of funding for schools and for the operating budget of LCTA, which may mean a leaky roof and moldy building for our little ones. Our future leaders deserve better!

As budget tradeoffs are in process, please keep our educational system and our children's well-being at the forefront of priorities. I ask that you support ACPS and perpetuate a shared strategy and vision between ACPS and the City and that you fulfill the commitments made on behalf our children. The parents of LCTA and the LCTA PTA and Principal are partners in learning, in fun and the health and safety of our students. We ask that you partner with us, join us in creating an extraordinary learning environment -- one that is safe, healthy and invigorating.

Educate and provide a safe learning environment for our children. Save our roof. Help grow our City into a place where families want to be.

Thank you of your time and consideration.

- Expected Response Date: Friday, April 24

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Jackie Henderson

From: jeanne_gardner@comcast.net
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2015 2:23 PM
To: Jackie Henderson
Subject: Chingaupin Recreation and Aquatic Center - budget
Attachments: letter to council, c manager summer 2015 budget April 2015 (3).docx

April 17, 2017

Attached is my letter to City Council and to the City Manager Mark Jinks.

Would you be so kind as to please forward this letter to them and confirm.

Thank you for your assistance with this request.

Jeanne Gardner
105 Gretna Green Court
Alexandria, VA 22304
703-823-4009

April 17, 2015

Dear Mayor, Alexandria City Council and Alexandria City Manager Jinks:

RE: Chinguapin Recreation and Aquatic Center

I am writing to you as President of the Chinguapin Advisory Council with our concerns regarding the hours at the only indoor swimming pool, Rixse Pool in Alexandria.

As we are currently in the budget process for FY 2016, the hours of services for the summer of 2015 at Chinguapin Recreation and Aquatic Center for learn to swim lessons, other classes and open swim, have been reduced by closing the facility at 6 PM daily. We recommend that the normal hours at Chinguapin Rixse Pool be maintained until 8:45 Monday through Thursday and until 6 PM on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Also, during the summer of 2015, the Warwick Pool will be closed until a future solution can be made regarding that property and the complicated legal issues. The people who swim at Warwick Pool will be searching for an alternative place to swim.

The only alternative for swimming during the evening would be at Charles Houston and Old Town Pool. This will create greater demand for pool time at Chinguapin. Otherwise, residents will be traveling to other jurisdictions for swimming activities.

Please consider keeping the pool at Chinguapin Recreation and Aquatic Center open using the current hours of operation for the summer of 2015, in the interests of the residents of Alexandria.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely yours,

Jeanne Gardner, President

Chinguapin Advisory Council

105 Gretna Green Court

Alexandria, VA 22304

703-823-4009

Craig Moran, Vice-President

Roger Sullivan, Secretary-Treasurer

Carolyn Griglione, Board Member

Kirsten Fehrenkamp, Board Member

Sandy Wiener, Board Member

Jackie Henderson

From: stacypaxson@yahoo.com
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2015 11:27 AM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #70466: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council ACPS BudgetI have been a resident of

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 70466.

Request Details:

- Name: Stacy Chittick
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 703-317-9376
- Email: stacypaxson@yahoo.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: ACPS Budget

I have been a resident of Alexandria since 1990, a home owner since 2004 and a Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy parent since 2012. We are very fortunate to be part of the Lyles-Crouch community. I like to say that my favorite things about Lyles-Crouch are the 4Cs – Curriculum (Core Knowledge); Character (it is a designated National School of Character); Community (the administration, staff, teachers and parents actively are involved in making the school environment the best it can be) and Communication (we strive to make certain all families and constituents are well informed). Lyles-Crouch and the rest of the ACPS system is an integral part of making Alexandria a great place to call home. As you probably are aware from the joint ACPS and City Council Long Range Education Facilities Plan Work Group, many of the school buildings in the city are aged and need dramatic repairs and updates. In the near-term, Lyles-Crouch desperately needs a new roof. The current roof leaks during rain storms causing water damage to this city's asset, disruptions to classroom instruction and safety risks to our children and teachers. Funding for a new roof for Lyles-Crouch gets delayed year-after-year. ACPS has presented a lean budget request to the City this year. To cut the ACPS request by \$3 million will result in cuts to facility repairs including, perhaps, the Lyles-Crouch roof. You are welcome to personally tour the school on a day of heavy rains to see first-hand the problems the staff and students at Lyles-Crouch experience. Please work closely with ACPS and fully fund our schools' operating and capital improvement budget. Do this for us residents and for our children. Many thanks.

Stacy Paxson Chittick
Alexandria Resident
LCTA Parent
LCTA PTA Executive Vice President
LCTA PTA President Elect

- Expected Response Date: Thursday, April 23

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Jackie Henderson

From: matthews.katy@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2015 10:03 AM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #70446: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Dear Members of the Alexandria City Coun

Dear **Call.Click.Connect.** User

A request was just created using **Call.Click.Connect.** The request ID is 70446.

Request Details:

- Name: Katy Matthews
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 703-899-7955
- Email: matthews.katy@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Dear Members of the Alexandria City Council:
I write, again, in support of the ACPS budget. The School Board has brought a lean and responsible budget while still being able to progress the district. The superintendent found savings and cuts adding up to nearly \$7.5M before delivering the budget. The Board does not want to cut non-instructional supports that directly support students. The Superintendent also wants to create a reliable and positive culture for our teachers through professional growth and competitive compensation.
ACPS is planning the CIP projects based on capacity needs found in the Long Range Planning. ACPS has seen consistent and accurate growth that is projected to continue until 2030, when it could level at over 20,000 students. ACPS is currently at 14,224 students. ACPS needs to build at Minnie Howard to fulfill our commitment to the current school community and the future students from now until 2030. The School Board deferred \$6.9M before delivering the budget to City Council.
Thank you for your support,
Katy Matthews
707 N. Paxton St.
Alexandria, VA 22304
- Expected Response Date: Thursday, April 23

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: adrienkay@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2015 10:24 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #70431: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Dear Mayor Euille, My name is Adrien

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 70431.

Request Details:

- Name: Adrien Lopez
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 907-321-7739
- Email: adrienkay@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Dear Mayor Euille,

My name is Adrien Lopez, and along with my husband Rafael Lima, are part of a Steering Committee representing concerned residents living in the areas of Potomac Yard that will be affected by the Special Tax District instituted by the City of Alexandria to fund the proposed Potomac Yard Metro Project.

While we are in favor of the proposed metro station, we believe our community is being uniquely – and unjustly – targeted by the city. In particular, we are concerned by how the special tax district was defined in an inequitable way, excluding other neighboring communities who will certainly benefit as much from the project, particularly Potomac Greens, Old Town Greens and the new Oakville Triangle Development.

After carefully reviewing the statement from the City of Alexandria dated March 4, 2014 which confirmed that Old Town Greens was not subject to the Special Tax District and the memorandum from the Acting City Manager dated May 19, 2011 later excluding Potomac Greens from the area in which a special assessment would be applied, our community believes that the residential area of Potomac Yard was only included in the Tier II portion of the Special Tax District due to the fact that residents could not be represented in the deliberation process at the time and, as a result, the tax burden was passed along to us.

The problem is that the other communities will benefit as much if not more from the metro, since they are geographically closer and have more residents. We want to ask the City to either apply the tier II of the special tax district to all residents within a set radius or also exclude us from the tier II.

We look forward to hearing from you. Attached is our petition which will be delivered at the May 16th Public Hearing of the Alexandria City Council.

Thanks in advance for listening and caring about this issue as the Mayor of our community.

Best regards,
Adrien Lopez & Rafael Lima
717 Diamond Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301

- Attachment: [Potomac Yard STD Petition.docx](#)
- Expected Response Date: Wednesday, April 22

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

To: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: Potomac Yard Residents

RE: Potomac Yard Metro Project - Special Tax District Boundaries

WHEREAS, the Alexandria City Council has established two special tax districts (Tier I and Tier II) to help finance the redevelopment of the Potomac Yard Area.

WHEREAS, the "Tier I Special Services District," which City Council approved in December of 2010, encompasses North Potomac Yard (Landbay F) as well as Landbays G, H and the multi-family portion of Landbay I.

WHEREAS, beginning in calendar year 2011, Tier I properties are assessed a tax of \$0.20 per \$100 in assessed value in addition to the City's base real estate tax rate (for a tax rate of \$1.238 per \$100 in calendar year 2013).

WHEREAS, the "Tier II Special Services District" encompasses all of Landbay I not in the Tier I District and all of Landbay J, generally including southern part of Potomac Yard and not including the development sites south of the Monroe Avenue Bridge and Potomac Greens.

WHEREAS, beginning in calendar year 2016, Tier II properties will be assessed a tax of \$0.10 per \$100 in assessed value in addition to the City's base real estate tax rate.

WHEREAS, previous documents considered by the City Council indicate that the Tier II Special Services District initially encompassed a broader area including at least Potomac Greens as confirmed by the statement from the City of Alexandria dated March 4, 2014; a decision which was later reverted as indicated in the memorandum from the Acting City Manager dated May 19, 2011.

WHEREAS, Potomac Yard Residents believe that some residential areas of Potomac Yard (namely Landbay I not in the Tier I District and all of Landbay J) were only included in the Tier II portion of the Special Services District due to the fact that residents could not be represented in the deliberation process at the time and, as a result, the tax burden was passed along to such community.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, the concerned residents of Potomac Yard, INDICATE that while we are strongly in favor of the Potomac Yard Metro project and will not seek to deliberately delay it in any way, WE AIM at bringing forth an equitable status for the residents of Potomac Yard who currently find themselves alone in the Tier II "special tax district" that would otherwise normally be defined by some logical geographic boundary, such as "within a 0.5 mile radius" or some other equitable and democratic zoning.

IT IS HEREBY REQUESTED that, either through the act of the Mayor or the Members of the City Council, a review of this matter is requested, deliberated, voted and, as a result, a decision is made to adopt one of the options outlined below:

1. REDEFINE the "**Tier II Special Services District**" to include all the neighborhoods within walking distance (or some specific radius) of the Metro station, as they will all share equally in

the benefits, considering a proportional reduction in the assessed tax of \$0.10 per \$100 in assessed value; or

2. REMOVE the residential areas of Potomac Yard included in the "**Tier II Special Services District**" as you did previously for neighboring communities, particularly Old Town Greens and Potomac Greens, therefore recognizing that the amount of funds to be raised by the levying of the special Potomac Yard tax is negligible compared to the scope of project funding, yet is a substantial and disproportionate burden on each of the families of Potomac Yard.

Respectfully,

The following residents of Potomac Yard

1. Robert Giroux, 2103 Jefferson Davis Hwy
2. Cindy Xu, 2103 Jefferson Davis Hwy
3. etc...
4. etc...
- 5.

Jackie Henderson

From: mjlw1021@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2015 3:30 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #70420: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Please fund the school budget. The scho

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 70420.

Request Details:

- Name: Margo Williams
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 7036832417
- Email: mjlw1021@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Please fund the school budget. The schools are growing and the need is great. As a parent I see it every day - and there is only so much more fundraising this community can handle because the need for programs, students, classes, activities, and sports for money will end up coming from the community in one way or another. Better to pay a few cents/dollars in taxes than to be nicked and dimed by overstressed parents, teachers, and students. Please fund the budget in its entirety! Good schools are critical to a vibrant community, our real estate values, and the future of our fair city.
- Expected Response Date: Wednesday, April 22

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 CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.HELP.

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Jackie Henderson

From: jgeckel@Verizon.net
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2015 2:47 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #70413: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council The School Board needs every bit of mone

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 70413.

Request Details:

- Name: Jennifer Eckel
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 703-801-5610
- Email: jgeckel@Verizon.net
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: The School Board needs every bit of money it requested, and then some. Nothing is more important than educating our children today. They are the leaders of tomorrow.
- Expected Response Date: Wednesday, April 22

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 CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.HELP.

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Jackie Henderson

From: janinerubitski@comcast.net
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2015 9:59 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #70358: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council at 725 S COLUMBUS ST I have been a home owner in Alexandria s

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 70358.

Request Details:

- Name: Janine Rubitski
- Approximate Address: 725 S COLUMBUS ST (See [map below](#))
- Phone Number: 7039305706
- Email: janinerubitski@comcast.net
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: I have been a home owner in Alexandria since 1998 and a Lyles Crouch Traditional Academy parent since 2011. I love pretty much everything about Alexandria and am happy with the city's management and levels of service, whether it is public safety, tourism or the schools.

And our experience at LCTA has been exceptional across the board. The administration, the teachers, the support staff and the community of parents and learners are all great. Each teacher we have had in our four years there has shown great dedication to teaching and caring for our child as a student and as a person.

I feel that our school and the rest of the ACPS system is an integral part of making Alexandria a great place to live and work. Because of this, I believe the city needs to fully fund our schools' operating and capital improvement budget.

Lyles Crouch is very much in need of a new roof, and the project is at risk of being delayed for at least the 3rd year in a row. Every rainy day, leaks in classrooms cause distractions and safety risks for our kids and teachers.

Our teachers are very dedicated to the kids, and we are lucky to have low turnover at our school. But if the schools do not receive full funding for the growth in the student population, I worry that the strain on teachers and administrators will not keep ACPS competitive with surrounding districts and we will lose talented educators.

Thank you for your time and I trust you will make the needed investment for our kids.

Janine Rubitski

- Expected Response Date: Tuesday, April 21

Jackie Henderson

From: CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2015 3:10 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #70330: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council I have concerns about the special distri

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 70330.

Request Details:

- Name: *Call.Click.Connect.* Customer
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: No Phone
- Email: No Email
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: I have concerns about the special district tax imposed on Potomac Yards. First, it is not evenly spread within the Potomac Yard community.
Second, we pay federal and state taxes - as this is where the money should come from. I can't imagine that every metro stop there is within the Washington Metro system, EACH community paid additional taxes. Third, we are one of the richest counties in the country, and the county has collected huge amounts of revenues from the real estate appreciation, where has all this money gone? How is there never enough money, when taxes go up and real estates taxes are higher?

I have made a point to not vote for anyone that supports higher taxes. I have a private business, and I must figure out how to be efficient, and budget the money wisely. When will all levels of government take the same responsibility?
- Expected Response Date: Tuesday, April 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 CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.HELP.

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Jackie Henderson

From: bjviney@comcast.net
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2015 8:20 AM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #70150: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council PLEASE fund the expanding infrastructure

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 70150.

Request Details:

- Name: Barbara Viney
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 703-867-0569
- Email: bjviney@comcast.net
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: PLEASE fund the expanding infrastructure needs of the school system. The future of Alexandria is our children and is impacted by what they learn, how they learn, their social interactions and skills; ensuring the right learning environment is critical! We also need to consider that, except for the kids in private schools, every 9th-12th grade student is a captive audience at Minnie Howard and TC Williams campuses and what we do today and how we do it impacts their view of the world, their civility skills, their conflict management skills, their interpersonal skills, their vocational skills and their professional skills. We should take advantage of this opportunity and ensure the right environment for their learning and impact on their future and that of Alexandria.

Regards,

- Expected Response Date: Monday, April 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: gdonnellan@comcast.net
Sent: Sunday, April 12, 2015 11:40 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #70141: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council To the Honorable Mayor Euille, Vice Mayo

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 70141.

Request Details:

- Name: Glenn Donnellan
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: No Phone
- Email: gdonnellan@comcast.net
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: To the Honorable Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Silberberg and members of the City Council:

I have just learned that T.C. Williams 9th Grade Center at Minnie Howard does not have enough room for our current class of 6th graders (and even now space is very tight). The School Board's capital improvement plan (CIP) for years has included funds to add 20 more classrooms at Minnie Howard, among many other critical facilities funding needs -- most affecting the west end, including the new building at Patrick Henry and additional space at Polk. The City Council needs to consider a budget that will FUND these projects. My children attend Hammond, and my daughter is in 6th grade. They've already experienced over-crowded classrooms there, and I've seen first-hand how disruptive it is to their learning and their teacher's effectiveness in instruction. I believe that classroom size (# of students per classroom) is perhaps the single most effective tool in providing a good education, next to the quality of the individual teacher. Further, the effectiveness of even the greatest teacher is harmfully impacted by too large a classroom. I've seen it at Hammond, I've seen it at Tucker, and I urge you to not let it get worse. Don't let our kid's education limp by. Don't let our kids slip through the cracks in overstuffed classrooms. DO one of the most effective things you can to help them bring the academic success level of Alexandria up to par with the rest of Northern Virginia: Include the School Board's CIP in the city budget. Mayor Euille, you recently visited Hammond and spoke to my daughter and her classmates. You talked of all the great things that you've done for Alexandria in your long career as mayor. Please do not let those students down now; please continue to do great things by their education, so they can grow to be proud, well educated Alexandrians and one day continue to do the great things for this city that you and the City Council have.

- Expected Response Date: Monday, April 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: levyab@hotmail.com
Sent: Sunday, April 12, 2015 9:18 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #70138: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council As a MacArthur Elementary School parent

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 70138.

Request Details:

- Name: Arden Levy
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 703-850-0145
- Email: levyab@hotmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: As a MacArthur Elementary School parent - please move forward with approving both the Operating budget and the Capital Improvement Project budget.
Approval of both these budgets directly and indirectly affects whether MacArthur will be able to carry out the short- and long-term planned projects. MacArthur needs a new, larger school, and we have been promised many things for the past six years and we keep getting pushed aside. Now is the time for the City Council to approve the budgets so that we can address all of the larger problems we are currently facing at MacArthur. These problems include: over-crowding, HVAC issues, rooms not intended as classrooms being used as such, lunchtime hours from 10am-1pm, insufficient space for after-school activities even though we have the budget and manpower.
Every day these problems prevent our students from learning. My second grader should not be eating lunch at 1 pm. Don't you like to eat lunch before 1 pm? Certainly, 7 and 8 year-olds likewise should be eating lunch by that time. And my second grader should not have to compete for after school chess. So many children are interested in playing, and the PTA has the funds and resources to open as many sessions as possible. However, we simply don't have the room to accommodate the interest. Think of how an advanced chess program could benefit so many more students. These are just small examples of how the problems with the school affect the students' ability to learn every day.
Thank you for considering this request and for moving the budgets forward for approval.
- Expected Response Date: Monday, April 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 CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.HELP.

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Jackie Henderson

From: bbiffl@yahoo.com
Sent: Sunday, April 12, 2015 9:06 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #70137: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Silberberg, and

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 70137.

Request Details:

- Name: Betsy Biffl
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: No Phone
- Email: bbiffl@yahoo.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Silberberg, and Council Members:

I am writing to request that you reject the proposed budget cuts to funding for the expansion of Capital Bikeshare (CaBi). My understanding is that the City already has Capital funds for this. The location of the new stations would include the Potomac Yard area, where the City has approved redevelopment that will cause a great influx of people. It is yet to be seen what will happen with a new Metro station, but having CaBi stations will allow the current and future residents a way to travel south to other parts of Alexandria and north to Arlington and DC without putting more cars on US 1. CaBi has been a huge success throughout the region and, frankly, it would be embarrassing for the City to halt expansion over \$160,000 while continuing to approve more and more development that will increase population density.

Please continue to show a commitment to supporting non-motorized transportation and reject the proposed budget to CaBi expansion.

Respectfully,
Betsy Biffl

- Expected Response Date: Monday, April 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 CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.HELP.

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Jackie Henderson

From: tim@thetravelyear.com
Sent: Saturday, April 11, 2015 11:12 AM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #70104: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Dear Mayor William D. Euille, Vice Mayor

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 70104.

Request Details:

- Name: Thomas Hayes
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 7034618393
- Email: tim@thetravelyear.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Dear Mayor William D. Euille, Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg, and Alexandria City Council:

As a 13-year resident of the City of Alexandria with young children in Alexandria City Public schools, I am very concerned about the financial health of the ACPS system and its ability to educate our city's children. I'd like to see a future in Alexandria with competitive schools that rival our neighboring jurisdictions. Under-funding ACPS is a sure path to failure.

I strongly urge the city to fully fund the ACPS operating budget for 2015-2016 as well as the ACPS Capital Improvement Plan budget.

Sincerely,

Thomas Hayes

- Expected Response Date: Monday, April 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: julia.haiyan@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2015 10:39 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #70092: 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 70092.

Request Details:

- Name: Julia Meade
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: No Phone
- Email: julia.haiyan@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor and City Council,

As a parent with one kid in public school and another going in a year, I request that you fully fund the ACPS operating budget for 2015-2016 school year as well as the CIP budget. Providing a quality education for its young residents is the best investment a city can make for its future, not to mention what a difference it makes for all the kids who are in the public school system.

Thank you!

Sincerely,
Julia Meade

- Expected Response Date: Friday, April 17

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 CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.HELP.

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Jackie Henderson

From: pmclenahan@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2015 4:53 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #70086: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Good afternoon Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 70086.

Request Details:

- Name: Patrick McLenahan
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 703-819-6771
- Email: pmclenahan@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Good afternoon Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Silberberg and Council members,

As a parent of 4 (2 current MacArthur Elementary students and 2 future students), I'm writing regarding the ACPS 2015-2016 operating budget and the 5-year capital spending budget. As you weigh your 2015-2016 funding alternatives, I respectfully request that you take necessary steps to ensure that both the operating and CIP budgets are fully funded.

As it relates to the CIP, MacArthur students are subject to overcrowding, HVAC issues, physical plant problems and lunchtime hours from 10a-1p. Simply put, we need a new and larger school to accommodate and support our students.

Fully funding the operating budget will ensure, amongst other items, that ACPS teachers are not lured to surrounding school districts due to an inability to provide competitive salaries/salary increases.

I've had a wonderful experience with MacArthur thus far and I want to see it continue to thrive. There are several positive things going on at MacArthur and important programming that, in my opinion, should be continued and supported. Retaining FTEs and special support staff (including reading, ELL and math specialists) is a vital component of keeping MacArthur great.

Thank you for your consideration,

Pat McLenahan

- Expected Response Date: Friday, April 17

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 CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.HELP.

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Jackie Henderson

From: lohmann99@yahoo.com
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2015 9:59 AM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #70160: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council I'm writing to ask that you adequately s

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 70160.

Request Details:

- Name: Cynthia Million
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 571-243-8820
- Email: lohmann99@yahoo.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: I'm writing to ask that you adequately support education in Alexandria City by increasing the city funding for the ACPS Combined Funds budget and the CIP. Increasing school funding will help our children, our communities, and Alexandria City as a whole. Thank you for doing the right thing.
- Expected Response Date: Monday, April 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 CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.HELP.

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Jackie Henderson

From: deannemcnulty@mac.com
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2015 10:14 AM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #70163: 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 70163.

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 Euille, Vice Mayor Silberberg, and City Council Members;

I am writing to encourage you to increase the city budget allotment to ACPS to the full amount necessary to provide our students with the education that they deserve in spaces that provide a safe and productive environment.

My children attend MacArthur and John Adams Elementary schools. Both schools have surpassed maximum capacity and have challenges with providing adequate staff and quality facilities that will provide for an education that they are due. My daughter at MacArthur has been both cold and hot when the HVAC has not been working properly, obviously this makes learning difficult. Classes now take place in spaces that were never intended to hold classes and do not provide adequate safety considerations. Lunch takes place starting at 10 am and the last students eat lunch at 1 pm, finishing just 1 hour before dismissal.

Thank you for the learning cottage...it is much appreciated and will take a small amount of the load as it provides a productive space for our band, but this is just a start and we have waited for this cottage for years. Our school building is in need of renovation or replacement and this means that we will need the capitol budget to be funded as requested!

John Adams is bursting at the seams! Our teachers have taken on a heavier class-load and they need help. We are still receiving new students on a weekly basis. This school also houses a city wide pre-school and head start program and because of space challenges, these children play on a loading ramp in poor weather because there is no gym/activity room space where they can run and play...as small children need to learn.

Our children are the future of our city. While I do not look forward to paying higher property taxes, I believe that it is well worth the investment in our children and families to gain a better today and tomorrow.

Thank you.
Colonel James and Deanne McNulty

- Expected Response Date: Monday, April 20

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

Jackie Henderson

From: amerchant88@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2015 11:22 AM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #70176: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Honorable Mayor, Vice Mayor, and City Co

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 70176.

Request Details:

- Name: Alan Merchant
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 7034020590
- Email: amerchant88@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Honorable Mayor, Vice Mayor, and City Council,

I too would like to voice my concern about the fairness of the special purpose tax only applying to the Potomac Yard residents. The PY Metro will clearly serve other residents of Alexandria and therefore the tax burden should be shared with all Alexandria taxpayers. I would greatly appreciate an explanation of how this special purpose tax can legally be affixed to just one community.

Thank you

- Expected Response Date: Monday, April 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 CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.HELP.

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Jackie Henderson

From: rlaface@hotmail.com
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2015 11:30 AM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #70180: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Please see attached file for details

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 70180.

Request Details:

- Name: Richard LaFace
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 703-244-3545
- Email: rlaface@hotmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Please see attached file for details
- Attachment: [Letter to City Council.pdf](#)
- Expected Response Date: Monday, April 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 CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.HELP.

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To: The Honorable Mayor and City Council, Alexandria City

Date: 13 April 2015

From: Richard R LaFace and Patricia S Harris owners of 610 East Howell Ave, Alexandria, VA 22301

RE: Potomac Yard Metro Project - Special Tax District Tier-II Boundaries - Tax Discrimination

History:

Potomac Yard Special Tax Districts

City Council has established two special tax districts (Tier I and Tier II) to help finance the redevelopment of the Potomac Yard Area.

1. **The "Tier I Special Services District"** which City Council approved in December of 2010, encompasses North Potomac Yard (Landbay F) as well as Landbays G, H and the multi-family portion of Landbay I. Beginning in calendar year 2011, Tier I properties are assessed a tax of \$0.20 per \$100 in assessed value in addition to the City's base real estate tax rate (for a tax rate of \$1.238 per \$100 in calendar year 2013).
2. **The "Tier II Special Services District"** encompasses all of Landbay I not in the Tier I District and all of Landbay J. In general, the Tier II District is the southern part of Potomac Yard not including the development sites south of the Monroe Avenue Bridge and excluding Potomac Greens. Beginning in calendar year 2016, Tier II properties will be assessed a tax of \$0.10 per \$100 in assessed value in addition to the City's base real estate tax rate.

Our Issue:

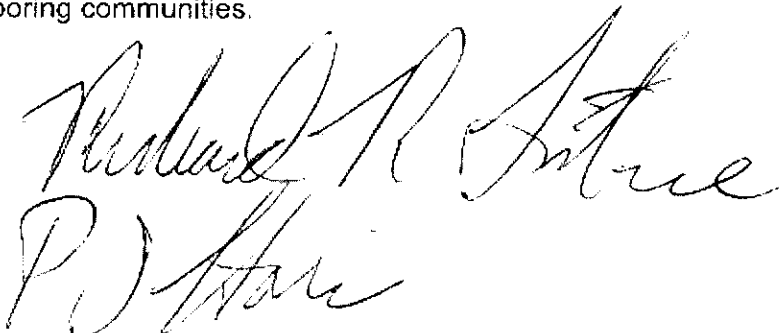
For the record, we are strongly in favor of the Potomac Yard Metro project and will not seek to deliberately delay it in any way.

Our goal is to bring forth an equitable status for the residents of Potomac Yard who currently find themselves alone in the Tier II "special tax district" that would otherwise normally be defined by some geographic distance boundary like; "within a .5 mile radius" or some other equitable and democratic carving out of the district.

We respectfully request that you to immediately deliberate, vote-on and adopt one or the other of the options outlined below:

1. **Redefine the "Tier II Special Services District"** to include all the neighborhoods within walking distance (or some specific radius) of the Metro station, as all will share in the benefits of use of the metro and increased home values.
2. **Remove us from the "Tier II Special Services District"** as you've done previously for all our neighboring communities.

Respectfully,

The block contains two handwritten signatures in black ink. The top signature is for Richard R LaFace and the bottom signature is for Patricia S Harris. Both signatures are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jackie Henderson

From: nguyen.q.vinh@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2015 2:04 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #70213: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Hello Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Silberber

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 70213.

Request Details:

- Name: Vinh Nguyen
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: No Phone
- Email: nguyen.q.vinh@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Hello Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Silberberg, and Alexandria City Council:

I am writing to you to express concern over the Special Tax District that has been established in the Potomac Yard Community. I am a new resident to the Potomac Yard, having moved to Alexandria at the beginning of 2015. When my family decided to purchase a new home in the Potomac Yard, we fully understood there was the potential for a Potomac Yard Metro and that funding would come in part from the Special Tax District we are currently in. To be clear, I fully support the building of the metro and support the Special Tax District to the extent that it facilitates the building of the metro. I applaud your and the city council's effort in ensuring that the Potomac Yard continues to develop. I knew about the metro plan and the Special Tax District during my purchase. What I am concerned about and what I did not know about is the fact that some areas that will clearly benefit from the metro are excluded from the Special Tax District.

In reading various public information that dates back to the establishment of the Special Tax District (specifically the memorandum dated May 19, 2011), the city decided to eventually exempt the Potomac Greens community from the special tax based on several factors:

"Metrorail has historically been paid by all City taxpayers, not just those living close to a station.

Potomac Greens residents were not here in 1999 to participate in the decision which contemplated a special tax district, nor was the tax district in place when they purchased their homes.

Disclosure of the possibility of a tax district in homeowners' settlement documents was not widely known.

Because Potomac Greens homes will eventually appreciate because of the adjacency of a Metrorail station, the average Potomac Green homeowner will pay approximately \$800 more per year already in City real estate taxes (assumes 10% appreciation due to adjacency to a Metrorail station). This will generate about \$0.2 million in revenue that will be directed to the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station fund.

The adjacent Old Town Greens is not in the tax district.

The recent two-cent increase in the City's real estate tax rate means that all City residents, including those in Potomac Greens, will be paying higher taxes for transportation purposes."

Many would argue that several of these exemption points also apply to homeowners in the Potomac Yard, with the exception of not knowing about the Special Tax District in advance. However, there is something inherently wrong and illogical about a Special Tax District that does not include all of the areas that will directly benefit from the metro. Specifically, the Potomac Greens and Old Town Greens will arguably benefit from the metro build,

considering all of the build options are either on the Potomac Greens side or show a connecting bridge that provides access. However, both of those communities are exempted from the Special Tax District.

Many would also argue that this unfair Special Tax District falls squarely on the Takings Clause instead of an actual tax in the sense that this Special Tax District is "a tax singling out one or a handful of citizens," specially the Potomac Yard and not the Potomac Greens or Old Town Greens. Several legal scholars have stated that this precedent "offends the Supreme Court's repeated invocation that the primary purpose of the Takings Clause is "to bar the Government from forcing some people alone to bear public burdens which, in all fairness and justice, should be borne by the public as a whole." Thus the notion that taxes are never takings is untenable; the label "tax" confers no immunity to the principles of the Takings Clause."

I am certainly no legal expert and am not against the Special Tax District. I only ask that you and the city council revisit this exemption decision and precedent and find a way that fairly, equitably, and legally funds the building of the metro. I acknowledge that there will be homeowners in the Potomac Greens and Old Town Greens that will resist inclusion in a Special Tax District, but their exclusion is certainly not "fair share" and perhaps even illegal. I imagine opponents would also argue that Potomac Yard homeowners knew about the Special Tax District when purchasing. However, the question that still remains is whether or not Potomac Yard homeowners knew about the inequity of the Special Tax District and whether or not this information would have influenced a decision to purchase in the community.

I appreciate your time and consideration and truly hope you take this into consideration.

Sincerely,

Vinh Nguyen

- Expected Response Date: Monday, April 20

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Jackie Henderson

From: rg@robertgiroux.com
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2015 1:49 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #70068: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Please find our call to action in "TwoRe

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 70068.

Request Details:

- Name: Robert Giroux
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 202-262-5828
- Email: rg@robertgiroux.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Please find our call to action in "TwoResidentsAgainstTaxDiscrimination.pdf" attached.

Now that the residents of Potomac Yard actually exist and have voices they will finally be able to speak for themselves on this tax discrimination issue, and speak they will.

- Attachment: [TwoResidentsAgainstTaxDiscrimination.pdf](#)
- Expected Response Date: Friday, April 17

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 CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.HELP.

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To: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: Robert Giroux and Cindy (Dixi) Xu
2103 Jefferson Davis Hwy

RE: Potomac Yard Metro Project - Special Tax District Tier-II Boundaries - Tax Discrimination

History:

Potomac Yard Special Tax Districts

City Council has established two special tax districts (Tier I and Tier II) to help finance the redevelopment of the Potomac Yard Area.

1. The "Tier I Special Services District," which City Council approved in December of 2010, encompasses North Potomac Yard (Landbay F) as well as Landbays G, H and the multi-family portion of Landbay I. Beginning in calendar year 2011, Tier I properties are assessed a tax of \$0.20 per \$100 in assessed value in addition to the City's base real estate tax rate (for a tax rate of \$1.238 per \$100 in calendar year 2013).
2. The "**Tier II Special Services District**" encompasses all of Landbay I not in the Tier I District and all of Landbay J. In general, the Tier II District is the southern part of Potomac Yard not including the development sites south of the Monroe Avenue Bridge and excluding Potomac Greens. Beginning in calendar year 2016, Tier II properties will be assessed a tax of \$0.10 per \$100 in assessed value in addition to the City's base real estate tax rate.

Our Issue:

For the record, we are strongly in favor of the Potomac Yard Metro project and will not seek to deliberately delay it in any way.

Our goal is to bring forth an equitable status for the residents of Potomac Yard who currently find themselves alone in the Tier II "special tax district" that would otherwise normally be defined by some geographic distance boundary like; "within a .5 mile radius" or some other equitable and democratic carving out of the district.

We respectfully request that you to immediately deliberate, vote-on and adopt one or the other of the options outlined below:

1. Redefine the "**Tier II Special Services District**" to include all the neighborhoods within walking distance (or some specific radius) of the Metro station, as all will share in the benefits.
2. Remove us from the "**Tier II Special Services District**" as you've done previously for all our neighboring communities.

Respectfully,

Robert Giroux and Cindy Xu
2103 Jefferson Davis Hwy
Alexandria, VA 22301

Jackie Henderson

From: heywoodjs@yahoo.com
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2015 1:09 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #70057: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council I am writing as a concerned parent of on

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 70057.

Request Details:

- Name: Jill Koly
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 703-581-4173
- Email: heywoodjs@yahoo.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: I am writing as a concerned parent of one MacArthur student and one future MacArthur student. Please do whatever you can in your power to fully fund both the operating budget for next year and the CIP budget for the ACPs system. As a parent and a tax payer I am very concerned about overcrowding and maintenance needs in our schools that are not being met. Thank you.
- Expected Response Date: Friday, April 17

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: amanda.mertens@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2015 1:16 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #70060: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council The quality of schools matters. The abil

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 70060.

Request Details:

- Name: Amanda Campbell
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 2023068041
- Email: amanda.mertens@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: The quality of schools matters. The ability of the City of Alexandria to continue to attract taxpaying families is directly linked to the quality of public education. I implore you to fully fund BOTH the ACPS operating budget for next year and the ACPS CIP budget.
- Expected Response Date: Friday, April 17

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

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This is an automated email notification of a *Call.Click.Connect.* request. Please do not reply to this email.

Jackie Henderson

From: markwmunson@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2015 2:09 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #70071: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council As a resident of the City of Alexandria

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 70071.

Request Details:

- Name: Mark Munson
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 571-306-2750
- Email: markwmunson@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: As a resident of the City of Alexandria with two school-age children, I request that the City Council approve the entire funding proposal developed by the Alexandria City Public Schools for the Operating Budget and the Capital Improvement Budget. In particular, I have witnessed deteriorating conditions at the MacArthur Elementary School over the past several years and the City needs to address the facility and capacity issues by fully funding its modernization project.

I have witnessed the negative educational impact of insufficient funding and modernization at MacArthur, such as forced lunch hours at extremely early hours (e.g., 10 AM), classroom instruction being held in rooms the size of large closets, and disruptions to classroom instruction due to equipment breaking and facility repairs. As one of my children has progressed to George Washington Middle School, I continue to see capacity issues there and fear future capacity issues at the Minnie Howard and TC Williams schools.

Regards,

Mark Munson

- Expected Response Date: Friday, April 17

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Jackie Henderson

From: ebentrup24@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2015 2:31 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #70073: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Our PTA group recently sent an email ind

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 70073.

Request Details:

- Name: Elizabeth Bentrup
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 214-502-4646
- Email: ebentrup24@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Our PTA group recently sent an email indicating that a tax cut could potentially leave a significant gap in ACPS' 2015-2016 operating budget and the 5-year plan. I am a parent in the district and a former teacher. I can tell you that the overcrowding of classrooms and schools has hugely detrimental effects on students and their education. The amount of learning goes down and the stress on teachers goes up, forcing some of your best teachers out (which is already a problem... Fairfax County benefits from our loss every year). Please consider prioritizing education in your deliberations. I appreciate your consideration.
- Expected Response Date: Friday, April 17

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Jackie Henderson

From: CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2015 2:42 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #70074: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Please keep the City of Alexandria Law L

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 70074.

Request Details:

- Name: *Call.Click.Connect.* Customer
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: No Phone
- Email: No Email
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Please keep the City of Alexandria Law Library open. It is good to keep it open for the attorneys and also the public.
- Expected Response Date: Friday, April 17

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 CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.HELP.

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Jackie Henderson

From: dpidikiti@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2015 10:31 AM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #70037: 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 70037.

Request Details:

- Name: Dipti Pidikiti-Smith
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 703-329-7989
- Email: dpidikiti@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Dear Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Silberberg, and Members of City Council,

The proposed budget released in March 2015 eliminates the City's contribution to the law library. The law library is now closed. Almost 2/3 of the users are not lawyers. Lawyers who use the law library include guardian ad litem who represent children in a variety of juvenile cases such as abuse and neglect cases. The low compensation of GAL's does not often allow them to have an extensive office library so the law library is a great resource.

The decision to eliminate funding to the law library creates access to justice issues, discourages businesses (from solo practitioners to law firms) from expanding into the City and may result in good attorneys like GALs to leave the City. The resources and services provided by the law library are unique. The amount of funding requested is small and benefits are large to the City. The City of Alexandria is now the "only jurisdiction in Northern Virginia without the resources of a law library available to its citizens."

The following open letter was addressed to Mayor William D. Euille and was published by The Connection:

This letter is on behalf of the board of directors of the Alexandria Law Library. The board was greatly disappointed to learn, when the proposed budget for the City of Alexandria was released on March 2015, that the city manager eliminated the city's contribution to the continued operation of the Law Library. The city is one of the partners who, along with the Court and the Alexandria Bar Association, formed the Law Library many years ago. (Each of these partners appoints three members to the Law Library Board.) It appears that the city manager has taken this action without discussing the matter with the Court or the Bar Association.

You may recall that in the 2015 budget cycle, the city manager proposed completely eliminating the city's contribution to the Law Library. We believe that the council determined that continued operation of the Law Library is beneficial to the citizens of the City of Alexandria when it reinstated its contribution in the amount of \$62,462. Although these funds were insufficient to employ a full-time law librarian, and the full-time law librarian position was terminated, the Law Library kept its doors open by employing temporary personnel at reduced hours. Also, as noted last year, the Law Library has discussed a possible combination with the City Library.

The city's contribution to the Law Library is used primarily to cover personnel costs. As a result of the elimination of funds by the city, the Law Library will not be able to cover future personnel costs. The termination of the city's contribution also eliminates any possible combination with the City Library. It is our understanding that the City Library cannot consider a combination with the Law Library if there are not sufficient funds in the budget to employ a law librarian. In addition, the termination of funding by the city caused the three city-appointed board members to resign.

Because of the fiscal impact of the city's decision to terminate funding for the Law Library, the board voted to close the Law Library effective March 27. This leaves the City of Alexandria as the only jurisdiction in Northern Virginia without the resources of a law library available to its citizens. It should be noted that almost two-thirds of the Law Library patrons are not lawyers. Closing the Law Library will result in the loss of significant, important services to the citizens of the City of Alexandria.

We do not believe that it is in the city's best interest for the Law Library to close. The board of directors of the Alexandria Law Library respectfully requests that City Council reestablish its commitment to the Law Library and permanently reinstate funding.

Michael L. Zupan
President, Board of Directors
Alexandria Law Library

Attached is an evaluation of the law library for your review. I sincerely hope that the funding to the law library is restored. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

~ Dipti Pidikiti-Smith

- Attachment: [Law Library Study 2015.pdf](#)
- Expected Response Date: Friday, April 17

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EVALUATION OF THE ALEXANDRIA LAW LIBRARY

SEPTEMBER 2014

**Gail Warren
NCSC Consultant**

**Daniel J. Hall, Vice President
Court Consulting Services
707 Seventeenth Street, Suite 2900
Denver, Colorado 80202**

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Introduction

In June 2014, a committee of the Board of Directors of the Alexandria Law Library contacted the Court Services Director at the National Center for State Courts requesting assistance with a review of the operations of the Alexandria Law Library, specifically seeking recommendations for “improving efficiencies” within the library’s limited resources in light of a significant budget cut, as well as assistance with the development of a strategic plan.

The National Center for State Courts arranged for Gail Warren, the Virginia State Law Librarian, to conduct an assessment, which would be provided in the form of a written report for the Board by September 15, 2014.

Methodology

Once the proposal was accepted by the board, over the course of the following month, the evaluator was provided with a range of documentation, including the Alexandria Law Library’s *2012-2013 Annual Report*, selected budget and subscription information, IRS documentation, results of a recent user survey and the *Alexandria Law Library Procedures Manual* (last updated 7/18/2014).

Although the original proposal specified Ms. Warren would make two visits to the Alexandria Law Library, three site visits were scheduled: June 26-27, 2014; July 22, 2014; and August 14-15, 2014. The following individuals and groups of individuals were interviewed during the first two visits:

June 26, 2014

Michele R. Evans, Deputy City Manager, City of Alexandria
Hon. Allison Silberberg, Vice Mayor, City of Alexandria

June 27, 2014

Alexander Braden, Budget Management Analyst, City of Alexandria
Sarah E. McElveen, Wade, Friedman & Sutter, P.C., and President, Alexandria Bar Association
Hon. Lisa Bondareff Kemler, Chief Judge, Alexandria Circuit Court
Hon. Donald M. Haddock, Jr., Judge, Alexandria General District Court
Hon. Becky J. Moore, Chief Judge, Alexandria General District Court

July 22, 2014

Rose Dawson, Director, Alexandria Public Library
G. Christopher Wright, Alexandria Law Library Board Member
John Taylor Chapman, Member of Council, City of Alexandria
Ed Semonian, Clerk of Court, Alexandria Circuit Court
Jean M. Kelleher, Director, Office of Human Rights, City of Alexandria
Sarah R. Becker, David L. Chamowitz, Patricia R. Evans, Tamika Jones and Alexis Stackhouse, Alexandria Law Library Board Members

Michael L. Zupan, President; F. Andrew Carroll, III, Treasurer; and Foster S.B. Friedman, Trustee, Alexandria Law Library Board Members

On July 28, 2014, Ms. Warren conducted an hour long telephone interview with Ms. Kathleen Schloeder, the Chair of the Alexandria Library Board. Alexandria City Council Member Justin M. Wilson met with Ms. Warren in Alexandria on August 14, 2014, and she spoke with the Honorable William D. Euille, Mayor, and LaDonna Sanders, President, Alexandria Branch of the NAACP, by telephone the same day.

Depending on the time allotted and the location of the interview, Ms. Warren asked each person a series of questions concerning their relationship to the Alexandria Law Library, whether they personally use the law library or refer others to the law library, what services offered by the library or items in the collection they find to be the most valuable, and what they think is the law library's greatest challenge in moving forward.

Background

The genesis of today's Alexandria Law Library was a small collection maintained by the Alexandria Bar Association in the mid-twentieth century as a way to serve the needs of lawyers in their community; since it was not open to the public at this time, dues paying members were provided key access to the collection. By the 1970s, with plans underway for construction of a new courthouse, the Alexandria Bar Association and the Alexandria City Council negotiated an agreement to house the law library in the new courthouse -- the city would provide space in the courthouse and a full-time librarian position, and the bar association agreed to provide revenue from membership dues for the purchase of books and necessary services. [Unfortunately, written documentation for this agreement could not be located.]

On October 24, 1978, the Alexandria Law Library was chartered as a not-for-profit corporation. On May 1, 1981, the new courthouse was dedicated and the Alexandria Law Library opened its door to the public, ensuring the library would be able to take advantage of the revenue stream offered by circuit and district court civil filing fees designated for public law libraries per *Virginia Code Annotated* §42.1-70.

Since that time, the Alexandria Law Library has been supported financially by four primary sources of revenue and membership on the library's board represents these sources of income:

- Alexandria Bar Association – during the 2012-2013 fiscal year, the bar contributed approximately \$19,800 via membership dues and contributions. For the 2013-2014 year, this amount totaled \$18,585.
- City of Alexandria – through June 30, 2014, the city contributed the salary and benefits for a full-time law librarian. The city provides space for the law library in the basement of the Courthouse.
- Circuit and District Court Filing Fees – pursuant to *Virginia Code* §42.1-70, the law library receives \$4 from circuit court civil filing fees as enumerated in *Virginia Code* §17.1-275(D), and from both courts as authorized by *Alexandria City Code* §3-2-51.

- Sales of Information Packets and Photocopy Fees – approximately \$6,000 per year is collected from the sale of divorce packets (\$15 each), name change and expungement packets (\$5 each) and annulment packets (\$3 each); the charge for using the photocopy machine is \$.25 per page

Discussion and Evaluation

1) *Collections and Content*

A small, but quite usable collection of Virginia specific legal materials is housed just inside the library entrance. Items *every* public law library in Virginia should maintain are present, including:

Primary Law

Virginia Code Annotated with current supplementation

Virginia Reports, volume 1 to present*

Virginia Court of Appeals Reports, volume 1 to present*

Virginia Circuit Court Reports, volume 1 to present

Secondary Sources

Virginia Administrative Code with current supplementation

Virginia Forms with current supplementation

Michie's Jurisprudence

Virginia Criminal Sentencing Guidelines

Virginia Model Jury Instructions, Civil and Criminal

"Virginia Practice Series" – 17 volume set consisting of annual softcover volumes

Virginia CLE's published by the Virginia Law Foundation

Virginia-specific treatises such as *The Law of Evidence in Virginia* by Charles Friend

The sets of *Virginia Reports* and the *Virginia Court of Appeals Reports* include the most recent bound volumes, but there are no advance sheets present for either set. Just by observation, one can tell the "Virginia Practice Series" of annual softcover handbooks are frequently used – the library could easily justify the purchase of duplicate copies of the titles in this series. While much of this content is available via the LexisNexis online database, searching many of the above titles in an online database may be difficult, particularly for members of the public, because the online format of codes, forms and encyclopedic sections provides no sense of context as does the print version of the same titles.

Adjacent to the Virginia materials, the shelving houses a collection of Alexandria City Ordinances, including historical ordinances – this set is particularly important, since online versions of Virginia's municipal codes do not include prior versions of the code or older ordinances. Both for citizens and attorneys, the law library is likely the most easily accessed location in the City of Alexandria for this content.

Walking through the remainder of the library stack area, it is obvious many, if not the majority, of titles in the collection are no longer supplemented. While numerous sets of reporters and treatises are marked with a special spine label indicating they are "No longer updated" or

"Updated on Westlaw", a number of additional books pulled on the June 26th visit were not current, yet lacked this label. Without the labels, and, at the present time, without the benefit of a full-time librarian on duty to bring this to the attention of users, both attorneys and citizens may be relying on out-of-date content to their detriment. This situation could be easily corrected once staffing issues are resolved by the library board. First, a number of these reporter series and multivolume treatises are easily accessed via Westlaw and could be discarded. This would facilitate removal of unused shelving and permit the board to consider a more optimal reconfiguration of the library's physical space. Second, for sets that are no longer updated, but designated for retention, add the "No longer updated" spine labels.

Although the federal reporter series are no longer updated, as mentioned above, access to federal case law is fairly easy to navigate online and this access is provided via the Lexis and Westlaw contracts. A small collection of federal practice materials, including federal forms, is likely a valued resource for Alexandria attorneys whose limited federal practice would not justify the expense of maintaining these publications.

One section of shelving is filled with Maryland specific resources – such as the *Maryland Code Annotated*, the *West's Maryland Digest*, a range of subject specific Maryland treatises and MICPEL handbooks. Although there may be individual attorneys or citizens who rely on these materials, no one interviewed knew anyone who uses them on a regular basis. Rather than devoting any of the Alexandria's Law Library's limited budget for the maintenance of these materials, providing information about the People's Law Library of Maryland (<http://www.peoples-law.org/>) and the contact information for the Maryland State Law Library would be a better way to provide access to Maryland resources, while reducing unnecessary expenditures. In addition, in tight economic times, subscriptions to popular journals such as *Vanity Fair*, *Washingtonian*, and *The Southside Sentinel*, currently located at the library's entrance and in the locked Grenadier Room, should be canceled.

An "archives" area is housed at the back of the library; this includes a range of historic Virginia legal materials, including *Acts of Assembly*, old Virginia treatises, and the superseded volumes and annual pocket supplementation for *Virginia Code Annotated*, through *Henings Statutes at Large*, the earliest compilation of Virginia's laws. Although Lexis, Westlaw and the General Assembly's Legislative Information System provide online access to current statutory material, none of these databases includes content earlier than 1989. These materials are a particularly valuable component of the collection and the evaluator would recommend moving them to an area adjacent to the library staff office.

2) Facility

The law library is located on the lower level of the Alexandria City Courthouse on King Street in Old Town Alexandria. Public transportation options in this area are numerous, including a free trolley running from the King Street Metro Station. A public parking facility is located adjacent to the courthouse. Basic directions are provided within the "About the Law Library" section of the library's web site:

"The Law Library is on the lower level of the city courthouse in Old Town Alexandria."

However, once one enters the courthouse, there is very little signage indicating the specific location of the public law library, and, of the three available elevators, only one goes to the lower level. There is a stairwell adjacent to the elevators. Installing signs in the first floor elevator lobby area explaining which elevator should be used and directing people to the nearby stairs, as well as adding this information to the web site, would ensure first time visitors to the law library locate the library easily and quickly.

During the initial visit to the law library, the restrooms on the lower level were locked. Visitors to the law library were required to use restrooms on the second floor, and then hope the elevator button would call the "right" elevator for returning to the lower level. Otherwise, the stairwell offers the only route back to the lower level. Individuals visiting the law library and using its resources should not have to travel to another floor in the building to access restrooms.

The *Alexandria Law Library Operations Manual* notes "[w]hile it is frequently necessary to come out of the office to assist patrons with sign-in procedures, searching the catalog, using electronic resources, or locating materials, *all other interaction with users* should be conducted from behind the locked Dutch door in the office. No one other than the librarian should *ever* be allowed into the office."

Ensuring the personal security and safety of all individuals working in courthouses is an important objective; this library, like other Virginia public law libraries, has a panic button attached to the librarian's desk in case there is an emergency. However, the tenor of above instruction sets up an immediate barrier between the library staff and any person seeking legal reference assistance. Other public law libraries in Virginia address the security issue differently, depending on their location and level of staffing. However, at each library, the librarian on duty actively seeks to assist patrons and interactions with those using the law library do not take place at a locked Dutch door.

More than adequate seating and workspace for library users is available throughout the library, although some of the workstations dedicated to accessing online databases are somewhat hidden in the aisles between shelving. Reconfiguring the library space by pulling all the workstations together to establish a computer "lab" near the library office would promote these resources, as well as allow the librarian or other staff on duty to monitor usage and respond quickly when assistance is needed.

The Grenadier Room, a conference room located adjacent to the library's vestibule includes both a door to this area and a door to the library's interior space – it remains locked, except when used for Alexandria Law Library Board and Alexandria Bar Association meetings. The Alexandria Law Library Procedures Manual states, "[a]s the room does not belong to us, we cannot charge for its use. It may only be used by attorneys. However, we have allowed City agencies to use the room from time to time."

Allowing this space to be utilized for a variety of functions, including service as a conference room for other city entities, as a location for brown bag lunch training seminars and for activities such as "Lawyers in the Library," would be far more beneficial than keeping it locked. Or, in the alternative, since the city has charged the Alexandria Law Library Board with identifying additional sources of funding for the library, the Board could explore opportunities to

use this room as a revenue generating space, available for reservations to public groups at a nominal cost (during the library's hours of operation).

3) *Financial Resources*

Income

Alexandria Bar Association

Since its inception, the law library has received a mandatory annual contribution from each member of the Alexandria Bar Association; however, there does not appear to be any written documentation for this arrangement. As the bar's membership has decreased in recent years, the contribution to the law library has also decreased; the 2013-2014 contribution was approximately \$1300 less than it was in 2012-2013. This trend is likely to continue. Why?

Recent reporting from law schools indicates the number of law school graduates is declining and will continue to decline. A July 22, 2014 post in the *Wall Street Journal Law Blog*, reports:

The pool of would-be lawyers continues to shrink for the fourth year in a row, bad news for law schools already hard-hit by declining enrollment amid a tough legal job market.

The number of law school applicants this year is down by more than 37% compared to 2010, according to the National Law Journal, which analyzed the latest numbers from the Law School Admission Council.¹

As a result, it is not likely the membership of the Alexandria Bar will increase enough to permit an increase in its financial support, much less continue the same level of support they have been providing, for the Alexandria Law Library. Generally speaking, most public law libraries in Virginia do not receive *any* funding from their local bar association. As compared with local bar contributions to public law libraries located in other cities and counties across Virginia, the Alexandria Bar's annual contribution has been quite generous. For example, the Fairfax Bar Association's annual contribution to the Fairfax Public Law Library is only \$10,000, despite the fact they have approximately four times the number of members as does the Alexandria Bar Association.

City of Alexandria

Almost every public law library in Virginia receives funding from the locality where it is located – for the fourteen public law libraries in Virginia operating as a branch of the public library system, in addition to revenue from filing fees, funding for the law library also flows through the public library system budget. In other locations, the funding is a line item within the operating budget of the circuit court clerk's office. With the exception of the Norfolk Law Library, a unique partnership between the bar and a non-profit foundation, funding from bar dues for public law libraries is minimal – the primary funding sources are circuit and district court filing fees and a city or county appropriation. The City of Alexandria 2015 budget provides for a general fund contribution of \$60,643, less than .01% of the overall general fund

¹ Jennifer Smith, "Law School Applicant Pool Continues to Shrink," Wall Street Journal Law Blog, July 22, 2014 at <http://blogs.wsj.com/law/2014/07/22/law-school-applicant-pool-continues-to-shrink/> (accessed August 9, 2014).

operating budget of 636.8 million dollars. [More information about the city budget appears online at: <http://www.alexandriava.gov/Budget.>]

Circuit and District Court Civil Filing Fees

Pursuant to *Virginia Code* §42.1-70, the Clerk of the Alexandria Circuit Court collects a \$4 filing fee on certain civil actions and directs this revenue to the city treasurer's office for support of the law library. The Clerk of the Alexandria District Court also collects a \$4 filing fee on specific civil actions. During the 2014 fiscal year, the amount collected by the two courts totaled \$53,524.00. For fiscal year 2015, this amount is budgeted at \$56,165.00.

During initial conversations with members of the Alexandria Law Library Board and city officials, a legislative plan to raise the current \$4 cap on filing fees collected for law libraries was mentioned numerous times as a means of increasing revenue to support this library. Since the late 1980's, other local government bodies in Virginia, working with law librarians, have introduced legislation to amend *Virginia Code* §42.1-70 and raise the filing fee (to an amount as low as \$6). Each bill introduced died in the legislative committee to which it was assigned. Considering today's political climate, it is not likely this legislative plan for 2015 will succeed.

User Fees

The law library receives revenue from fees charged for use of the photocopy machine, from sales of information packets and a very nominal amount from the rental of video equipment. Other than charging for photocopies and/or printing, most public law libraries in Virginia do not charge for information provided to the public, including forms and packets of information designed for public use.

As an example, the Fairfax Circuit Court provides access to a free "Pro Se Divorce Package" at their website: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/courts/circuit/divorce.htm>. The Wahab Public Law Library in Virginia Beach provides a series of "Resource Guides" for the public, covering topics like "Domestic Relations", "Bankruptcy" and "Immigration".

(<http://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/libraries/research/lawlibrary/Pages/Resource-Guides-.aspx>)

The evaluator is aware the Alexandria Law Library Board was tasked with identifying user fees that could be collected to supplement funding for the library's operation. However, charging members of the public for access to legal information that directly impacts an individual's ability to respond to a landlord tenant action such as eviction, to respond to an untenable employment situation or even to prepare for divorce, child custody and support proceedings runs counter to the judicial branch's mission of providing meaningful access to justice and the city's goal of providing a "just community" for its citizens. (Additional discussion of "access to justice" issues appears at pages 10-11.) Currently, **none** of the twenty-three public law libraries in Virginia charge a user fee for accessing online legal research databases such as Lexis or Westlaw.

Investments

In 1999, a deposit of \$50,000 was used to open an investment account; this account is currently maintained by McLaughlin Ryder Investments, Inc. Currently, the account balance totals approximately \$70,000. While this fund could not be considered a source of revenue to support the library's long-term operation, the board could earmark a portion for funding a one-

time project, such as reconfiguration of the library's physical space or printing informational flyers to be distributed to public libraries and law-related entities in Alexandria.

Expenses

How have the above funds been used to support the law library? To develop an accurate picture of the expenditures made on behalf of the library operation, the evaluator reviewed several spreadsheets, including a printout of transactions processed by the city and selected accounting records maintained by the law librarian, which include the private funding provided by the bar. During the 2013-2014 fiscal year, the law librarian cancelled several print subscriptions and entered into a "WestComplete" agreement, negotiating a 50% discount on all Thomson-West titles covered by the agreement, and ensuring a set monthly payment for print supplementation through February of 2017. This action resulted in a significant cost savings for the law library while maintaining its ability to provide access to content needed by a majority of library users.

In order to evaluate the scope and cost of maintaining the library collection, a listing of all current titles was sought. In the absence of a law librarian, the process of obtaining such a listing was difficult and required the assistance of the library's account representatives with the two primary legal publishers, Thomson and Lexis. This inventory, or listing of the library's holdings, is crucial for determining the type and scope of resources in the collection. Quoting Judith Meadows, former State Law Librarian of Montana and NSCS Consultant, "[a] well-managed library keeps track of what is expended on treatises and looseleaf services, reporters, law reviews, microforms, etc. Expenses for continuations should be separated from those for new purchases."

The Alexandria Law Library Board should carefully consider what subscriptions and publications will be continued and what subscriptions and publications will be cancelled. Decisions should be based upon what is needed most by the *majority* of library users, while recognizing that some types of legal information best serve the public in a print format and other legal information, such as case law, is fairly easy to navigate online. As these decisions are made, the board can document the cost savings that are realized; although, without the expertise of a professional law librarian, these decisions may be difficult.

During the coming fiscal year, the board might consider negotiating with Thomson/West to reduce Westlaw access to one workstation instead of two (however, this does limit the number of individuals who are able to access a range of content at one time). And, cancelling two District of Columbia treatises (one identified as "DC Practice Manual" published by the DC Bar and the Lexis publication *Domestic Relations Manual for the District of Columbia*) would eliminate approximately \$1200 in expenses.

4) Personnel

A successful future for this law library and its services to the bench, bar and public requires the skills of a professional law librarian. Until the city eliminated the position of Law Librarian at the end of the 2014 fiscal year, it provided funding for a full-time professional law librarian. Although this arrangement has been in place since the early 1980's, neither the city nor the law

library board could locate a written agreement addressing the city's agreement to provide a full time law librarian.

Previously, the position has been filled by a JD-MLS degreed individual. A number of public law libraries in Virginia are directed by individuals who have an MLS degree and law library experience, but no law degree. The Alexandria Law Library Board or other "hiring" entity should be open to hiring a professional librarian without the requirement of a law degree. The Arlington Law Library, the Roanoke Law Library and additional public law libraries across Virginia employ a part-time professional librarian, so this staffing model is an option for the library board. (See, Appendix C.)

As far as support staff, the library's *Operations Manual* reveals there is a Library Assistant position with the following duties:

Assists librarian with all aspects of law library maintenance; performs clerical duties; performs supervisory and financial tasks as needed when the librarian is absent; assists with special projects

While an hourly compensation is listed (\$16 hour), the *Manual* does not specify how many hours a week or month the library assistant typically works; however, from payroll records it appears the assistant works five to ten hours a week, primarily after the library has closed for the day. The law library contracts with Payroll Express for preparation of the Library Assistant's and other temporary employee's paychecks and these expenses have been paid out of funding contributed by the bar and deposited to the law library's checking account.

The Alexandria Law Librarian supervises the Library Assistant and other temporary staff; however, there is no clear line of supervision of the law librarian. Although funding for the position has been provided by the city, there has been no direct departmental supervisor who conducted annual performance evaluations of this position. The President of the Alexandria Law Library Board completed annual performance evaluations of the law librarian; however, some members of the board expressed their view that the board's primary role was to serve in an advisory capacity, as opposed to managing the law librarian. The lack of an immediate supervisor also meant the law librarian was never required to notify anyone when planning to take time off or submit a leave request form upon returning to work; this should not be read to infer that any irregularities in leave were discovered, only that there should be a system of accountability for who is "on duty" in the library on any given day and either a city employee or board member should be aware of those times when temporary staffing is utilized for more than a couple of days.

If the law library remains open, even with a part-time professional librarian on duty, there should be direct supervision of this employee by some entity, either another city employee or a committee of the Alexandria Law Library Board. In *any* "one professional library," the librarian needs either a supervisor or board of directors who serve as a sounding board, assist with idea generation and are responsive, providing ongoing direction and candid feedback.

5) Services

The librarian was available from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday to respond to reference questions and provide assistance. As stated in the *2012-2013 Annual Report*, “[m]any of our visitors are regular users and many require little or no reference assistance on most visits. They know what they want, where to find it, and they get in and out quickly.” The *Annual Report* also concludes the bulk of the users seeking reference assistance in 2012-2013 were non-lawyers, and this trend appears to be continuing, as revealed in the board’s recent survey of users, and the people observed using the law library on June 26, June 27 and July 22. An online card catalog provides a range of search options for library users. Several individuals that were interviewed mentioned the law library could raise visibility by offering access to the catalog from the web site; however, this type of access would require migrating from the vendor’s pc-based system to their web-hosted platform, as well as an additional annual expense for this upgrade.

Other than offering for purchase the divorce, name change and other information packets, there appears to be no other type of outreach to the general public or to members of the bar. Today’s public law libraries must move beyond passively waiting for library customers to show up – targeted outreach programs are the standard.

Information about the law library’s collection and services is somewhat buried in the web site, which indicates it was last updated in 2011. Best practices for court and law library web sites include providing brief descriptive information on the main page about the content one will find once they click through each link or links on the page. The board might consider adding an “Ask the Librarian” icon or a link to an email address for the Alexandria Law Library as a way to extend services to a greater number of potential users and increase the law library’s visibility. However, it is doubtful this measure could be implemented until the board secures the funding necessary for hiring a professional law librarian.

Services for the Bar

Even a part time professional law librarian should have time to provide brief library orientation sessions for court staff and attorneys new to practice or new to Alexandria. The previous law librarian provided regular articles in *Oyez*, the Alexandria Bar Newsletter, and this is a practice that should be continued. Like the Richmond Public Law Library, the library could take advantage of the “free” or “low cost” educational sessions both LexisNexis and Thomson-West offer. Many of these sessions offer continuing legal education credits – the vendor’s trainer conducts the training and the law librarian only has to provide the location and promote this opportunity to the bar.

Services for Citizens and Access to Justice Initiatives

Although many people would assume the greatest percentage of citizens seeking legal assistance are from immigrant, low-income or low-education households, in truth, in Virginia the fastest growing segment of the population seeking to represent themselves in court are members of the lower-middle and middle classes. Generally speaking, these are individuals who make too much money to qualify for legal aid or other special programs, such as LINC (Legal Information Network for Cancer), the Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program, or Stateside Legal, yet their annual income does not permit expenditures for legal representation.

In other states, such as California and Texas, public law libraries have partnered with their local legal aid organizations to offer monthly workshops designed to assist self-represented litigants with completing divorce petitions, responsive documents and final decrees. As Richard Zorza points out in his lengthy essay, "The Sustainable Twenty-first Century Law Library: Vision, Deployment and Assessment for Access to Justice,"

Law libraries have long served a variety of constituencies, and are well-positioned to assume a broader role, with a particular focus on those historically excluded from access to justice. Put another way, law libraries have great potential to play an important role in making the judicial system more user-friendly and accessible for people without lawyers. Moreover, there are many examples of law libraries across the country that have already embraced this role, and have experimented and innovated to make a major contribution to access to justice.²

Many public law libraries in Virginia provide basic legal research training or online legal research training for library patrons; in addition to providing the attorney training mentioned above, LexisNexis and Thomson-West will also conduct "no cost" training sessions in the law library for members of the public. "Lawyers in the Library" is another option - the librarian works with the local bar to recruit members who offer brief topical presentations about an area of law and/or offer short (10-15 minute) free consultations to the public on a monthly or quarterly basis. One of the judges interviewed expressed how helpful it would be for the community if the information packets currently available by purchase were provided free of charge at the law library's web site; the evaluator agrees.

Both the location of this law library in the Alexandria courthouse and city's commitment to a "Safe, Secure & Just Community" provide a very real opportunity for this law library to broaden the community's access to justice. An observation made by Frank Broccolina, then Maryland State Court Administrator, ten years ago, still rings true today:

Public law libraries are a mainstay within the nation's state court systems. Not only do they provide essential research and references services to trial and appellate court judges and their support staff, they are an increasingly critical resource for self-represented litigants engaged in the judicial process. The role of the public courthouse library must not be overlooked as a legitimate gateway to an individual's access to justice.³

Conclusion

The Alexandria Law Library has provided access to legal information for and legal reference assistance to attorneys and members of the public living and working in Alexandria for over thirty years. The judges of the City of Alexandria all strongly support the law library and regularly refer self-represented litigants, as well as attorneys, appearing in their courtrooms to

² Richard Zorza, *The Sustainable Twenty-first Century Law Library: Vision, Deployment and Assessment for Access to Justice*, 2012 at <http://www.zorza.net/LawLibrary.pdf> (accessed on August 10, 2014).

³ Frank Broccolina, (Maryland State Court Administrator) *TRENDS IN 2004*, National Center for State Courts, 2004.

the library to utilize its resources, particularly for immediate access to forms and online access to legal information. One judge described at length “the value of the law library to anyone with business in the courthouse” and another mentioned “the library is a critical resource for self-represented litigants.”

Unfortunately, a lack of documentation addressing the nature and scope of reference interactions completed by library staff, perhaps a reluctance to contact the city about expanding information available on the library’s web site, and no ongoing basic legal reference training and outreach to the public has left the library with little tangible evidence of its value to the community. At this juncture, the Alexandria Law Library Board faces two immediate challenges:

- City officials in decision-making roles do not understand the importance of the law library and the degree to which citizens of Alexandria rely on its resources.
- The law library’s expenses must be reduced to better align with its limited financial resources.

If the City of Alexandria will continue financial support for the law library at the 2015 budget level, again an encumbrance of less than .01% of the city’s general fund budget, what are the Board’s options?

1. Continue the Alexandria Law Library Corporate Entity and Establish a Partnership with the Alexandria Public Library.

If amenable to the Alexandria Public Library Board, the law library board would negotiate a written agreement with the Alexandria Public Library for the provision of specific library services (acquisitions and processing) and a part-time librarian who is available during reduced public hours. In exchange for these services, the public library would receive a portion of the civil filing fees currently collected by the Clerk of the Alexandria Circuit Court. As an employee of the Alexandria Public Library, the part-time librarian would be supervised by the Library Director, and the Alexandria Law Library Board would serve in an advisory capacity *only* regarding the materials acquired and maintained. This option would require a commitment from the city to continue to fund the law librarian position. The current agreement between the Hampton Circuit Court and the Hampton Public Library System for the provision of library services to the George Wythe Law Library offers a model for this option.

2. Continue the Alexandria Law Library Corporate Entity, Operating the Law Library under a Revised Model.

The Alexandria Law Library Board would continue to operate the law library, albeit under a different model requiring reduced hours (for example, twenty hours a week instead of forty) and a more streamlined collection, cancelling supplementation for certain classes of materials. Filing fees and a continuing annual contribution from the Alexandria Bar Association would be the primary sources of funding, supplemented with funding from the City of Alexandria for a law librarian position. This arrangement is not optimal for the public and the legal community because it limits access to legal materials and the reference assistance provided by a professional law librarian. Negotiating a long term financial agreement with the City of Alexandria would be a prerequisite for operating a law library that more actively serves the public and promotes access to justice initiatives.

3. Dissolve the Alexandria Law Library Corporate Entity and Transfer the Library's Assets to the Alexandria Public Library

If amenable to the Alexandria Public Library Board, the Alexandria Law Library Board would negotiate an agreement transferring all library assets to the Alexandria Public Library and the law library would become a "courthouse" branch of the public library system. Following this transfer, the Alexandria Law Library corporate entity would be dissolved. This option allows the law library to continue to serve citizens and attorneys in the courthouse while economizing library functions through the Alexandria Public Library's central operation – functions such as acquisitions (ordering and maintaining subscriptions) and technical services (cataloging, processing, binding) would be handled by existing public library staff. All civil filing fees collected by the circuit and district courts would be transferred to the Alexandria Public Library budget. As a city entity, it is assumed the law library would continue to operate in the courthouse without payment of rent or utilities, and the library would be able to take advantage of the city's existing Internet connectivity.

It is unlikely the Alexandria Bar Association would be willing to continue to provide financial support for the law library's operation if it became a branch of the Alexandria Library System. It is also unlikely the city library would be willing to assume responsibility of this law library without assurance of a permanent source of revenue from the City of Alexandria to fund staffing, as do most of the cities and counties in Virginia currently operating a public law library. Placing the law library within the public library system would offer greater opportunities for funding and grants available to public library systems that have never been an option for law libraries operated by nonprofit corporate entities.

If, however, the City of Alexandria is **not** convinced there is good cause for continuing financial support of this law library and terminates all funding after June 30, 2015, what are the Alexandria Law Library Board's options?

1. Close the Library and Dissolve the Alexandria Law Library Corporate Entity

Over the course of the coming year, the board would create a plan to ensure all existing funds are expended and assets distributed, ending with the dissolution of the Alexandria Law Library corporate entity on June 30, 2015 pursuant to the bylaws of the corporation. The clerks of the circuit and district courts would no longer need to collect civil filing fees pursuant to Virginia Code § 42.1-70, requiring city council action to repeal §3-2-51 and revise §3-2-53 of the *Alexandria City Code*. The bar would no longer designate a portion of dues to the law library.

Because there is no complete, concise collection of Virginia law and secondary legal resources available online, citizens and attorneys who have relied on the convenience of a law library in the courthouse in Old Town Alexandria would have to travel to other jurisdictions, such as Arlington and Fairfax. Access to items unique to this law library, including the superseded Virginia Code content and the Alexandria historical ordinances would no longer be available at a single location in Alexandria. For citizens living and/or working in Alexandria, taking their legal information questions to the Arlington Law Library would require access to a vehicle or Metro travel. And taking public transportation from Alexandria to the Fairfax Law Library would be even more

complicated for those without a vehicle since it would require negotiating Metro and bus routes.

2. Continue the Alexandria Law Library Corporate Entity, Close the Library to the Public and Operate the Library pursuant to Virginia Code §42.1-65

This option would eliminate filing fees as a source of revenue for the library's operation, shifting the burden of financial support squarely on the Alexandria Bar Association and charitable contributions from members of the bar. While this option might ensure that the library remains a resource for the bar beyond June 30, 2015, this is not a viable long-term solution and merely stalls the inevitable closure of the law library operating under this model.

Appendix A: Grant Opportunities for Public Law Libraries

In 1997, the "Explore Funding Opportunities for Law Libraries Task Force" was created by then-AALL President Judy Meadows. Its charge included investigating and reporting "to the AALL membership funding opportunities from foundations, private businesses, and public agencies for individual law libraries, law library consortia, and library networks that include law libraries." Specific attention was to be paid to new programs available through the Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services. The task force was also charged with exploring opportunities to inform funding entities of the value of law libraries to the public and expanding eligibility for these programs and resources, previously available only to general public libraries, to public law libraries.

Three years later, the American Association of Law Libraries published the report of the "Explore Funding Opportunities for Law Libraries Task Force". The report identified several sources of grant funding; however, it also noted, "while need is there for grant funding, the real issue is critical need for 'ongoing operational funding'." At that time, the task force was particularly interested in the U.S. Library Programs arm of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and its mission to provide "increased public access to computers, the Internet and digital information to library patrons in low-income communities in the United States." After distributing \$200 million to 10,000 libraries in fifty states, this program ended in 2003. The focus of the current Gates Foundation U.S. Programs component is "ensuring that all students graduate from high school prepared for college and have an opportunity to earn a postsecondary degree with labor-market value."

What other grant opportunities were examined by the task force and still are available for public libraries?

The Institute of Museum of Library Services [<http://www.ims.gov/programs/>] provides a range of grant opportunities for public libraries. For over 50 years, "Library Services and Technology Act" grants funding has supported the delivery of library services in the United States. Of the many funding opportunities offered by IMLS, the "Grants to States" program is the largest grant program funded by LSTA monies. Pursuant to a population-based formula, funding is awarded to each state's library agency; each state's library agency then determines how those funds will be distributed within the state. Other than the generic LSTA eligibility requirements found at the IMLS web site, eligibility for grants funded by this program varies from state to state since each state's library agency determines the definition of a *public* library. Information about the funding administered by the Library of Virginia, Virginia's state library agency, is available at: http://www.ims.gov/programs/state_profile_Virginia.aspx As outlined in the current five-year plan, it appears funding received by the Library of Virginia is not distributed to individual libraries, but used to fund statewide programs and initiatives.

In addition to the "Grants to States" program, the IMLS also offers a range of other focused grants, including the "Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program" and "National Leadership Grants". At minimum, all grant applicants must meet the following criteria:

An eligible applicant must be:

- either a unit of state or local government or private nonprofit organization that has tax-exempt status under the Internal Revenue Code;
- located in one of the fifty states of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, or the Republic of Palau; and
- one of the six types of organizations listed.

Unfortunately, it does not appear the Alexandria Law Library falls within the definition of any of the six types of organizations listed, particularly since the "library" organization category limits participation to the "private or special libraries that have been deemed eligible to participate in this program by the state in which the library is located."

As far as seeking funds from foundations, the AALL Task Force recommended using the Foundation Center as a resource (<http://foundationcenter.org/>). They also suggested individual public law libraries seek local grant funding "before fishing in a larger stream, as each state has many foundations listed in the libraries section [at the Foundation's web site] which only give grants to libraries and other non-profit organizations within a limited region." Depending on the level of access needed to *The Foundation Directory*, users pay a subscription fee ranging from \$19.95/month or \$195 a year for the basic plan to \$179.95/month or \$1,295 per year for the professional plan.

Appendix B: Sample Job Descriptions

The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) offers the following "generic" job description for a **Solo Law Librarian** working in a state, court or county law library:

Representative Duties:

Manages all functions of a law library.
Performs legal reference and research using traditional and electronic research.
Engages in collection development, including discontinuing unused titles, and engages in space planning.
Provides user services, such as training, password management, outreach, interlibrary loan, reference guides, legislative histories, instruction guides, current awareness services, and newsletters.
Catalogs and processes library materials in a variety of formats and may file loose leaf services.
Prepares and manages the library budget, including paying invoices and maintaining financial records.
Prepares annual and financial reports.
Maintains good relations with vendors and negotiates prices for products and services.
Recommends and implements policies to the board of trustees.
Provides professional consultations to judges and other court units.
Participates in professional associations.

Qualifications:

MLS from an accredited institution; knowledge of professional law librarianship concepts, principles, and practices. Many librarians holding this title also have earned a JD degree. Experience with integrated library systems, Westlaw and Lexis, and general computer skills.

Within the State, Court and County Law Libraries Special Interest Section pages of the AALL web site, a more-detailed job description for the **Law Librarian** at the Washington County Law Library (MN) is provided as an example of another solo law librarian job description:

NATURE OF WORK:

This position works independently and is responsible for the operation of the Law Library. The position requires professional work of a confidential nature, independent judgment, initiative and discretion. The position supervises professional librarians under independent contract to substitute for the Law Librarian as needed.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES:

1. Designs, coordinates and manages all programs and activities concerned with the administration and operation of the county law library.
2. Analyzes requirements and recommends policy to the Board of Trustees; implements Board policy.
3. Analyzes needs; plans and develops collection development guidelines to select and acquire materials.
4. Plans for the needs of and manages the library's physical space and accommodations.

5. Assists judicial staff, county staff, attorneys and the public to locate and obtain legal research material; uses independent judgment to define line between legal advice and legal information. Develops and performs or assists with WESTLAW and other online database searches.
6. Prepares and presents budget recommendations; administers the library budget. Prepares and presents the Annual Report, Board of Trustee Meeting minutes and other reports and library documentation.
7. Selects, hires and trains independent contractors; coordinates, monitors and appraises work performed.
8. Represents the library in professional associations and in dealing with other organizations. Coordinates library operations with other County departmental functions.

WORK ENVIRONMENT:

The work is varied in its activity level and is performed primarily in the Law Library. The lifting requirement is up to 40 pounds on an occasional basis. There is frequent wrist and finger manipulation and arm movement due to processing and shelving materials, assisting library patrons, and computer and typewriter work. Equipment may include, but is not limited to, computer, typewriter, calculator, telephone, and copy and fax machines.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

The essential functions for this classification are # 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 as stated herein.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS

Education and Experience:

Master's degree in Library Science from an ALA-accredited school required; law degree from an ABA-accredited school desirable but not required. Minimum five years increasingly responsible law library experience required; this experience should include a comprehensive mix of administrative, public and technical service duties. Experience performing legal research and online database searching required (WESTLAW preferred).

Knowledge, Abilities and Skills:

Expert knowledge of legal materials and vendors. Expert knowledge of and considerable experience with current library standards, technology and automation. Knowledge of accounting and budgeting functions, and effective office management and practice. Creativity and flexibility in planning, implementing and providing library services. Ability to be tactful and adept in dealing with a wide variety of people. Ability to handle stressful situations. Ability to make decisions in conflict situations. Ability to organize and establish work priorities. Ability to communicate effectively, orally and in writing. Ability to establish and maintain cooperative working relationships with others. Ability to maintain complete and accurate records. Skill in the operation of computers and other office equipment for word processing, data entry and data inquiry.

TITLE OF IMMEDIATE SUPERVISOR - Law Library Board of Trustees

The Law Librarian is appointed and serves at the discretion of the Board of Trustees, who, with approval of the County Board, determines salary and benefit levels. The Law Librarian is a county employee for the administration of said benefits. This description is intended to describe the kinds of tasks and levels of work difficulty being performed by the Law Librarian. The list of responsibilities is not intended to be construed as an exhaustive list of all responsibilities, duties and skills required of personnel in this position.

Appendix C: Table of Virginia Public Law Libraries

LIBRARY	ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	FUNDING	STAFF	HOURS
Alexandria Law Library 520 King Street, Room L-34 Alexandria, Virginia 22314 (703) 838-4077	501(C)3	Courthouse	Filing Fees City Appropriation Bar Contribution Photocopy Fees and Sales of Information Packets		9:00 am -2:00 pm Monday-Friday
Arlington Law Library (Walter T. McCarthy Law Library) 1425 North Courthouse Road, Suite 1700 Arlington, VA 22201 (703) 228-7005 Librarian: Patricia Petroccione	501(C)3	Courthouse	Filing Fees County Appropriation- Clerk's Office covers librarian's salary and computer access Bar Contribution – nominal amount Printing Fees [Photocopy machine owned by bar, who receives this revenue]	1: Part-time law librarian Law librarian is a county employee, supervised by the clerk of court	8:30 am -4:00 pm Monday-Friday
Bristol Law Library City Hall 497 Cumberland Street Bristol, Virginia 24201	Circuit Court Clerk	Courthouse	Filing Fees	Clerk of Circuit Court maintains the library	?

EVALUATION OF THE ALEXANDRIA LAW LIBRARY

LIBRARY	ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	FUNDING	STAFF	HOURS
Central Rappahannock Regional Library Law Library* 1201 Caroline Street Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401 (540) 372-1144 Librarian: Jeffrey Edmunds	Public Library	Main Library Building	Filing Fees Regional Library Appropriation from city and 3 counties No bar contribution	1: Part-time law librarian (who also works part- time as a Reference Librarian in Adult Services)	12:00 pm-4:00 pm Monday-Thursday 1:00 pm-5:00 pm Friday
Chesapeake Public Library Law Library* 298 Cedar Road Chesapeake, Virginia 23322 (757) 410-7153 Librarian: Anne Goodman	Public Library	Chesapeake Central Library	Filing Fees City Appropriation to Public Library No bar contribution	1: Full-time librarian (supplemented with Central Library Reference Staff)	10:00 am-8:00 pm Monday-Thursday 10:00 am-6:00 pm Friday 10:00 am-5:00 pm Saturday 1:00 pm-5:00 pm Sunday
Chesterfield County Public Law Library* Central Library - Chesterfield County Public Library 9501 Lori Rd. Chesterfield, VA 23832 (804) 751-4986 Librarian: Jeanette Booker	Public Library	Chesterfield Central Library	Filing Fees County Appropriation to Public Library No bar contribution	1: Full-time librarian on duty (supplemented with Central Library Reference staff)	10:00 am-9:00 pm Monday-Wednesday 1:00 pm-9:00 pm Thursday-Saturday
Danville Public Law Library* 511 Patton Street Danville, Virginia 24541 (434) 799-5118 Librarian: Rebecca Webb	Public Library	Danville Central Library	Filing Fees City Appropriation to Public Library No bar contribution	1: Part-time librarian	10:00 am-1:00 pm Monday-Friday (Danville Bar members have 24-hr. access to library)
Fairfax Public Law Library	501-C-6	Courthouse	Filing Fees	3: Full-time	8:00 am-7:00 pm

EVALUATION OF THE ALEXANDRIA LAW LIBRARY

LIBRARY	ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	FUNDING	STAFF	HOURS
Fairfax County Courthouse 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Suite 115 Fairfax, Virginia 22030 (703) 246-2170 Librarian: Tom Pulver	Written "Memorandum of Understanding" with public libraries and with county		County Appropriation Fairfax Bar Foundation Contribution - \$10,000 annually	Director + 2 full-time librarians Until 2001, supervised by Circuit Court Clerk, now supervised by Executive Director of Bar	Monday & Thursday 8:00 am-4:30 pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday
Fauquier County Law Library* Fauquier County Public Library-Legal Resources 11 Winchester Street Warrenton, VA 20186 540-347-8750	Public Library	Warrenton Branch of Public Library	Filing Fees County Appropriation to Public Library		10:00 am-9:00 pm Monday-Wednesday 9:00 am-6:00 pm Thursday-Saturday 1:00 pm-5:00 pm Sunday
George Wythe Law Library* 101 Kings Way, 2nd Floor Hampton, Virginia 23669 (757) 728-2065	Circuit Court	Circuit Court Building	Filing Fees No bar contribution	1: Part-time librarian (Court contracts with public library system for library services)	12:00 pm-4:00 pm Monday-Thursday
Henrico Municipal Government and Law Library* Parham & Hungary Springs Roads Post Office Box 27032 Richmond, Virginia 23273 (804) 501-4780 Librarian:	Public Library	Courthouse	Filing Fees County Appropriation to Public Library No bar contribution	2: 1 Full-time branch manager + 1 full-time assistant	8:30 am-4:30 pm Monday-Friday

EVALUATION OF THE ALEXANDRIA LAW LIBRARY

LIBRARY	ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	FUNDING	STAFF	HOURS
Isabel Paul					
Loudoun County Public Law Library 18 N. King Street Leesburg, Virginia 20176 (703) 777-0695 Librarian: Alice Zent	? Librarian thinks they're a 501-C-3	Courthouse	Filing Fees Bar contribution – not sure of amount	1: Full-time librarian reports to Circuit Court Clerk	8:00 am-4:00 pm Monday-Friday
Lynchburg Public Law Library* 900 Church Street Lynchburg, Virginia 24574 (434) 455-3820 Librarian: Susan Zlomke	Public Library	Downtown Branch	Filing Fees City Appropriation to Public Library No bar contribution	1: Full-time librarian	9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday *Lynchburg Bar has after-hours access.
Massanutten Regional Library* (Laird L. Conrad Memorial Law Library) 174 South Main Street Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801 (540) 434-4475 Librarian: Nick Whitmer	Public Library	Main Library	Filing Fees Regional Library Appropriation		9:30 am-8:30 pm Monday-Thursday 12:00-4:00 pm Friday & Saturday
Newport News Public Law Library* 2501 Washington Avenue Newport News, Va. 23607 (757) 926-8678 Librarian: Lorene Studwell	Public Library	Justice Building (across from courthouse)	Filing Fees City Appropriation to Public Library No bar contribution	1: Full-time librarian	8:00 am-12:00 pm 1:00 pm-5:00 pm (closes for lunch) Monday-Friday
Norfolk Law Library 999 Waterside Drive, #1300	501-C-3	Office Building	Filing Fees	2: 1 Director +	9:00 am-5:00 pm Monday-Friday

EVALUATION OF THE ALEXANDRIA LAW LIBRARY

LIBRARY	ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	FUNDING	STAFF	HOURS
Norfolk, Virginia 23510 (757) 622-2910 Librarian: Donna Bausch			Bar Contribution - \$43,000 annually	1 Full-time law librarian	
Portsmouth Public Law Library* 601 Court Street Portsmouth, Virginia (757) 393-8973	Public Library	Main Branch	Filing Fees City Appropriation to Public Library		10:00 am-6:00 pm Monday-Thursday 10:00 am-5:00 pm Friday & Saturday
Prince William County Law Library 9311 Lee Avenue Manassas, Virginia 20110 (703) 792-6262 Librarian: Robert L. Davis, III	Circuit Court	Courthouse	Filing Fees County Appropriation pays the librarian's salary and fringe benefits No bar contribution	1: Part-time librarian	8:00 am-5:00 pm Monday-Thursday (not staffed from 1:30- 3:00 pm) 8:00 am-12:30 pm Friday
Richmond Public Law Library* Richmond Main Library Building 101 E. Franklin Street Richmond, VA 23219 (804) 646-6500 Librarian on duty varies	Public Library	Main Branch of Public Library	Filing Fees City Appropriation to Public Library No bar contribution	1: Full-time librarian on duty (supplemented with Main Library Reference staff)	10:00 am-7:00 pm Monday-Wednesday 10:00 am-6:00 pm Thursday-Friday 10:00 am-5:00 pm Saturday
Roanoke County Law Library* Courthouse Building 305 East Main Street Salem, Virginia 24153 (540) 387-6344 Librarian: Singleton Osterhoudt	Public Library	Courthouse	Filing Fees County Appropriation for Public Library System	1: Part-time librarian	8:30 am-1:00 pm Monday-Friday

EVALUATION OF THE ALEXANDRIA LAW LIBRARY

LIBRARY	ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	FUNDING	STAFF	HOURS
<p>Roanoke Law Library*</p> <p>315 Church Avenue, S.W. Roanoke, Virginia 24016 (540) 853-2268</p> <p>Librarian: Joseph Klein</p>	Public Library	Courthouse	<p>Filing Fees</p> <p>City Appropriation for Public Library System</p>	1: Part-time librarian	<p>8:00 am-4:00 pm Monday 8:00 am-12:00 pm Tuesday- Friday</p>
<p>Suffolk Law Library</p> <p>Godwin Courts Building 150 North Main Street Suffolk, Virginia 23434 (757) 514-7795</p> <p>Librarian: Linda Jenkins</p>	Circuit Court	Courthouse	<p>Filing Fees</p> <p>No bar contribution</p>	1: 2 Part-time librarians	<p>9:00 am-3:30 pm Monday-Friday</p>
<p>Wahab Public Law Library*</p> <p>Court Support Bldg., 10B 2425 Nimmo Parkway Virginia Beach, Virginia 23456-9062 (757) 385-4419</p> <p>Librarian: Jean C. Tancredi</p>	Public Library	Courthouse Complex Building	<p>Filing Fees</p> <p>County Appropriation for Public Library System</p> <p>No bar contribution – although bar members do have check-out privileges</p> <p>Tidewater Community College holds 2 classes a semester in the law library; however the library receives no funding for this service.</p>	2: 1 Full-time branch manager + 1 full-time assistant	<p>8:30 am-4:30 pm Monday-Friday</p>

Jackie Henderson

From: jcatlett62@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2015 1:23 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #69961: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Budget Consideration.To the Honorable

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 69961.

Request Details:

- Name: John Catlett
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 5719705868
- Email: jcatlett62@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Budget Consideration.

To the Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council.

I first want to thank you all for the support you provided to the Department of Code Administration during my 8 years with the City of Alexandria. I can truly say that you supported the mission of safe buildings. I also can say that I never felt pressured to change a decision, hide facts, or not be transparent even when it may not have seemed to be the "right" thing to do.

And now as John Catlett citizen, property owner, and tax payer...

To that end, I feel compelled to address what I feel is a total injustice to the all Special Revenue Funds, especially the Permit Center Special Revenue Fund.

I have a great deal of respect for Acting City Manager Mark Jinks. However it is my believe that in a haste to provide council a budget that provides for everything while not raising taxes during an election year, he has compromised what he had long expressed to me the protection of Special Revenue Funds for their specific purpose.

In fact, when Code Administration proposed early in the budget cycle (when Mr. Jinks was Deputy City Manager over our Focus Area Team) of the inclusion of overhead cost in the neighborhood of \$400,000, he recommended reduction of that number based on a lower per square foot cost of rental space. (This can be provided should you wish to view it.) However, he now has accepted the OMB proposal of 9.2% on all Special Revenue Funds. This was not vetted through the F.A.T teams nor discussed with the departments impacted. It was just implemented. When departments asked what the funds would be used for, a very generic response was that it covered the cost of rent and utilizes (totally acceptable cost) and for services provided by other departments such as Finance, General Services, City Manager, City Attorney, etc.

Although it is more than fair to charge Special Revenue Funds appropriate overhead cost, the proposal does not recognize the following:

1. Taking of these funds reduce the amount of funds that can be utilized for the special revenue purpose. That should be clearly and transparently stated to the citizens and consumers of Alexandria services;
2. It appears that the proposed 9.2% is proposed on Revenue Reserves, not on operational budget totals. This will accelerate the depletion of these reserves that will no longer be available for their intended use.
3. The proposal does not take in to consideration the cost the Code Fund already has picked up from the General Fund and the support to other departments already provided.

4. The proposal does not recognize the in-kind contributions already made through waived permit fees for city, school, and certain projects that support affordable housing. OMB expects the Code Fund to pay for services provided by other departments to a tune of nearly \$900,000, but does not reciprocate the concept by allowing fees, even if reduced, to be charged to city and school projects.
5. The answer to how to offset this increase was simply to raise fees. However, there is a breaking point where fees, just like taxes, can become excessive. In addition, we are asking the development and construction community to supplement city and school projects by covering the cost of those construction projects.
6. The very concept of the enterprise fund was to build a permitting and inspection process that was the best in the region, but funded by the consumers of that service. Without appropriate vetting with the clients of Code Administration in a transparent way, City Council may face a backlash from the development and business community. This could negate the hard work that has resulted in "straightening out the plate of spaghetti", becoming the best permit and inspection process in the region, providing the best, most automated and easy to use building permit and inspection process, and providing consistency and predictability to permitting and inspection processes. All of these were goals established from the Small Business Work Group as presented in 2007 and the Mayors Economic Sustainability Report of the same year.

Background:

The Special Revenue Fund (SRF) was established in 2011 to cover the direct and indirect cost of expenditures associated with administration of building permits, multi-department plan review and inspections. With the agreement of the development community, Code Administration (CA) adjusted its fee schedule such that all related activities would become fee supported, and that the costs of permitting and inspection activities related to the Permit Center would be paid for solely by fees collected. The only stipulations from the development community was that:

- Funds collected not be utilized for other purposes (i.e. placed in to General Fund);
- Funds collected be utilized to improve services and access to services;
- Funds collected be utilized to provide better trained and certified staff; and
- When all other is considered, that fees be reduced or stabilized when possible.

By Virginia Building Code Regulation, fees may be levied to offset the cost to administer the Virginia Statewide Building Code (VUSBC Section 107.1 Authority for Charging Fees). In this case, this would include all cost and overhead associated with permit intake, plan review, expedited services, permit issuance, inspections, certificates of occupancy and maintenance/nuisance programs.

The original proposal to then CFO Bruce Johnson was that any surplus of revenues over expenditures in FY 2011 and beyond would remain in the Special Revenue fund to be used, as necessary, to help fund Code Administration and Permit Center related expenses in slowing development years. Typically, new permit revenue decreases but inspection work continues for up to twenty-four months during recessionary periods. Conversely, property maintenance enforcement rises as people cannot afford to maintain property. The fund was also developed to pay for additional staff that may become necessary in heavy development years.

The SRF has since been utilized to pay for Permit Center team members who work in other departments such as Transportation and Environmental Services, Planning and Zoning, Information Technology, Finance, City Manager's Civic Engagement, and Historic Alexandria totaling approximately \$1.55 million for FY16.

Agreement to cover the cost for the enterprise wide (TES, PZ, Code, Fire, Finance) land use, permitting system, and inspection software upgrade out of the Special Revenues Fund was reached in FY 2014. Estimated cost of the system to include enhanced online permitting and electronic plan submittal capability is currently around \$4.45 million as estimated by the Department of Information Technology Services. That figure has increased four fold since the original project discussions. Although I am not confident that the \$4.45 million is an accurate number (I believe it is too high and inflated by ITS for other purposes that should already be covered in the Code Fund contribution of three staff members to ITS), it is the number that the City Manager has accepted as projected cost. As a result, the General Fund IT Capital Projects expenses have been relieved by an estimate of approximately 10% of the FY16 City Manager's Proposed CIP for FY16 found on page 16.6 of the FY16 proposed budget documents.

In addition, since the establishment of the Special Revenue Fund in 2010 CA has and continues to waive all permit related fees on City, Schools and ARHA owned projects as required by City Ordinance. The value to date, since FY2010, of waived fees is \$3.9 million (average of \$924K annually). However, the same resources necessary to insure building code compliance is expended by the department to cover these projects.

It should also be noted that the Code Fund currently pays General Services for all vehicle maintenance and contributes a disproportional amount towards the Vehicle Replacement Fund that was implemented under the previous city manager. This supplements the General Fund replacement of all city department vehicles and requires non-public safety vehicles to move from an eight year replacement cycle to an unprecedented fourteen years. This has increased vehicle maintenance cost and will continue to increase in future years. Code Administration has found that the cost for most vehicle maintenance services are exceptionally higher than can be found in the in the general market place. For example, when Code was part of the fire department, the cost of an oil change was approximately \$20. The fire department contracted those services and through a competitive process got the best possible price. Code staff would take their own assigned vehicles to the service provider and it would generally take less than a half an hour to complete the task. That cost has more than doubled since moving to General Services and the vehicles must be dropped off, a loaner provided, and then pick up the vehicle after it is completed. More time is expended than just getting the servicing completed through a contract provider and the cost is much higher.

Code has also found that vehicle leasing could be a more cost effective way of providing for its fleet while maintaining newer vehicles with less maintenance cost. However, instead of encouraging new, innovative and cost saving approaches by piloting these types of activities in progressive departments, traditional ways of doing business are the norm.

Recently after FAT team sessions closed, a City-wide enterprise indirect cost policy was initiated. The initiation of this new policy was not shared with the departments nor was consideration for the promises Code Administration made to the development community considered.

The explanation provided in the Code Administration Expenditure and Revenue Summary Highlights defines the indirect costs as expenditures that will be transferred to the General Fund to pay for support Code Administration receives from other City departments. As defined in the Code Administration Administrative Support Division's Programmatic Adjustments, there is a brief listing of a few of the other City departments relating to the indirect costs—Human Resources, Finance, and General Services “among others”. After gathering additional information from other departments and OMB, some of the “among others” departments include Information Technology and City Manager's office as it relates to Call Click Connect.

As noted previously, I am not opposed to incurring indirect costs as the overall health of the City affects Code Administration and the associated departments with the Permit Center just as it does those that are solely supported by General Funds. However, the proposal results in being “double-taxed”.

Over the past few years, Code Administration has taken on expenses from other departments in an effort to advance the multi-departmental permit center, but most importantly, to relieve the General Fund. These expenses including funds set aside for Civic Engagement at \$50k (remaining balance around \$27k), total expense support of 15.5 FTES (as of FY16) functioning in other departments at a cost of \$1.5M, and 100% of the cost associated with the replacement of the Land Use Permitting System at \$4.45M, including all future expenses associated including maintenance, professional services, etc. (est. additional \$350k annually). The Land Use System as mentioned in previous paragraphs will be utilized by several City departments. Code has never requested assistance from the other associated departments to cover any present or future costs associated with the Land Use System.

The table attached provides the costs currently incurred relating to other departments supported by the CA Special Revenue Fund. Out of the departments listed there are four positions which are considered to be departments associated with the new indirect cost policy. These include Information Technology (3), Finance (1), and City Manager's Office (Civic Engagement, 1). The Code Fund contributes to these department's total budget at 7.05%. An additional 11.66% is contributed by Code to other departments (OHA, P&Z, TES, and the Health Department). These percentages are based on FY16 budget numbers provided from the City's proposed budget documents. This total contribution is approximately 18.72%. No other Special Revenue Fund in the city has these obligations.

Code Administration proposed three years ago an MOU regarding surplus funds in the CA fund. It proposed funding all customer service and information technology enhancements and needs, then establishing taking on additional over head cost while maintaining a 50% to 70% operational budget surplus to support lean years. This would guarantee appropriate levels of staffing to complete permitted work already under construction when permit fees decline, maintain the core staffing that results in better trained and certified staff (i.e. better service and consistency) to be prepared for economic upturns when demands for services increase, and being good stewards

of the funding by actually lowering permit and other fees when all considered were covered and the surplus exceeded.

In addition, Code had proposed to fund, either through purchase or rental, a much more conducive location for the Permit Center and Code Administration to conduct business. The current 4th floor location has long been considered an inappropriate space for the center. It requires a large volume of customers to go deep in to city hall to conduct business. This is not only inconvenient for customers, it is also a security concern. It has been identified that services customers must access on a regular basis should be located on the lowest levels while support activities should be located on the higher floors. In addition, there is no free parking for customers, staff or inspector vehicles. This is typically provided at other successful permit centers we visited. Code Inspector vehicles are parked at numerous locations around the city as there is no central place provided to park them. This requires inspection staff to come in and retrieve their vehicles before starting work at city hall.

A central location with first floor permit center access not only provides for the best customer access and experience, it would reduce the parking demand at city hall, provide a secure location for Code inspection vehicles, potentially would provide a more accessible location for customers with free parking, and provide for code staff personal vehicle parking locations which other outlying city department staff currently enjoy without cost. Staff efficiency would be gained by having all vehicles at the point of service delivery and by staff not leaving to relocate their personal vehicles during the day as paid parking downtown is at a premium.

When I proposed this a couple of years ago, I was given specific direction by Mr. Jinks to "stand down" on this initiative. However, I was specifically instructed at the beginning of this cycle by Mr. Jinks to resurrect the proposal as an appropriate use of special revenue funds towards customer service and would assist by providing future swing space for city hall remodeling. I assume that his opinion has again shifted as the proposed off-site location appears to be off the table in favor of this draconian 9.2% budget saver with no tax increase. At least without a significant fee increase to be passed on to consumers.

With the additional 9.2% indirect costs, the Code Fund will provide indirect contributions of 27.92%. By adding the 9.2% to the current costs the Code Fund supports, it is forcing the fund to pay for some of the same services twice. Incurring duplication of the expenses cannot be justified as an expense associated with the costs to enforce the USBC in accordance Virginia Code Section 36-105 and Section 107.1 of the Virginia Statewide Building Code regulations. This could open the City to litigation.

Code Administration has also been placed in a position of defending the use of fees collected to cover the additional costs, and as suggested by OMB and CMO, to increase fees. This may damage the integrity of the City as a whole to the development and business community as they were led to believe fees received would not be transferred to General Fund without justification. In addition, the Code Fund has provided stability to Code staff and those supported by Special Revenue Funds to provide services even in economic downturn. Recent operational changes allow flexibility to utilize staff in either maintenance or building code administration, and to flex as plan review and inspection services fluctuate. The integrity of this stability is compromised through this additional 9.2%.

All of these issues should be considered before embracing the City Managers proposed budget. The budget as provided is just too good to believe without looking at the details of the offsetting funding sources.

City council must consider reducing the indirect cost percentage to a reasonable rate or consider eliminated of the proposal based on the 18.72% currently expended annually by the fund to relieve the General Fund.

I respectfully request that City Council consider the some combination of the following options:

1. Reduce the overhead percentage from 9.2% to 4% of the actual operating budget, not the reserve. This would provide for space rent and utility cost currently absorbed by the General Fund, provide funding for internal departments at an appropriate level, and would be more in line with state law and regulation.
2. If the 9.2% stands, transfer the cost of the one staff position assigned to Call, Click, Connect and the three fully funded ITS staff positions (GIS, Help Desk, and Database Manager) to the appropriate General Fund budgets of those departments. This would level the playing field with other Special Revenue Funds that provide no direct support to supporting departments.
3. Reduce or eliminate the fee waiving of city and school projects. The previous methodology was that charging the fees was nothing more than a budgetary transfer through the General Fund. However, it is now a direct cost to the Special Revenue Fund and should be accounted for accordingly. This is no different than General Services charging Code Administration for alterations, hanging of technology devices, bulletin boards, painting, etc. which

is the current practice.

4. Encourage and empower out of the box thinking departments to try new approaches such as the vehicle maintenance and replacement activities suggested above as pilots that could be used city wide. These funds are exceptional places to try these approaches.

It is my belief that the current General Fund shortfalls should not be balanced on the back of the Special Revenue Fund customers. I believe continued fee increases will ultimately harm all of the good work to improve customer services and the reputation that Alexandria has built over the past several years as a positive place to conduct business. And if nothing else, it will call in to question why a general percentage is added to the burden associated with Special Revenue funds, especially the Code Fund, when other similar cost are already being incurred.

In closing, I want to express my gratitude and understanding of the difficult decisions facing you during the budget adoption process. However, it is important to continue to grow the city and continue to make it an encouraging, less bureaucratic, transparent, easy to access and consistent place to do business. The unintended consequences may do more to destroy the good will and service improvements built through the use of the Special Revenue concept. I hope you will take in to consideration the points presented and wish you the best during your budget adoption process.

Respectfully,

John Catlett
309 Yoakum Parkway, #1503
Alexandria Virginia 22304

- Attachment: [Code Table.doc](#)
- Expected Response Date: Thursday, April 16

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 CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.HELP.

This is an automated email notification of a **Call.Click.Connect.** request. Please do not reply to this email.

Jackie Henderson

From: rannette77@earthlink.net
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2015 1:10 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #69958: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Good afternoon,I am a parent of a ch

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 69958.

Request Details:

- Name: Annette Harper
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 678-362-9372
- Email: rannette77@earthlink.net
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Good afternoon,

I am a parent of a child with Autism. He is 4 years old and attended the Therapeutic Rec summer camp for the month of July. We were excited when we found out that registration was open for this summer, and planned on sending our son, Cole again. However, I was not happy about the \$90 hike in price. We already have countless other expenses including out of pocket therapy fees, copays, gas to get him to therapy, etc. It's ridiculous that it was raised this much. Is there anything that can be done to lower the price back down to the \$75 per 2 week session like last summer?

I appreciate your attention to this matter, and I'm sure other families would too.

Regards,
Annette Harper

- Expected Response Date: Thursday, April 16

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 CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.HELP.

This is an automated email notification of a *Call.Click.Connect.* request. Please do not reply to this email.

Jackie Henderson

From: randy.cole.n1@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2015 10:26 AM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #69918: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Dear City Council. I am writing to

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 69918.

Request Details:

- Name: Randy Cole
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 703.887.7126
- Email: randy.cole.n1@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Dear City Council.

I am writing to ask that you reject proposed cuts to the City's non-motorized transportation budgets related to Capital Bikeshare, the Old Cameron Run Trail and the Backlick Run Trail.

We need to keep investing in non-motorized transportation because our city needs it, so does my neighborhood - the infamous Taylor Run. As you may know Bob Garbacz met wednesday with neighbors upset about the large number of cars using W.Taylor Run and E. Taylor Run roads as a cut through to Telegraph Road. This is a perfect reason to justify the need for more non-car transportation infrastructure as the problem of cars cutting through all our neighborhoods is only going to increase over the next years. Additionally, any solution that will allow more cars to flow through our streets - at the expense of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure - will only feed the monster. So please , let's invest in a future where residents can get anywhere they want using walking or biking - with safe, stress free rights of way. We need this investment now !

So please keep the funding for our bike path projects. These projects are key investments in Alexandria's economic and environmental health and should be protected as such. The City of Alexandria has long-standing policy commitments to non-motorized transportation, but has underfunded this area for 3 years and now proposes to forgo new local multi-modal investment for the next decade. Alexandria has goals to attract new businesses and invest in mobility and connectivity that supports the economy. It's important that the City Council not cut important infrastructure aimed at achieving those goals.

Thank you

Randy Cole
Citizen

- Expected Response Date: Thursday, April 16

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 CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.HELP.

This is an automated email notification of a *Call.Click.Connect.* request. Please do not reply to this email.

Jackie Henderson

From: ecroyle@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 10:29 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #69885: 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 69885.

Request Details:

- Name: Erin Croyle
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 5713404786
- Email: ecroyle@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor and City Council Members,
Let me begin by thanking you for your service. Alexandria is great city and I am proud to be an active member of our community.

I was recently surprised by a substantial jump in the cost of the Summer Camp at Therapeutic Rec. Last year it was \$75 dollars a session, now it is \$119. It is an amazing program with fantastic people that helps children with special needs fill the month of July with fun and educational activities at the Lee Center.

This price hike is difficult for so many families, my own included. I want to be completely candid and share why, so you can understand. I know the city's funds are tight.

Most families who have a child with a disability also carry a significant financial burden. Even with decent health insurance we still have to cover copays for the many doctors and specialists our children see. Some of these disabilities come with other impairments. Because of my son's condition, he needs glasses, orthotics, hearing tests every 6 months, speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy. He also has asthma and requires multiple medications to help with that. He's been hospitalized with complications from that 3 times (he's only 4). He has sleep apnea that requires a CPAP. And it's been recommended that he sees a behavioral therapist to help with getting him to use the CPAP, running off, and other issues; however we haven't found the money or time to incorporate that into our lives yet.

As you can imagine, these costs add up. And there are costs we often don't even think about such as the gas it takes to get him to all of these appointments or buying lunch at the cafeteria because there wasn't enough time to pack something for him.

Other families are in similar situations or worse. Some of my son's friends are on feeding tubes. One is on life support.

Therapeutic Rec offers a way to help educate our kids while also entertaining them. It's also a form of respite for exhausted parents who could really use a break. It used to be affordable; not so much any more. And I worry what will happen in the future.

I really hope you reconsider cutting funds that affect families, young and old, of people with disabilities.

Thank you,
Erin Croyle

- Expected Response Date: Wednesday, April 15

Jackie Henderson

From: peterw@tux.org
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2015 12:32 AM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #69886: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Please restore and increase funding for

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 69886.

Request Details:

- Name: Peter Watkins
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: No Phone
- Email: peterw@tux.org
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Please restore and increase funding for non-motorized transportation services & projects!

The capital and operating budget proposals before you include cuts to non-motorized transportation services and projects that are tiny compared to the whole budget, but large relative to current and past non-motorized transportation funding levels. Restoring these relatively modest funds will make a big difference in keeping our city Livable, Green, and Prospering.

Capital Bikeshare has been a big success for the region in general and Alexandria in particular. It's had better fare cost recovery than DASH Bus – with the recent focus on Results Alexandria and measurable success, I ask that you remember Capital Bikeshare is among the most cost-efficient transit options available to us. We have a great opportunity now to vastly expand the coverage of Bikeshare in Alexandria for very little money. For \$50,000 per year we can increase Bikeshare's range by 30%? This should be an easy decision – the City budget provides that much on DASH Bus every 39 hours!

I'll grant that the cost of some capital budget items like the Old Cameron Run Trail and the Backlick Run Trail are significantly higher than the Bikeshare operating budget cuts proposed by the Acting Manager. But trails like these are still remarkably inexpensive compared to roadways for motorized vehicles. Let's stop kicking these cans down the road. Let's stop leaving the west end cut off from Old Town, Del Ray, and DC, stop making west end residents feel they have no good Livable, Green options for non-motorized transportation through and across the city. And remember that one of the advantages of non-motorized trails is reduced maintenance cost – bike trails don't get potholes. :-)

If any of this City's services and facilities exemplify the notion of "Livable, Green, & Prospering City" it's those that support non-motorized transportation.

Livable – studies have clearly shown that walkable, bikeable cities have vibrant communities, high demand for housing, and increased property values. Developers like Pulte are happy to have multi-use trails connecting their investments to transit and shopping as in Potomac Yard because it increases their return on investment by making the development more Livable.

Green – human-powered transportation reduces air pollution, water pollution, and noise pollution. Human-powered transportation encourages individuals to connect with the environment and their communities. How many times have you stopped your car to pick up some trash or recycling? To take a photo and report sidewalk damage or a pothole in the street? On foot or on a bike, I've done these things many times because it's easy to set things right; in a car I can only shake my head at the litter, and hope I remember to report the right of way damage after I park.

Prospering – a growing body of research shows that walkable, bikeable neighborhoods have thriving retail. Compare Mt. Vernon Ave in Del Ray, with its recent Capital Bikeshare additions, to Duke St. in the west end. Property values are up, and storefronts do not stay vacant for long. You've seen over and over in SUP applications that restaurants in walkable zones like Del Ray don't need lots of parking spaces. Those businesses thrive! (Speaking of thriving, I'll spare you all the arguments for how non-motorized transportation also supports the Healthy & Thriving Residents focus area.)

When it comes to biking and walking, we are geographically blessed with a relatively compact and flat city. Yes, we have some hills, but nothing like San Francisco. Even Arlington County and DC have more and bigger hills, but they're also doing more than we are for supporting non-motorized transportation.

If you accept the Acting Manager's proposal and retreat from the leadership that Alexandria has recently shown on non-motorized transportation, you'll be sending business and residents (and property values and tax revenue) across Four Mile Run and the Potomac. Don't do that. Reject the proposed cuts. Keep Alexandria moving towards a more Livable, Green, and Prosperous future by investing in sensible, proven services and projects for non-motorized transportation.

Thank you,

Peter Watkins
Little St

- Expected Response Date: Thursday, April 16

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 CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.HELP.

This is an automated email notification of a **Call.Click.Connect.** request. Please do not reply to this email.

Jackie Henderson

From: jjkingconsulting@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 9:49 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #69799: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council I am concerned about the reductions to t

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 69799.

Request Details:

- Name: Jerry King
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 7036841688
- Email: jjkingconsulting@yahoo.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: I am concerned about the reductions to the Transportation Budget and its affect it will have on our city. Transportation is a vital cog in our economic engine. A good transportation system moves our residents to work and shop and moves tourists to our town. This is important to our economy which gives us a solid tax base. Investing in transportation now has payoffs in the future. Reductions to transportation funding will reflect on how we move our people in and around our city. Multi modal transportation is where the investment in the future lies. Although most of our capital investments go toward major transit project we need to provide better access to the transit stations.
Our transportation plans call for an increase in multi modal transportation which will decrease single occupancy vehicle mode share, without this change there will be no impact on the city's increasing traffic.
I request the capital funding be maintained for our trail systems such as the Old Cameron Run Trail to move people to and from our city and its transit stops. Some grant funding is already available, let's not lose it.
I also request that operational funding be provided to fully fund capital Bikeshare which continues to show success in moving people around our city.
Funds for these multi modal transportation projects are needed now, not in the future.
Jerry King
- Expected Response Date: Tuesday, April 14

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 CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.HELP.

This is an automated email notification of a *Call.Click.Connect.* request. Please do not reply to this email.

Jackie Henderson

From: jjakubek@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2015 8:28 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #69712: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Dear Mr. Mayor, Mrs. Vice Mayor, and Cit

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 69712.

Request Details:

- Name: Jake Jakubek
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: No Phone
- Email: jjakubek@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Dear Mr. Mayor, Mrs. Vice Mayor, and City Council,

My name is Jake Jakubek and I live in the West End of the City of Alexandria.

I am writing to speak in favor of the city maintaining funding for the expansion of Capital Bikeshare. Having been a member of Capital Bikeshare for the past 18 months and having enjoyed the benefits of the system, I ask you to find a way to keep the system expanding.

I use Capital Bikeshare within Alexandria as my last leg trip from King Street Metro to City Hall or to meet friends at restaurants in Old Town. It has recently proved even more useful when I wish to get to Del Ray from Braddock Road or King Street Metro stations. With the new stations in that neighborhood, this has been made possible and I feel that there is room for expansion within the city that will continue to satisfy multi modal transportation needs. With the money for this expansion in danger, the system is in danger of stagnating and losing its overall utility.

I ask that you maintain the funding for expansion of Capital Bikeshare in the upcoming budget.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jake Jakubek

- Expected Response Date: Monday, April 13

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 CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.HELP.

This is an automated email notification of a *Call.Click.Connect.* request. Please do not reply to this email.

Jackie Henderson

From: seanontheroad@yahoo.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 3:14 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #69868: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Dear City Leaders,I wrote last week

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 69868.

Request Details:

- Name: Sean Crumley
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 703.521.0977
- Email: seanontheroad@yahoo.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Dear City Leaders,

I wrote last week to express support for expansion of Alexandria's Capital Bikeshare program, particularly its footprint in the Del Ray business district.

Following reports in the local media, I now worry about bikeshare's very existence in Alexandria. I urge Council to support this vital transportation program and not to doom it with inadequate funding.

Bikeshare may not be for everyone but it serves as a incredibly useful and cost-effective augmentation to the City transportation infrastructure. It frees City residents and workers from the tyranny of transit schedules and offers an option that results in one less car on our congested streets.

The photo I send along in this message was taken this morning and shows a virtually empty bikeshare dock at East Nelson Avenue.

Even on a chilly, rainy April morning, Alexandrians want to use bikeshare.

Please let us!

Sean Crumley
E Nelson Avenue

- Attachment: [photo.JPG](#)
- Expected Response Date: Wednesday, April 15

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 CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.HELP.

This is an automated email notification of a *Call.Click.Connect.* request. Please do not reply to this email.

Jackie Henderson

From: kschloeder@comcast.net
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2015 9:47 AM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #69631: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Dear Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Silber

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 69631.

Request Details:

- Name: Kathleen Schloeder
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 703.671.6635
- Email: kschloeder@comcast.net
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description:

Dear Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Silberberg and Members of Council,

After my February 21 remarks to Council in which I asked you to join the Alexandria Library Foundation in a matching grant challenge during FY16, Mayor Euille asked me to write with the details. We are calling this the 50-50-50 campaign. The Library Foundation, the tax exempt arm of the library which can accept private donations, will try to raise \$50,000, IF the City will match the challenge with \$50,000. If the Foundation cannot raise that whole amount, the City would match whatever we can raise, up to a ceiling of \$50,000. In addition, the library is applying for grants which would allow it to add another \$50,000 to this challenge (the third 50). However, this would not affect the City/Foundation match if these grants don't pan out.

The 4,000 community members who participated in our needs assessment said that materials are a clear priority for our 1 million visitors a year. Our current materials budget is \$360,000 which represents \$2.40 per capita. The national average is around \$4.00 per capita. Our materials budget has declined 37.5% over the past 10 years.

The Board of the Library Foundation has accepted this idea and has drafted an operational plan for our fundraising efforts. We appreciate that the Acting City Manager has included the City's \$50,000 in the contingency reserve for FY16 in his proposed budget. We hope that you will support it.

Kathleen Schloeder
President
Alexandria Library Foundation

Cc: Acting City Manager

- Expected Response Date: Monday, April 13

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 CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.HELP.

This is an automated email notification of a *Call.Click.Connect.* request. Please do not reply to this email.

Jackie Henderson

From: learnermusic@hotmail.com
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2015 9:58 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #69264: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Hi I use the bikeshare bikes to commute

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 69264.

Request Details:

- Name: Neal Learner
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 571-278-9381
- Email: learnermusic@hotmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Hi I use the bikeshare bikes to commute between Del Ray and Old Town. Please support their continued growth!
Thanks,
Neal Learner
8A East Mason Ave.
- Expected Response Date: Monday, April 6

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 CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.HELP.

This is an automated email notification of a *Call.Click.Connect.* request. Please do not reply to this email.

Jackie Henderson

From: ericgraves@earthlink.net
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2015 8:31 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #69261: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Expanding Capital Bikeshare makes sense

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 69261.

Request Details:

- Name: *Call.Click.Connect.* Customer
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: No Phone
- Email: ericgraves@earthlink.net
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Expanding Capital Bikeshare makes sense for Alexandria. In terms of the use of public space, health, pollution, and congestion, it's a win. And it's cheaper the rapid transit bus lanes. Heck, it's cheaper than a bus SHELTER. I used CaBi extensively when I worked in Rosslyn and would like to see it expanded in NoVa so it was a resource readily available for all.
- Expected Response Date: Monday, April 6

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 CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.HELP.

This is an automated email notification of a *Call.Click.Connect.* request. Please do not reply to this email.

Jackie Henderson

From: seanontheroad@yahoo.com
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2015 1:22 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #69224: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Dear City Leaders, Please continue to

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 69224.

Request Details:

- Name: Sean Crumley
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 703.521.0977
- Email: seanontheroad@yahoo.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Dear City Leaders,

Please continue to show support for Capital Bikeshare in Alexandria. It provides a convenient, cost-effective and fun way to get around town. The City has made a great start, but we need to commit to expanding bikeshare's reach.

Even though I own 5 bikes, I became a member as soon as a dock came to Del Ray. I frequently hop on a CaBi bike to dash up to St. Elmo's for coffee, to City Hall for the farmers market, to Leslie Ave for DRCA meetings and on occasion to Crystal City for work. It saves me the hassle of finding suitable parking and provides me with the flexibility to opt for a walk or bus-ride home.

I've seen a map with the proposed next round of stations and I'm looking very much forward to docks from to Arlandria and Potomac Yard Shopping Center, two frequent destinations currently not served by bikeshare. Yay!

However, I'm disappointed that while three additional stations are coming to Potomac Avenue, **no** new stations coming to Mt Vernon Avenue in Del Ray.

Del Ray has an established business district with multiple destinations that are well-suited for bike-share trips and the current distribution merely scratches the surface of the potential.

The north end of Del Ray, for example, by the Mt. Vernon Recreation Center, Del Ray Artisans gallery and popular Del Ray restaurants seems like an ideal location for a station.

Since the City once proposed a Del Ray tourist trolley, it seems to recognize the need for improved connectivity to this vibrant business corridor and a greater concentration of CaBi stations would certainly help.

I cycle along Potomac Avenue every day and there are no destinations there. Perhaps these new stations are to serve new residents, but please don't let that be at the expense of existing residents and businesses.

Let's plan to provide these new residents with convenient destinations in nearby Del Ray by bulking up the bikeshare capacity along the Mt. Vernon Avenue business district.

Thank you.

Sean Crumley
East Nelson Ave.

- Expected Response Date: Monday, April 6

Jackie Henderson

From: gordon.amber@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 4:52 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sittton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #68709: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Art Commission / CIP Public Art Funding

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 68709.

Request Details:

- Name: Susan Amber Gordon
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 703.626.7965
- Email: gordon.amber@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Art Commission / CIP Public Art Funding

March 23, 2015

Dear Mayor and Members of City Council,

The Alexandria Commission for the Arts very much appreciates the work you perform each day for our City, including your unanimous approval of the Public Art Implementation Plan and updated Public Art Policy this past December, and the original Public Art Policy in 2012.

The Commission, however, has a strong, well considered objection to the budgeted dollar allocations within the Proposed FY2016 - FY2025 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The proposed CIP totally disregards the Council's previous approval of funding levels found within both the Plan and the Policy. In fact, the proposed CIP eliminates all funding for public art during FY2016, from its previously approved amount of \$200,000.

The Commission respectfully asks City Council to reinstate this funding so the City of Alexandria can fulfill its plans to continue as an arts leader nationwide, and to achieve the goals of its Public Art Program.

Your vote to approve the Public Art Plan in December has proven that City Council members have a strong desire to enable public art to flourish, and that you recognize how this program supports our City's "Healthy and Thriving Residents" initiatives.

In December, many Council members expressed their wishes for a new, "major piece of public art" – perhaps at a Metro Station or along a busy corridor – to become a part of the City. Our neighboring communities have implemented and are continuing to launch, major public art initiatives – recognizing the need to move forward with uplifting cultural development as a lynchpin of community development.

The Proposed CIP FY2016 funding of \$0 does not reflect this sentiment.

To approve the Public Art Plan just a few months back with such encouragement only to eliminate all FY2016 funds to implement the Plan is what the Commission hopes is merely an oversight. Public art needs to be part of any CIP for Alexandria.

The Alexandria Commission for the Arts welcomes each opportunity to serve the City. It strives carefully to research each public art project in the best interests of Alexandria's residents and to generate new and accessible public art through active citizen engagement that enhances the lives of the children and adults who visit our great City, and for the families who call it home.

It is the sincere hope of the Alexandria Commission for the Arts that City Council finds a way to reinstate these funds for FY2016 according to previously approved levels.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Susan Amber Gordon
Executive Committee / Secretary
Alexandria Commission for the Arts

Susan Amber Gordon
gordon.amber@gmail.com
31 W Del Ray Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22301
571.527.0433 (h)
703.626.7965 (c)

- Attachment: [AG Ltr CIP FY2016 032315.pdf](#)
- Expected Response Date: Monday, March 30

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 CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.HELP.

This is an automated email notification of a **Call.Click.Connect.** request. Please do not reply to this email.

Jackie Henderson

From: hmcorcoran@me.com
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 4:53 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #68710: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council In your efforts to balance the budget, p

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 68710.

Request Details:

- Name: Helenmarie Corcoran
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 202-251-9297
- Email: hmcorcoran@me.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: In your efforts to balance the budget, please do not zero out the previously committed funds to Public Art. The arts are an important contributor to a diverse Alexandria economy today but the commitment to excellence in this sector is important for future growth. It is an investment that will attract visitors and contribute to quality of life for residents. Thank you. Helenmarie Corcoran
- Expected Response Date: Monday, March 30

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 CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.HELP.

This is an automated email notification of a *Call.Click.Connect.* request. Please do not reply to this email.

Jackie Henderson

From: crhammons@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 5:06 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #68711: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Dear Mayor and City Council: Thank Y

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 68711.

Request Details:

- Name: Charles Hammons
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 6067764118
- Email: crhammons@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Dear Mayor and City Council:

Thank You for the work and service you do for our fine city. Having moved here from KY only three years ago, I am still learning about the many reasons that Alexandria is such an outstanding place to reside. As a retired professor from a region university I am aware of the importance of our educational system. I am also a strong believer in a vibrant and physical education as extremely important in the development of our young people. Such development requires a well thought out physical education facility which is supported with adequate public resources. The current playground at Maury Elementary is in great need of some major repairs and upgrades due to water runoff.

I fully support the city's financial resources be applied to fully complete this important playground project.

Young people who are residents of Alexandria and those who attend Maury will note that this project is a impressive example of cooperation between our educators in the city and the city council.

Again, I FULLY support the council's expenditure of tax dollars to complete the Maury Elementary School Playground Project.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely Yours,

Rodger Hammons, Ph.D., retired
320 S West St. Apt 205
Alexandria, VA 22314

- Expected Response Date: Monday, March 30

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 CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.HELP.

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Jackie Henderson

From: wisser@alexsym.org
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 5:15 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #68712: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Dear Mayor and Members of City Council,

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 68712.

Request Details:

- Name: Jessica Wisser
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 703-548-0885
- Email: wisser@alexsym.org
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Dear Mayor and Members of City Council,

The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra is appreciative of the work that you perform each day for our City, including your unanimous approval of the Public Art Implementation Plan and updated Public Art Policy this past December. The ASO takes serious issue with the Proposed FY2016-FY2025 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), though, because of its disregard of Council's previous approval of funding levels found within both the Plan and the Policy. The proposed CIP eliminates all funding for public art during FY2016, from a previously approved \$200,000. We respectfully ask City Council to reinstate this funding so the City of Alexandria can continue to remain an arts leader nationwide.

Your vote to approve the Public Art Plan in December has proven that City Council members have a strong desire to enable public art to flourish. Citizens across Alexandria have become engaged in the new plan's many avenues for community input and many are excited to welcome fresh art to the City. In December, many Council members expressed their wishes for a new, "major piece of public art" – perhaps at a Metro Station or along a busy corridor – to become a part of the City.

The Proposed CIP and FY2016 funding of \$0 does not reflect this sentiment.

To approve the Public Art Plan just a few months back with such encouragement only to eliminate the funds required to see out the Plan is what the Commission hopes is merely an oversight. Public art needs to be part of any Capital Improvement Plan for Alexandria.

This City has made a commitment to continue and expand upon its reputation as a nationally-recognized arts community. Through the uninterrupted growth of the arts, our great City will become a more vibrant, economically sustainable and progressive community.

It is my sincere hope that the City Council finds a way to reinstate these funds for FY2016 according to previously approved levels.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Jessica G. Wisser
Executive Director
Alexandria Symphony Orchestra

- Expected Response Date: Monday, March 30

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

Jackie Henderson

From: CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 5:36 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #68716: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council ---Dear Mayor and Members of City Co

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 68716.

Request Details:

- Name: David Martin
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 703 683 0333
- Email: No Email
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: ---

Dear Mayor and Members of City Council,

I apologize that this letter is a near copy of the sentiments from the Commission ,but please accept the request as sincere!

The Alexandria Commission for the Arts is appreciative of the work that you perform each day for our City, including your unanimous approval of the Public Art Implementation Plan and updated Public Art Policy this past December. The Commission takes serious issue with the Proposed FY2016-FY2025 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), though, because of its disregard of Council's previous approval of funding levels found within both the Plan and the Policy. The proposed CIP eliminates all funding for public art during FY2016, from a previously approved \$200,000. The Commission respectfully asks City Council to reinstate this funding so the City of Alexandria can continue to remain an arts leader nationwide.

Your vote to approve the Public Art Plan in December has proven that City Council members have a strong desire to enable public art to flourish. Citizens across Alexandria have become engaged in the new plan's many avenues for community input and many are excited to welcome fresh art to the City. In December, many Council members expressed their wishes for a new, "major piece of public art" – perhaps at a Metro Station or along a busy corridor – to become a part of the City.

The Proposed CIP and FY2016 funding of \$0 does not reflect this sentiment.

To approve the Public Art Plan just a few months back with such encouragement only to eliminate the funds required to see out the Plan is what the Commission hopes is merely an oversight. Public art needs to be part of any Capital Improvement Plan for Alexandria.

This City has made a commitment to continue and expand upon its reputation as a nationally recognized arts community. Through the uninterrupted growth of the arts, our great City will become a more vibrant, economically

sustainable and progressive community.

The Alexandria Commission for the Arts welcomes each opportunity to serve the City. It strives to carefully research each public art project in the best interests of Alexandria's residents and to generate new and accessible public art through active citizen engagement that enhances the lives of the children and adults who visit our great City, and for the families who call it home.

It is the sincere hope of the Alexandria Commission for the Arts that City Council finds a way to reinstate these funds for FY2016 according to previously approved levels.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

- Expected Response Date: Monday, March 30

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Jackie Henderson

From: bdcoast@aol.com
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 5:41 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #68718: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Dear Mayor Euille and Members of City Co

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 68718.

Request Details:

- Name: Beth Coast
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 7035486685
- Email: bdcoast@aol.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Dear Mayor Euille and Members of City Council,

The Alexandria Commission for the Arts very much appreciates the work you perform each day for our City, including your unanimous approval of the Public Art Implementation Plan and updated Public Art Policy this past December, and the original Public Art Policy in 2012.

The Commission, however, has a strong objection to the budgeted dollar allocations within the Proposed FY2016 - FY2025 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The proposed CIP totally disregards the Council's previous approval of funding levels found within both the Plan and the Policy. In fact, the proposed CIP eliminates all funding for public art during FY2016, from its previously approved amount of \$200,000.

The Alexandria Commission for the Arts welcomes each opportunity to serve the City. It strives to carefully research each public art project in the best interests of Alexandria's residents and to generate new and accessible public art through active citizen engagement that enhances the lives of the children and adults who visit our great City, and for the families who call it home.

As a Commission for the Arts member and the Visual Arts department chair of T.C. Williams, it is my hope that City Council finds a way to reinstate the Public Art funding for FY2016. Alexandria City has always supported the arts and I am hoping the proposed CIP and FY2016 funding of \$0 is mere oversight. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Beth Coast
Member, Alexandria Commission for the Arts
Visual Arts Department Chair, T.C. Williams High School

- Attachment: [ACA doc CIP2016.docx](#)
- Expected Response Date: Monday, March 30

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Jackie Henderson

From: joan@quintango.com
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 5:44 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #68719: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council I am writing in SUPPORT of funding for p

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 68719.

Request Details:

- Name: Joan Singer
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 7035486811
- Email: joan@quintango.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: I am writing in SUPPORT of funding for public art. this speaks volume about our city to visitors - if we choose not to fund the FUN, the BEAUTIFUL, the ENGAGING, the EXTRAORDINARY in Alexandria we will be choosing to be less than we can be. Art makes the difference. It puts smiles on faces, it reminds us of how great we can be. If we postpone funding art until all our other problems are solved we will not have a city to rejoice in -- and the day will never arrive.

Joan Singer
arts advocate in Alexandria
812 W Braddock Rd
Alexandria 22302

- Expected Response Date: Monday, March 30

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Jackie Henderson

From: sladekate@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 5:46 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #68721: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Dear Mayor and Members of City Council,

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 68721.

Request Details:

- Name: Kate Elkins
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 7035080464
- Email: sladekate@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Dear Mayor and Members of City Council,

As a commissioner on the Alexandria Commission for the Arts, an artist, and an Alexandria art educator, I consider myself fortunate to reside in a city that values the arts and recognizes the cultural, social, and economic impact that public art brings to our community. I recently applauded the council's efforts regarding the importance of the arts when you unanimously approved the Public Art Implementation Plan in December.

Therefore, I am surprised and also confused by the Proposed FY2016-FY2025 Capital Improvement Program that eliminates all funding for public art during FY2016, from a previously approved \$200,000. \$0 is a staggering deviation from the previously approved amount.

As an Arts Commissioner, I made a commitment to "promote the value of arts and culture by nurturing, investing in, and celebrating the creative contributions of artists and arts organizations". This is a role that I take very seriously; it is my sincere hope that the City Council can find a way to reinstate these funds for FY2016 according to previously approved levels.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kate Elkins

Commissioner/ Alexandria Commission for the Arts
436 N. West St.
Alexandria, VA 22314
sladekate@gmail.com
703-508-0464

- Expected Response Date: Monday, March 30

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: uljames@earthlink.net
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 4:44 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #68705: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Dear Mayor and Members of City Council,

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 68705.

Request Details:

- Name: Ulysses S. James
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 7037998229
- Email: uljames@earthlink.net
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Dear Mayor and Members of City Council,

The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association (WMPA) is appreciative of the work that you perform each day for our City, including your unanimous approval of the Public Art Implementation Plan and updated Public Art Policy this past December. WMPA takes serious issue with the Proposed FY2016-FY2025 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), though, because of its disregard of Council's previous approval of funding levels found within both the Plan and the Policy. The proposed CIP eliminates all funding for public art during FY2016, from a previously approved \$200,000. WMPA respectfully asks City Council to reinstate this funding so the City of Alexandria can continue to remain an arts leader nationwide.

Your vote to approve the Public Art Plan in December has proven that City Council members have a strong desire to enable public art to flourish. Citizens across Alexandria have become engaged in the new plan's many avenues for community input and many are excited to welcome fresh art to the City. In December, many Council members expressed their wishes for a new, "major piece of public art" – perhaps at a Metro Station or along a busy corridor – to become a part of the City.

The Proposed CIP and FY2016 funding of \$0 does not reflect this sentiment.

To approve the Public Art Plan just a few months back with such encouragement only to eliminate the funds required to see out the Plan is what the Commission hopes is merely an oversight. Public art needs to be part of any Capital Improvement Plan for Alexandria.

This City has made a commitment to continue and expand upon its reputation as a nationally recognized arts community. Through the uninterrupted growth of the arts, our great City will become a more vibrant, economically sustainable and progressive community.

It is the sincere hope of WMPA that City Council finds a way to reinstate these funds for FY2016 according to previously approved levels.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ulysses S. James
Member, Alexandria Arts Forum
Music Director, Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Assoc.

- Expected Response Date: Monday, March 30

Jackie Henderson

From: mkozlak@artsonthehorizon.org
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 4:34 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #68700: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Dear Mayor and Members of City Council,

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 68700.

Request Details:

- Name: Michelle Kozlak
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 703-967-0437
- Email: mkozlak@artsonthehorizon.org
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Dear Mayor and Members of City Council,

The Alexandria Commission for the Arts is appreciative of the work that you perform each day for our City, including your unanimous approval of the Public Art Implementation Plan and updated Public Art Policy this past December. The Commission takes serious issue with the Proposed FY2016-FY2025 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), though, because of its disregard of Council's previous approval of funding levels found within both the Plan and the Policy. The proposed CIP eliminates all funding for public art during FY2016, from a previously approved \$200,000. The Commission respectfully asks City Council to reinstate this funding so the City of Alexandria can continue to remain an arts leader nationwide.

Your vote to approve the Public Art Plan in December has proven that City Council members have a strong desire to enable public art to flourish. Citizens across Alexandria have become engaged in the new plan's many avenues for community input and many are excited to welcome fresh art to the City. In December, many Council members expressed their wishes for a new, "major piece of public art" – perhaps at a Metro Station or along a busy corridor – to become a part of the City.

The Proposed CIP and FY2016 funding of \$0 does not reflect this sentiment.

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The Alexandria Commission for the Arts welcomes each opportunity to serve the City. It strives to carefully research each public art project in the best interests of Alexandria's residents and to generate new and accessible public art through active citizen engagement that enhances the lives of the children and adults who visit our great City, and for the families who call it home.

It is the sincere hope of the Alexandria Commission for the Arts that City Council finds a way to reinstate these funds for FY2016 according to previously approved levels.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Michelle Kozlak
Member, Alexandria Commission for the Arts

- Expected Response Date: Monday, March 30

Jackie Henderson

From: mstensrud@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 3:17 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #68681: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Mayor and Members of City Council,Th

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 68681.

Request Details:

- Name: Matthew Stensrud
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 5137038012
- Email: mstensrud@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Mayor and Members of City Council,

The Commission for the Arts deeply appreciates your past support of public art in Alexandria. Unfortunately, the proposed CIP does not reflect this support, as the funding for Public Art Acquisition for FY2016 has been cut from \$200,000 to \$0. Attached is a letter from the Commission outlining this concern in further detail. We sincerely hope you reinstate these funds.

Thank you for your time.

Matthew Stensrud
Chair, Alexandria Commission for the Arts

- Attachment: [ACA Budget Reinstatement Request.docx](#)
- Expected Response Date: Monday, March 30

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March 23, 2015
Alexandria City Council
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mayor and Members of City Council,

The Alexandria Commission for the Arts is appreciative of the work that you perform each day for our City, including your unanimous approval of the *Public Art Implementation Plan* and updated *Public Art Policy* this past December. The Commission takes serious issue with the Proposed FY2016-FY2025 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), though, because of its disregard of Council's previous approval of funding levels found within both the *Plan* and the *Policy*. The proposed CIP eliminates all funding for public art during FY2016, from a previously approved \$200,000. The Commission respectfully asks City Council to reinstate this funding so the City of Alexandria can continue to remain an arts leader nationwide.

Your vote to approve the *Public Art Plan* in December has proven that City Council members have a strong desire to enable public art to flourish. Citizens across Alexandria have become engaged in the new plan's many avenues for community input and many are excited to welcome fresh art to the City. In December, many Council members expressed their wishes for a new, "major piece of public art" – perhaps at a Metro Station or along a busy corridor – to become a part of the City.

The Proposed CIP and FY2016 funding of \$0 does not reflect this sentiment.

To approve the *Public Art Plan* just a few months back with such encouragement only to eliminate the funds required to see out the *Plan* is what the Commission hopes is merely an oversight. Public art needs to be part of any Capital Improvement Plan for Alexandria.

This City has made a commitment to continue and expand upon its reputation as a nationally recognized arts community. Through the uninterrupted growth of the arts, our great City will become a more vibrant, economically sustainable and progressive community.

The Alexandria Commission for the Arts welcomes each opportunity to serve the City. It strives to carefully research each public art project in the best interests of Alexandria's residents and to generate new and accessible public art through active citizen engagement that enhances the lives of the children and adults who visit our great City, and for the families who call it home.

It is the sincere hope of the Alexandria Commission for the Arts that City Council finds a way to reinstate these funds for FY2016 according to previously approved levels.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Matthew Stensrud
Chair, Alexandria Commission for the Arts

Gayle Converse
Chair, Communications and Outreach Sub-Committee

Jackie Henderson

From: elizabeth@theshoehive.com
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 2:42 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #68671: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council On behalf of the business community, spe

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 68671.

Request Details:

- Name: Elizabeth Todd
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 703-548-7105
- Email: elizabeth@theshoehive.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: On behalf of the business community, specifically the Old Town Boutique District, I am writing regarding funding for our city's way finding program in the FY2016 budget. I serve as president of the Boutique District and represent its 34 stores. We are disappointed to find that our city's way finding program has once again been delayed in this year's capital improvement program, with minimal funding beginning in FY2017.

Others have also spoken out in favor of improved way finding signage. I also serve as the Chair of the Old Town Area Parking Study Workgroup, where over the past three months the importance of way finding has been expressed by Old Town citizens and our businesses at work group meetings. The Chamber of Commerce also highlighted the importance of the way finding program in its Legislative agenda this year.

With the waterfront development moving forward, we must do a better job of directing our existing and new visitors to the off street parking options in our city as well as attractions throughout the city. I hope that you will consider moving up the implementation of this program and funding it beginning in FY2016. We can not delay this any further. It is incredibly important to our business community and improving the quality of life of Old Town residents.

- Expected Response Date: Monday, March 30

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