

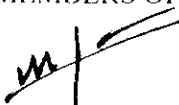
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City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 14, 2016

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

THROUGH: MARK B. JINKS, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO #4: CONSOLIDATION OF SENIOR CONGREGATE MEAL PROGRAMS/CHARLES HOUSTON

This memorandum responds to questions from Mayor Silberberg and Councilwoman Pepper regarding the proposed consolidation of congregate meals programs in the Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) budget.

The FY 2017 budget proposed the consolidation of the City's two-site senior congregate meals program into one site at an annual savings of \$100,000. Subsequent to this recommendation, I was made aware that this reduction would have programmatic impacts that went beyond just the meal program. As described in the following memo, DCHS staff has been meeting with stakeholders in the last few weeks and as a result the original reduction proposed will be substantially revised. Between the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA) and the City, we will find the necessary funds for non-meal related elements of the Charles Houston program.

BACKGROUND

In existence for more than thirty years, the City's senior center congregate meal programs serve City residents age sixty and older with a program as defined by the Virginia Division for the Aging (VDA) Congregate Nutrition Services Standards. Enrollment priority is given to individuals with the greatest economic and social needs. Special emphasis is placed on low-income minorities, those with limited English proficiency, and individuals at risk for institutional placement. The senior centers provide opportunities for socialization, education, physical activity, and community engagement. One (1) hot lunch meal is served each day the senior centers are open. The City provides door-to-door transportation to both senior centers and transportation for scheduled field trips.

The DCHS contracts with two vendors to operate weekday congregate meal programs at two sites in the City: (1) the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA) currently operates a Congregate Meal Senior Center at the Charles Houston Recreation Center, and (2) Catholic Charities operates a Congregate Meal Senior Center at St. Martin de Porres. Seniors are transported by DCHS to the Senior Centers where they may engage in social and recreational activities and receive a USDA approved hot lunch.

Current activities offered at the Charles Houston Congregate Meal Senior Center:

- Exercise – power walking, yoga, stretching,
- Arthritis Foundation Exercise – an Evidenced Based program supported with additional federal funds provided by DAAS
- Intergenerational programming with organizations including Burgundy Farms School
- Dance
- Health and wellness presentations
- Nutrition education programs, including presentations by DAAS staff
- Discussion groups
- Cognitive activities – trivia, games, puzzles, reading
- Program planning involving center participants
- Crafts
- Seasonal special events and celebrations
- Field trips – transportation provided by DAAS
- Music therapy
- Shopping trips – transportation provided by DAAS
- Comfort and Cheer – discussion group led by DAAS Geriatric Mental Health staff
- Computer lab
- Pickleball – provided by Parks & Recreation Dept.

RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSED REDUCTION INCLUDED IN THE FY 2017 PROPOSED BUDGET

This reduction was recommended as an efficiency as it was felt that it would be possible to accommodate the number of seniors currently receiving services through a single contract and a single location. The total current budget for the ARHA program at Charles Houston is \$180,000. The FY 2017 proposed budget includes a \$100,000 reduction based on the assumption that \$80,000 should remain in the FY 2017 budget to cover possible increased costs for transportation of seniors to the single site, as well as possible senior-oriented programming and events at the Charles Houston site to continue some social and recreational activities in lieu of the congregate meals. This reduction was identified for the ARHA contract due to the consistently lower attendance numbers at the Charles Houston site and the small number of attendees (7 on average) who partake of the meals, which is the primary purpose of the program. In addition, there is larger space available at the St. Martin's site to accommodate additional participants.

| Site | Average Attendance | Average # Eating Lunch |
|------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Charles Houston Center | 25 | 7 |
| St. Martin's | 48 | 46 |

UPDATE SINCE RELEASE OF THE BUDGET

The budget recommendation of consolidating the programs and holding the program primarily at the St. Martin's location was troubling to the current members of the Charles Houston program and was not an approach they felt was acceptable. DCHS and ARHA met with the seniors who have been involved in the program on March 7th to hear their concerns and recommendations.

Prior to that meeting, DCHS met with ARHA and the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA) to discuss possible programming options and alternative approaches to provide services and supports to the seniors at Charles Houston that would provide some level of continuing opportunities for seniors at Charles Houston. All partners committed to working together to assure that service offerings would be available to seniors who wanted to remain with the program at the Charles Houston site.

During the meeting on March 7th, the participants stated their desire to keep the program length, frequency and staffing the same as it had been, with the only change being the elimination of the USDA meal program and its attendant requirements. It was shared that DCHS, ARHA, and RPCA would have to reconvene to determine how they might support this proposal. DCHS shared that its proposed budget includes only \$80,000 of the \$180,000 cost available to support the program and so there was a significant gap in the funding availability. ARHA committed to exploring what funds it could contribute to support the program. ARHA Board approval would be required for this to take place.

A second meeting was held on March 9th with participants of the program, along with representatives from the faith community, community advocates and residents. During that meeting, attendees reiterated that in their view the movement of the program would be destructive to the community and would not be supported by the members.

DCHS made clear that it was committed to keeping a program at Charles Houston and that it would be possible to have individual meals delivered to the site for those participants who still would like to have a meal. It was again communicated to the members that DCHS only had \$80,000 available to support the programming and that ARHA would be confirming its level of investment once ARHA Board approval was acquired. The next ARHA Board meeting will be in early April. DCHS committed to keeping the participants updated as additional information became available. ***Once it is clear what the necessary fund restoration should be, the monies will be identified and Council will have the opportunity to correct what I view as a budget reduction*** that should not have been proposed.

cc: Roy Priest, Chief Executive Officer, ARHA

Jackie Henderson

From: Eric Wagner via Call.Click.Connect. <CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 11:50 AM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #92147: 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 92147.

Request Details:

- Name: Eric Wagner
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 703-328-4699
- Email: wagnerek@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor and City Council Members

Re: City Manager's proposed budget for Complete Streets

I am writing to you regarding the City's Complete Streets program. Complete Streets and Vision Zero go together hand-in-hand. I am focusing my remarks on Complete Streets funding as proposed in the current budget.

It appears that the Complete Streets program will be cut substantially if the budget is enacted as proposed, i.e. from about \$1.5 million to \$557,000. That's remarkable because it appears to be against the self interest of the residents of and visitors to our City of Alexandria.

There are too many pedestrian fatalities and injuries in Alexandria. They could be reduced and/or avoided if a Complete Streets program were implemented. More focus on pedestrians and bicyclists, i.e., the most vulnerable traffic participants deserve to be taken seriously. That is only one aspect of course. A properly funded Complete Streets program will also take into account and promote the advantages of a multi-modal transportation network. In addition, it will help the City to escape the vicious circle of parents not letting their children go out to walk or bike because it is perceived to dangerous and the inherent loss of familiarity with the simple pleasures of enjoying a nice walk. This has immediate consequences for the health and well-being of our citizenry.

Considering the precarious state of the City's infrastructure in many places, it is commendable that the City has recently increased the funding for Street Reconstruction and proposes to keep it at a level comparable to FY16. However, without commensurate funds for Complete Streets, the City is prioritizing the convenience of motorists over the safety of people who walk and bike. Providing safe and accessible walking environments is an equity issue, as well as a safety and public health imperative.

Let us not jeopardize the recent gains in pedestrian and bicycling facilities by cutting Complete Streets funding. Alexandria's top ratings as a livable and walkable city are at stake.

I implore you to fund Complete Streets, at a minimum, at the same level as FY16 so I can convince my wife that it is safe to let our children walk and bike on City streets.

Best regards,

Eric Wagner
Del Ray, Alexandria

- Expected Response Date: Tuesday, March 22

Jackie Henderson

From: Marlene Stevens
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 11:48 AM
To: Jackie Henderson
Cc: Sandy Modell; Paul Abramson
Subject: City Council Public Hearing
Attachments: City Council FY17 Public Hearing Testimony.pdf; DASH Svc Expansion Priority List.pdf; FY17 ATC CIP Prelim Submission.pdf

Jackie,

Attached are the 3 documents from last night's hearing.

Have a wonderful day!

Marlene Stevens
Interim Executive Assistant
to the General Manager
Alexandria Transit Company (DASH)
703-746-5637

City Council FY17 Public Hearing Testimony – March 14, 2016
Paul Abramson, Chairman, ATC Board of Directors

Good evening Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council.

My name is Paul Abramson and I am the Chairman of the Alexandria Transit Company Board of Directors.

First, let me say that our Board is very thankful for the commitment that Alexandria and the City Council has made to transit, in general, and to DASH, specifically over the years.


The DASH long range plan approved by the ATC Board of Directors and reviewed by Council every year provides for service improvements and expanded routes that will meet the growing needs of the Alexandria community and the new development areas, in particular. DASH wants to be able to attract new riders from these development areas and to do so requires frequent and reliable service. The DASH long range plan will require a significant amount of new funding. Over the next 10 years we are looking at over \$12 million just in operating costs for the plan. The capital cost for hybrid buses to support the improvements is about \$38 million.

Unless there is a dedicated funding source for WMATA service or a dedicated funding source for local expanded initiatives, the Board is very concerned as to where the funding will come from to address the future transit needs of the City. DASH needs to be able to provide more frequent service on its current routes and meet what we call the Urban Transit Standards. Waiting 30 minutes for a bus to connect with the rail that is operating every 6 minutes is not good service. DASH service, particularly in the peak periods, needs to be frequent enough, every 10-15 minutes, so that people find the service attractive and convenient.

We look forward to working with City Council this year and in the years ahead to identify service needs and funding options that can continue to move DASH service forward in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 4, 2016
TO: ATC BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FROM: SANDY MODELL, GENERAL MANAGER 
SUBJ: DASH SERVICE EXPANSION PRIORITY LIST

The attached DASH Service Expansion Priority List summarizes and prioritizes all DASH service expansion and improvements that are included as part of the Long Range Plan within the FY16 Transit Development Program (TDP). The Long Range Plan was developed as part of the recommendations of the 2012 DASH Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA) and addresses three main goals:

1. To improve current service levels to meet Urban Transit Standards. Improving service frequencies to a minimum of 10-15 minutes in the peak and 30 minutes in the off-peak and on weekends is a critical component to making transit more attractive and increasing ridership.
2. To introduce circulators in key market areas to accommodate current and future developments.
3. To modify service to accommodate and complement current and future transitway developments in the city.

The prioritization list takes into account the anticipated schedule for high profile developments such as Eisenhower East and Transitway Corridor C.

The full DASH Service Expansion Priority List will cost over \$12 million in annual operating subsidy. The current 10-year CIP identifies \$666,695 for the implementation of AT1 peak headway improvements, the AT1 weekend frequency improvements, and the AT8 weekend frequency improvements. Funding for these service improvements are programmed for implementation in FY17 and FY20 respectively.

Attachment: DASH Service Expansion Priority List

DASH Service Expansion Priority List

| | | | | | | | | | | | FY17 PROPOSED TIP | |
|----------|-------------|-----------------------|---|----------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------|-------------------|--|
| Priority | New Service | Frequency Improvement | Service | Peak Frequency | Off-Peak Frequency | Additional Buses | Estimated Total Cost | Estimated Subsidy | Estimated Capital Cost | Year Funded | Funding Amount | |
| 1 | | X | AT1 Weekday Peak Headway Improvement | 15 | | | \$430,852 | \$319,921 | | FY2017 | \$319,921 | |
| 2 | | X | AT1 Weekend All Day Service Improvement | 30 | 30 | | \$243,653 | \$152,189 | | FY2020 | \$152,189 | |
| 3 | | X | AT8 Weekday Off-Peak Headway Improvement | | 15 | | \$608,157 | \$540,992 | | | | |
| 4 | | X | AT8 Weekend All Day Headway Improvement | 15/30 | 15/30 | | \$333,326 | \$194,585 | | FY2020 | \$194,585 | |
| 5 | X | | Eisenhower East Circulator - Weekday | 10 | 15 | 3 | \$600,892 | \$529,977 | \$2,193,485 | | | |
| 6 | | X | AT2 Weekday Peak/Off-Peak Headway Improvement | 15 | 20 | 3 | \$730,032 | \$590,055 | \$2,281,224 | | | |
| 7 | | X | AT5 Weekday Peak/Off-Peak Headway Improvement | 15 | 20 | 3 | \$1,467,584 | \$1,284,759 | \$2,281,224 | | | |
| 8 | | X | AT9 Sunday All Day Service Improvement | 60 | 60 | | \$106,329 | \$52,244 | | | | |
| 9 | | X | AT9 Weekend All Day Headway Improvement | 30 | 30 | | \$134,059 | \$51,453 | | | | |
| 10 | | X | AT2 Weekend All Day Headway Improvement | 30 | 30 | | \$157,180 | \$55,416 | | | | |
| 11 | | X | AT5 Weekend All Day Headway Improvement | 30 | 30 | | \$203,055 | \$139,813 | | | | |
| 12 | | X | AT10 Weekday Peak Headway Improvement | 15 | | 2 | \$246,140 | \$207,515 | \$1,581,649 | | | |
| 13 | | X | AT3 Weekday Peak Headway Improvement | 15 | | 2 | \$189,499 | \$167,869 | \$1,520,816 | | | |
| 14 | | X | AT4 Weekday Peak Headway Improvement | 15 | | 2 | \$191,100 | \$167,822 | \$1,520,816 | | | |
| 15 | | X | AT8 Weekday All Day Headway Improvement | 10 | 10 | 5 | \$1,390,869 | \$1,176,423 | \$4,276,778 | | | |
| 16 | | X | AT8 Weekend All Day Headway Improvement | 10/20 | 10/20 | | \$405,542 | \$286,268 | | | | |
| 17 | | X | AT9 Weekday Peak Headway Improvement | 15 | | 3 | \$861,984 | \$771,344 | \$2,467,372 | | | |
| 18 | | X | AT10 Weekend All Day Headway Improvement | 30 | 30 | | \$43,790 | \$39,979 | | | | |
| 19 | | X | AT1 Weekday Peak Headway Improvement | 10 | | 3 | \$526,524 | \$428,056 | \$2,566,067 | | | |
| 20 | | X | AT2 Weekday Peak Headway Improvement | 10 | | 3 | \$438,965 | \$366,041 | \$2,566,067 | | | |
| 21 | | X | AT5 Weekday Peak Headway Improvement | 10 | | 6 | \$946,680 | \$853,156 | \$5,132,134 | | | |
| 22 | X | | Van Dom Circulator Weekday | 15 | 15 | 6 | \$1,861,799 | \$1,692,061 | \$4,934,744 | | | |
| 23 | X | | Van Dom Circulator Weekend | 15 | 15 | | \$803,129 | \$746,549 | | | | |
| 24 | | | AT7 Weekday Restructuring | | | (1) | (\$229,506) | (\$210,966) | (\$822,457) | | | |
| 25 | | X | AT6 Weekday Peak Headway Improvement | 10 | | 2 | \$278,835 | \$239,695 | \$1,779,140 | | | |
| 26 | | X | AT9 Weekday Headway Improvement | 10 | 10 | 4 | \$1,388,101 | \$1,236,897 | \$3,558,280 | | | |
| 27 | | X | AT1 Weekday Off-Peak Headway Improvement | | 20 | | \$181,522 | \$137,335 | | | | |
| 28 | | X | AT10 Weekday Peak Headway Improvement | 10 | | 2 | \$287,949 | \$251,384 | \$1,850,305 | | | |
| 29 | | | AT8 Weekday All Day Headway Modification | 15 | | (2) | (\$4,367) | (\$35,988) | (\$1,644,915) | | | |
| 30 | | X | AT7 Weekday Off-Peak Headway Improvement | | 30 | | \$160,669 | \$143,571 | | | | |
| TOTAL: | | | | | | | \$14,984,344 | \$12,576,415 | \$38,042,729 | \$666,695 | | |

Source: ATC Planning and Scheduling Department

FY2017 ATC CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (CIP) PRELIMINARY SUBMISSION

| Project Description | ATC Submittal | City Manager Proposed |
|--|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| DASH Bus Fleet Replacement – The DASH bus replacement schedule is based on the 12-year life cycle of a heavy-duty transit bus. Due to budgetary constraints in the last several years, ATC has had to delay its purchase of replacement buses, requiring ATC to maintain and operate buses past their useful life and beyond their scheduled replacement. This funding will provide for the purchase of hybrid buses and is consistent with the replacement schedule identified in the Transit Development Program (TDP). | \$5,480,000 | \$3,900,000 |
| DASH Fleet Expansion - This project provides for the purchase of expansion buses for the DASH fleet, consistent with DASH's long range plan and approved Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA) recommendations. | \$4,110,000 | \$0 |
| DASH Hybrid Battery Pack Replacement - The hybrid battery pack replacement at the bus mid-life ensures reliable operation of DASH's hybrid bus fleet. | \$150,000 | \$150,000 |
| DASH Storage Facility Expansion – ATC reached its bus storage parking limits in 2015. DASH's facility design incorporates an expansion plan using adjacent land that was purchased as part of the DASH facility project. ATC has proposed a funding and operation plan to allow for a staged implementation of expanded bus storage capacity. Although the City is currently using this land on a temporary basis for its overflow impound lot, the operation plan will allow the City to maintain the lot during the first phase of this plan. ATC and the City have an agreement to restore the land to DASH for expanded parking as soon as it becomes necessary. Although in the short term the land can accommodate both the impound lot and DASH bus parking, ultimately the impound lot will need to be relocated. | \$509,220 | \$0 |
| DASH Fleet Inventory Security and Management System - This system will streamline and automate location management of its bus fleet within DASH's transit facility. It will also increase efficiency and effectiveness of garage operations, increase the readiness and security of the DASH fleet. | \$400,000 | \$0 |
| DASH Electronic Pre/Post Trip Vehicle Inspection System - Purchase of electronic vehicle inspection system to digitize DOT mandated pre and post trip inspection of all revenue vehicles on daily basis. This system will improve vehicle defect tracking and reporting, which will improve safety and fleet condition. | \$85,000 | \$0 |
| TOTAL | \$10,734,220 | \$4,050,000 |

To: Alexandria, Virginia City Council

MAR 14 2016

Date: Monday 14 March 2016

Re: DASH bus is well patronized – I ride it on a daily basis

This is to testify that I use the route 8 frequently in peak hours when the buses are practically full and I use the route 6 frequently in peak hours when the buses are well patronized and the trolley many times in the evenings when the trollies are practically full. I witness of their need to maintain the current level of service and to possibly add another vehicle to route 8 in peak hours. I also ride the routes 1, 2, 5 and 9 on a daily basis. I occasionally ride the 3, 4, 7 and 10. I express my appreciation for the route 8 every 10 minutes and the route 6 (to NVCC) every 15 minutes during peak hours. I use the route 6 along with others who live on the route during the times of NVCC semester breaks.

I appreciate your consideration of maintaining the current level of service and possibly adding another vehicle to route 8 (as well as to route 1) in peak hours.

Sincerely,



Stuart C. Stow

2727 Duke Street; #1310

Alexandria, Virginia 22314-4541

Monday, March 14, 2016

Good Afternoon, Mayor Silberberg and Members of City Council. My name is Rosa Byrd of 203 Wesmond Drive, Alexandria, VA. It has been a long, long time since I've appeared before this body. I am here today speaking on behalf of the "Krunch Bunch" Senior Program housed at Charles Houston Recreation Center.

There, we not only learn about aging, we learn about living. In mid-October 2015, I felt a tingling sensation in my left arm, it moved up into the left side of my face. Thanks to what I learned in the senior program, I realized I was having a stroke. The warning letters F.A.S.T (Face, Arms, Speech, Time) flashed in my mind. I did not panic, I called 911, was transported to Alexandria INOVA Hospital and today, thank God, I have no after effects . Again, I say we learn about living.

We were shocked to read in the City Manager's 2017 Proposed Budget of plans to consolidate the city's two senior programs. Of course, we yelled foul ,especially when details revealed that some SCH (which includes a 94 yr. old participant) could be on a bus for approximately 1 ½ hours from pickup to arrival at St. Marten's Center. I am pleased that this consolidation plan has been eliminated from the proposed budget.

NOW TO OUR CURRENT SITUATION: Mrs. Kate Garvey, Director of Community and Human Services met with staff and SCH. After assuring us that all stakeholders support a senior program at the Charles Houston Recreation site, she asked what we wanted in our program. Our response was SAME PROGRAM, SAME STAFF and SAME LOCATION – if it's not broken, no need to fix it! Mrs. Garvey currently has \$80,000 in her budget for the SCH program. Mr. Roy Priest, Director of Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority, is attempting to identify resource of funding to narrow the gap.

We are not asking for more money. We are asking that you restore the \$100,000 cut in the City's General Fund for staffing and programs so we can continue the SAME excellent PROGRAM with the SAME outstanding STAFF at the SAME convenient and comfortable LOCATION.

In closing, I believe all citizens matter and I believe you CARE about all citizens. Thank you.

Greetings from the Alexandria Commission on Persons with Disabilities

Role of ACPD : to advise Council and the City on matters relating to Accessibility and the ADA and on other matters related to persons with disabilities.

Budget process

Last year's workshops for citizens very enlightening

With flat revenues, tight especially for social services

Schools dynamic growth (20% growth from a decade ago)

Neglect of infrastructure as evidenced by uneven sidewalks and potholed streets underlines severe budget problems

Manager has cut to the bone.

Suze Orman : to balance a budget you must cut expenses or generate new revenue

The City cannot wait for commercial growth to solve our budget woes.

Personal opinion: raise real estate tax rate

ACPD is not just another social service agency. Accessibility is a civil right enforceable by court action.

ACPD hopes to advise City on how to avoid court complaints. Ot spending on accessible options can be pennywise and pound foolish.

ACPD budget concerns are not located in just one part of the budget.

ALL building projects

Transportation

Streets

Even brick and other sidewalks

Safe pathways for cyclists to get them off sidewalks

Paratransit

Emergency Preparedness

Shelter audit

Generator

Parks

Affordable and accessible housing

Supported housing for deinstitutionalized persons

Employee Accommodations is underfunded based on historical spending

City Council Special Public Hearing Meeting on
City Manger's Proposed Annual Operating Budget for FY 2017

Submitted by:

Richard E. Merritt, Co-Chair
Alliance for Alexandria's Uninsured
March 14, 2016

For the third year in a row, the Virginia General Assembly adjourned its session without an agreement to expand the Medicaid program, as permitted under the Affordable Care Act (otherwise known as ObamaCare). The decision represents not only a fiscal and economic threat to the City's workforce and productivity, but, more significantly, a threat to the health and well-being ("quality of life") of many of the City's most vulnerable and economically disadvantaged citizens. Moreover, it strikes a blow at one of the City's most cherished communal values and goals expressed in City Council's Strategic Plan: *"Alexandria respects, protects and enhances the health of its citizens...."*

Most affected by this decision are approximately 5,500 non-elderly (18-64), non-parent adults with annual incomes below the federal poverty level (FPL) – about \$11,800 for an individual – and parents with children whose income is between 51 to 100% of poverty. They are known as the Medicaid "gap" population, of which many are the so-called "working poor".

The failure to act on Medicaid expansion locks in place a number of troubling health and economic inequities or disparities related to access, coverage and outcomes, especially for the Hispanic or Latino and Black/African American communities. In the City of Alexandria, for example:

- During 2014, of the non-elderly adult (18-64) population that were uninsured, more than 4 in 10 (43.4%) were Hispanic, almost 3 in 10 (28.8%) were Black/African American, more than 2 in 10 (22.8%) were Asian, and only 1 in 20 (4.9%) were White. (U.S. Census Bureau, American FactFinder, Population Estimates Program, Community Facts.)
- Over a five year period (2009-2014), of the non-elderly adult (18-64) population with annual incomes below the Federal Poverty Index, 13.6% were Black/African Americans, 10.3% Hispanic, 9.3% Asian and 5.6% White. (US Census Bureau, American FactFinder)

- Black and African-American households comprise the largest share (22%) of racial and ethnic groups with annual incomes below \$25,000; Hispanic or Latinos are at about 14% and non-Hispanic Whites at 7%. (“Alexandria’s Racial and Ethnic Groups and Foreign-Born Population: A Brief Look at Diversity.” City of Alexandria, Department of Planning and Zoning, February, 19, 2015)
- More than one-third of Black or African American and Hispanic families with female households with children were living in poverty between 2009-2013. (“Alexandria’s Racial and Ethnic Groups and Foreign-Born Population: A Brief Look at Diversity.” City of Alexandria, Department of Planning and Zoning, February 19, 2015)
- Based on 16 years of data, Black/African American non-elderly adults are twice as likely to die prematurely than White non-elderly adults. (2015 County Health Rankings Survey, National Center for Health Statistics)
- A man who was born in 1950 and whose annual income places him within the bottom 10 percent has a life expectancy 14 years less than a man born the same year but whose income is within the top 10 percent. (For a woman born in 1950 and is in the bottom 10 percent of incomes the difference is 13 years.) (“Later Retirement, Inequality in Old Age, and the Growing Gap in Longevity between Rich and Poor.” Barry Bosworth, Gary Burtless, Kan Zhang, *Economic Studies at Brookings*., See Chapter 4 Executive Summary.)
- In 2009, significant gaps in life expectancy among Black and White males (72 years compared to 77 years) and Black and White females (79 years compared to 82) existed in Virginia; there is little reason to think that the gaps are significantly different in Alexandria. (Virginia Health Equity Report 2012, Virginia Department of Health)

Several other perverse inequities are “baked in” to the General Assembly’s decision or lack of decision to expand Medicaid. For example, it is not widely understood but under ObamaCare Medicaid was designed to cover the “very poor” (i.e. mostly those with incomes at or below the FPL) and the Health Insurance Marketplace would care for the “near poor” and lower middle class (i.e incomes between 101 to 400% of poverty.) Hence, a non-elderly adult male or female in Alexandria with an annual income of \$12,000 (just slightly above FPL) can qualify for substantial tax subsidies to purchase private health insurance under the Federal-run Exchange, whereas an adult male or female with an annual income of \$11,700 (just below FPL) cannot. So until the Medicaid coverage option is accepted by the General Assembly, Alexandrians who fall in to the “near poor” category can obtain health insurance but the “very poor” cannot.

The issues of equity and fairness will soon grow even more pronounced as Medicaid intends to cover 15 days of inpatient addiction treatment per month under a new proposed plan. This is a benefit that would clearly be beneficial to many low-income uninsured Alexandrians.

The short and long-range consequence for many in the Medicaid “coverage gap” population can be quite severe. Studies by the Institute of Medicine indicate a strong association between lack of health insurance and increased risk of poor health and premature death. The risk level is even greater for those who suffer from a serious chronic illness and also face access barriers to care and treatment.

Data from the 2015 County Health Rankings Survey (funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation) points to almost 7,000 years of potential life lost before age 75 (a measure of premature death) in the City of Alexandria. Assuming the current trend continues, this translates in to approximately 300 to 325 actual premature deaths in the City each year over the next several years for all residents up to age 75, or about 200 premature deaths each year among the non-elderly adult population. Data from the Survey show that over the past 16 years (1999-2014), the premature death rate among Black/African American non-elderly adults in Alexandria has averaged almost twice that of White non-elderly adults.

Research shows that persons without health insurance are more likely to delay seeking medical care, much less likely to fill prescriptions or to follow through on treatment regimens. Moreover, they are less likely to engage in preventive health care and less likely to seek care until their symptoms are advanced, making it much more difficult and expensive to treat them.

There is sound evidence that approval of the Medicaid expansion option is one of the most important actions a state can make toward improving the health and well-being of its low-income, uninsured residents. Conversely, the lack of Medicaid coverage or any significant intervention to improve access to essential health services will leave many low-income residents at increased risk of deteriorating health status and premature death.

That argument, however, has yet to be persuasive to a majority of lawmakers in Richmond, and sadly will likely continue to fall on deaf ears for several years to come. Most certainly, the City and community of Alexandria did not create this “insurance/access crisis”, but in the absence of a commitment from Richmond, the City and Community of Alexandria has a unique opportunity before it to exercise real leadership and compassion in making a real difference in the health and well-being of so many of the City’s most vulnerable and economically disadvantaged residents.

An important initial step toward making such a difference was taken last November when the City of Alexandria and the Alexandria City Public Schools, in partnership with Neighborhood Health, Inova Alexandria Hospital and the Alexandria Health

Department, hosted the first Alexandria Community Health Fair. Almost 300 adult uninsured residents of the City attended the Fair and received several of the multiple preventive health screens (e.g., blood pressure monitoring, glucose test for diabetes, mental health screens, vision and hearing screens, etc). The Fair clearly demonstrated a very high level of need for preventive and other health care services among very poor and minority adults in the City.

We are calling for even bolder action in 2016 on the part of the City and the Community that will increase the chances that the health status and well-being of at least those who are at greatest risk and most vulnerable will not suffer or deteriorate over the next few years as the work continues to convince the General Assembly that the poor and the sick should not be the only Virginians who are denied access to affordable health insurance.

We are proposing the establishment of a public/private partnership called **ALEXCARES** for the purpose of improving access to essential health services for some of the neediest and most economically disadvantaged individuals in the City of Alexandria who continue to be denied Medicaid coverage by the Virginia General Assembly. We request a minimum investment of \$250,000 from the City for each of the next three fiscal years for the establishment of **ALEXCARES**. (An additional \$100,000 to \$150,000 will be forthcoming each year through community fundraising efforts.) The initiative has four key components:

- A “bridge” funding program (**AlexCARE**) to improve access to primary care services for the most vulnerable and at high-risk segment of the City’s very low-income (below poverty), non-elderly adult (ages 18-64) (many are “the working poor”) Medicaid “gap” population.

AlexCARE will be administered through Neighborhood Health (Alexandria’s community health center) in accordance with eligibility and reimbursement requirements determined by Neighborhood Health and approved by City Council. (As a guideline, low-income, non-elderly adults without a routine source of primary care and who suffer from a serious chronic illness or who are at moderate-to-high risk of developing serious chronic health conditions should be considered among those in “great need”. It is expected that approximately 700 patients could be served during the first year of **AlexCARE**.)

- Financial assistance to Neighborhood Health for the establishment of a part-time, satellite Clinic in to improve access to primary care services for uninsured, non-elderly adults in up to two areas of the City that are particularly underserved.

- An annual public/private sponsored one-to-two day Community Health Clinic each fall for the non-elderly, low-income uninsured population in Alexandria.
- The creation of a Special Advisory Body by City Council to develop a plan of action by the end of 2016 in response to growing evidence that access to affordable and accessible specialty care is problematic within the City of Alexandria, especially for low-income, uninsured residents, and that serious and unacceptable health disparities and outcomes exist within the City's low-income population.

The **ALEXCARES** initiative is consistent with the recommendations of the Mayor's Special Advisory Panel on the Health Care Needs of the Uninsured (2015) and with the findings from the *Community Health Needs Assessment* conducted for Inova Alexandria Hospital in 2013. Moreover, it is very much in harmony with many of the goals and objectives expressed in the City's 2010 Strategic Plan. For example,

- "supporting the expansion of primary care medical and oral health services,"
- "providing a comprehensive and cohesive system of prevention, early intervention and treatment services to those Alexandrians most in need,"
- "expanding essential health and behavioral health services," and,
- "maintaining safety net services with a focus on prevention services, ..."

The moral and ethical case for our proposal was stated succinctly by H. Jack Geiger, MD, the 2014 recipient of the Frank A Calderone Prize for Public Health. Dr. Geiger wrote: ***The poor are likelier to be sick. The sick are likelier to be poor. Without interventions, the poor will grow sicker and the sick will grow poorer. And that has troubling consequences for all of us.***

In his splendid invocation at the swearing in ceremony for the new mayor and City Council, Rabbi Brett R. Isserow of Beth El Hebrew Congregation said: *"The citizens of our historic city, Alexandria, have entrusted you with the responsibility of orchestrating and conducting the sacred work that will determine our future. As the conductor and leaders of this 150,000 plus piece orchestra, it is yours to ensure that the soft plaintive cry of the weak is not drowned out by the blare of the gold and sliver of the overbearing brass."*

While we do not pretend to speak for them, we do ask the City's elected and community leaders to please listen to the "soft plaintive cry" of our very low-income uninsured neighbors, friends, coworkers and citizens on behalf of a significant intervention that will begin to break the vicious cycle where "the poor grow sicker and the sick grow poorer."

The Alliance for Alexandria's Uninsured is an entity created by a small group of citizens in 2014 concerned about the harmful and sometimes life-threatening consequences of the failure of the Virginia General Assembly to extend comprehensive health insurance (via the expansion of the Medicaid program as allowed under the Affordable Care Act) to some of the most vulnerable and economically disadvantaged members of our community. *The Alliance (previously called "Joining Together for Alexandria's Uninsured")* exists to educate the community and elected officials about the plight of these individuals and the circumstances governing their struggle to obtain health care without insurance, and to raise financial support for the provision of essential health care services and interventions for those at greatest risk of poor health, premature death and financial insecurity.

STATEMENT BEFORE THE
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL PUBLIC HEARING MEETING

MARCH 14, 2016

RICHARD E. MERRITT, CO-CHAIR
ALLIANCE FOR ALEXANDRIA'S UNINSURED

SATURDAY'S ADJOURNMENT OF THE 2016 VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY MARKS THREE YEARS IN A ROW STATE LAWMAKERS FAILED TO REACH AN AGREEMENT ON EXPANDING THE MEDICAID PROGRAM, AS PERMITTED UNDER THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.

THIS DECISION REPRESENTS NOT ONLY A FISCAL AND ECONOMIC THREAT TO THE CITY'S WORKFORCE AND PRODUCTIVITY, BUT, MORE SIGNIFICANTLY, A THREAT TO THE HEALTH, WELL-BEING AND QUALITY OF LIFE OF MANY OF THE CITY'S MOST VULNERABLE AND ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED CITIZENS.

MOST AFFECTED BY THIS DECISION ARE MANY VERY LOW INCOME, NON-ELDERLY ADULTS, MANY OF WHOM ARE AMONG THE SO-CALLED "WORKING POOR."

THE FAILURE TO ACT ON MEDICAID EXPANSION LOCKS IN PLACE A NUMBER OF TROUBLING HEALTH AND ECONOMIC INEQUITIES AND DISPARITIES RELATED TO ACCESS, COVERAGE AND OUTCOMES, ESPECIALLY FOR LOW-INCOME AND MINORITY MEMBERS IN OUR COMMUNITY. FOR EXAMPLE:

- A FAR GREATER PERCENTAGE OF NON-ELDERLY BLACKS (29%) AND HISPANICS (43%) ARE UNINSURED THAN THEIR WHITE COUNTERPARTS.
- BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN NON-ELDERLY ADULTS ARE TWICE AS LIKELY TO DIE PREMATURELY THAN WHITE NON-ELDERLY ADULTS.

SEVERAL OTHER PERVERSE INEQUITIES AND DISPARITIES ARE "BAKED IN" TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S DECISION NOT TO EXPAND MEDICAID AND THEY ARE IDENTIFIED IN THE FULL STATEMENT THAT HAS BEEN SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD.

WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO KNOW, HOWEVER, IS THAT THE SHORT AND LONG-RANGE CONSEQUENCES FOR MANY OF THOSE DENIED MEDICAID COVERAGE CAN BE QUITE SEVERE.

STUDIES BY THE INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE INDICATE A STRONG ASSOCIATION BETWEEN LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE AND INCREASED RISK OF POOR HEALTH AND PREMATURE DEATH, ESPECIALLY AMONG THOSE LIVING IN POVERTY.

THE RISK LEVEL IS EVEN GREATER FOR THOSE WHO SUFFER FROM A SERIOUS CHRONIC ILLNESS OR CONDITION AND ALSO FACE SIGNIFICANT ACCESS BARRIERS TO OBTAINING TIMELY AND APPROPRIATE HEALTH CARE.

IN THE ABSENCE OF MEDICAID EXPANSION BY THE STATE – WHICH NOW LOOKS LIKE IT MAY WELL BE THE NORM FOR SEVERAL YEARS TO COME – WE BELIEVE THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA HAS A UNIQUE LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY --INDEED A CLEAR RESPONSIBILITY --TO STEP IN AND PROVIDE SOME FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THOSE WHO ARE TRULY MOST DISADVANTAGED AND MOST AT-RISK DUE TO THE DENIAL OF MEDICAID COVERAGE.

TO THAT END, WE ARE CALLING FOR AN INVESTMENT OF \$250,000 FOR EACH OF THE NEXT THREE FISCAL YEARS IN AN INITIAITVE CALLED **ALEXCARES**. MOST OF THE FUNDING UNDER **ALEXCARES** WILL GO TOWARD IMPROVING ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL PRIMARY CARE SERVICES FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE AND AT HIGH RISK SEGMENT OF THE CITY'S VERY LOW-INCOME, NON-ELDERLY ADULT MEDICAID "GAP" POPULATION. (ESTIMATES ARE THAT AS MANY AS 600 INDIVIDUALS COULD BE SERVED DURING THE FIRST YEAR.)

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THE **ALEXCARES** INITIATIVE IS CONSISTENT WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 2015 REPORT OF THE MAYOR'S SPECIAL ADVISORY PANEL ON THE HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF THE UNINSURED AND WITH THE FINDINGS FROM THE *COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT* CONDUCTED IN 2013 FOR INOVA ALEXANDRIA HOSPITAL.

MOREOVER, **ALEXCARES** IS VERY MUCH IN HARMONY WITH AND WOULD SERVE TO ADVANCE MANY OF THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES IN THE CITY'S 2010 STRATEGIC PLAN. FOR EXAMPLE:

- *"RESPECTING, PROTECTING AND ENHANCING THE HEALTH OF ITS CITIZENS,"*
- *"EXPANDING ESSENTIAL HEALTH AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES,"*
- *"SUPPORTING THE EXPANSION OF PRIMARY CARE MEDICAL AND ORAL HEALTH SERVICES,"*
- *"PROVIDING A COMPREHENSIVE AND COHESIVE SYSTEM OF PREVENTION, EARLY INTERVENTION AND TREATMENT SERVICES TO THOSE ALEXANDRIANS MOST IN NEED," AND,*
- *"MAINTAINING SAFETY NET SERVICES WITH A FOCUS ON PREVENTION SERVICES, WHILE STRIVING TO ELIMINATE POVERTY IN ALEXANDRIA..."*

THE CITY TOOK AN IMPORTANT STEP LAST YEAR TOWARD ADDRESSING SOME OF THESE ACCESS ISSUES BY SPONSORING A ONE-DAY COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR FOR THE LOW-INCOME, NON-ELDERLY UNINSURED IN ALEXANDRIA. OTHER SPONSORS INCLUDED THE ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS, NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH, INVOVA ALEXANDRIA HOSPITAL, AND THE ALEXANDRIA HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

ALMOST 300 ADULT UNINSURED ALEXANDRIANS ATTENDED THE FAIR AND RECEIVED MULTIPLE PREVENTIVE HEALTH SCREENS AND SERVICES, SUCH AS, DIABETES TESTING, VISION AND HEARING SCREENS, BLOOD PRESSURE EVALUATION, AND MENTAL HEALTH SCREENS.

THE FAIR CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED A VERY HIGH LEVEL OF DEMAND AND NEED FOR PREVENTIVE AND OTHER ESSENTIAL HEALTH SERVICES AMONG THE VERY POOR AND MINORITY ADULTS IN THE CITY.

IN CONCLUSION, THE MORAL AND ETHICAL CASE FOR OUR PROPOSAL WAS STATED SO SUCCINCTLY BY H. JACK GEIGER, A PIONEER IN THE COMMUNITY HEALTH MOVEMENT IN THE US. HE WROTE:

'THE POOR ARE LIKELIER TO BE SICK. THE SICK ARE LIKELIER TO BE POOR. WITHOUT INTERVENTION, THE POOR WILL GROW SICKER AND THE SICK WILL GROW POORER. AND THAT HAS TROUBLING CONSEQUENCES FOR ALL OF US.'

WE STAND READY, THEREFORE, TO WORK WITH COUNCIL AND OTHER COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS WHO ARE ANXIOUS TO MOVE FORWARD AND HELP BREAK THE CYCLE WHERE "THE POOR GROW SICKER AND THE SICK GROW POORER."

Statement for City Council

3/14/2016

Good afternoon, I am Mary Eileen Dixon, representing ALIVE! which I am sure most of you are familiar with. Many of you may know us primarily for our safety net programs but are perhaps less aware of our Child Development Center. For over 40 years, we have been providing full day, year round early care and education to the children of low-income working families in Alexandria. We are unique in the city in offering a sliding scale tuition structure to families who are not eligible for various government programs but who cannot afford market rate programs.

We are a small program, at capacity serving 38 to 40 2 ½ to 5 year olds in three classrooms. This small setting creates a warm and nurturing learning environment.

While the CDC may be one of ALIVE's lesser known programs, it is the one which provides the most hope for the future. By preparing our students academically and emotionally for kindergarten and beyond, we expect that they will not need safety net programs in the future.

Furthermore, we are extremely proud of the quality of our program. In the fall, the CDC was reaccruited for five years by NAEYC, scoring 100% in nine of ten categories on which centers are evaluated for quality.

So this is a program of which ALIVE is immensely proud. Yet, ironically, it is currently a program which is experiencing substantial difficulties.

Traditionally, children receiving a child care fee subsidy, referred to us by the city Department of Community and Human Services, have been our main avenue for recruitment. With the slowdown in the availability of those funds, however, our enrollment --- and our finances -- have suffered. Whereas two years ago, we had 25 three and four year-olds on the child care fee subsidy, this year we have only 8. The proportion of our students on the sliding fee scale has increased over that period from 22% to 54%. Since most of our parents on the sliding fee scale are able to pay only small amounts, this shift has meant that ALIVE! has had to

assume a much greater portion of the costs of caring for and educating our students. In 2014, the amount that ALIVE! contributed per student averaged \$4600. This year we are expecting that it could be as high as \$9600. While we are committed to subsidizing all our students (even those on government programs) to some extent, this trend cannot continue. This year we have had to close one classroom and turn away some children we could otherwise have served. The situation has begun to impact the funding available to our other programs. We are facing difficult choices.

I am sure that ALIVE! is not the only program suffering from the slowdown in child care fee subsidies. On behalf of all of us, we would encourage you to try to expand the local money available for such subsidies. Our children will arrive better equipped for kindergarten and beyond if you can do so.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today. We would be happy to provide additional details.

Mary Eileen Dixon
Chair, ALIVE! Child Development Center Committee
571-970-0369
Cmedixon8@msn.com



Statement of the Alexandria Council of Human Services Organizations (ACHSO)
On the City Manager's **proposed FY17 Budget for the City of Alexandria**
Submitted at the Public Hearing on the Budget, March 14, 2016

We, the undersigned nonprofit members of the Alexandria Council of Human Service Organizations (ACHSO), wish to communicate our appreciation for the balanced approach represented in the City Manager's proposed FY17 Budget for the City of Alexandria, including both measured cost reductions as well as targeted investments in strengthening community supports.

As ACHSO members, we are committed to ensuring a quality of life for all City of Alexandria residents. We know that human services and community infrastructure must be robust and thriving in order for our community to be robust and thriving. Our experience on the front lines of supporting vulnerable individuals and families in the City informs us that investments in human services to support our neighbors in times of need are critical to ensuring safe, stable neighborhoods and a strong quality of life for all City residents. In particular, the needs assessment we funded last year identified critical needs within our City to:

- Find creative ways to continue increasing available affordable housing;
- Intervene earlier and more effectively to address physical and behavioral health and developmental issues among our youth;
- Bridge the information gap for immigrant non-English speakers, especially those who also cannot read or write in their native language;
- Bridge the eligibility gap between subsidy levels (Medicaid, childcare, etc.) and income needed to afford the market cost of services; and
- Enhance partnerships that build the capacity of nonprofit service providers who provide a critical safety net within our community.

We encourage the City Council to continue to use this lens of balance throughout the rest of the budget process this spring, with particular attention to targeted investments that strengthen human services, both through public agency services and partnerships with nonprofit providers. In turn, these services strengthen our City's residents to be safe, independent, productive members of a healthy community. Thank you for prioritizing the quality of life for all residents of our City.

Signed by ACHSO Nonprofit Members:

- | | |
|---|--|
| • Alexandria Housing Development Corporation | • Liberty's Promise |
| • ALIVE! | • New Hope Housing |
| • Arc of Northern Virginia | • The Parent Leadership Training Institute of Alexandria |
| • Brain Injury Services | • The Reading Connection |
| • The Campagna Center | • Rebuilding Together Alexandria |
| • Carpenter's Shelter | • SCAN of Northern Virginia |
| • Casa Chirilagua | • Volunteer Alexandria |
| • Hopkins House – A Center for Children, Youth and their Families | • Wright to Read |

FY 2017 Commission on Aging Budget Position on Dental Program

Thank you Mayor Silberberg and Members of the City Council for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Alexandria Commission on Aging.

The Commission is concerned about the \$57,914 cut in funds for the Dental Services Program. This cut will eliminate **all** City financial support for individual clients who need dental services. The City will only continue to support the Northern Virginia Dental Clinic in Fairfax by providing funds to the clinic to provide 1,300 appointments for very low income City residents, but clients will have to fully fund their own care, which many can not do. In addition, funds to cover an additional 375 new appointments are also eliminated. That will increase the wait time for services, which is already over five months.

Oral health is critical to the overall health of older adults. Research shows poor oral health has been linked to and may be a risk factor in developing and exacerbating chronic health conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, and even Alzheimer's disease. The connection between medical and dental conditions highlights the importance of maintaining good oral health to achieve and maintain good overall health. We believe that the \$57,914 should be restored so that very low income Alexandria adults can receive the dental care they need but cannot afford.

Carol Downs
725 Timber Branch Drive
Alexandria, VA 22302

Mayor Silberberg, Vice Mayor Wilson, Members of City Council,

My name is Kathleen Schloeder and I am chairman of the Alexandria Library Board. I'd like to thank you for supporting the library by providing the \$50,000 matching grant for materials. I am happy to report that we are very close to raising that amount and I have no doubt that we will meet or surpass our goal. We are also grateful for the presence of the security guards at the Burke and Barrett Branches and for the position at Barrett so that we can expand the passport acceptance program. Thank you, Mayor Silberberg, for your service on the Library Board and we would like to welcome Councilman Bailey to the Board.

We have worked hard to raise the materials money and I would like to give special thanks to Trudi Hahn and Virginia Martin of the Library Foundation fundraising committee. However, without an increase in the library's overall funding, we are right back where we were before, with the materials budget reduced by 38% in the past 6 years.

When we conducted our recent survey, one of the other things the 4,000 respondents indicated they wanted were longer opening hours. This is doable for not a huge amount of money. To add Sunday hours at the Barrett, Duncan and Burke branches would only cost approximately \$80,000.

The City's proposed FY 17 budget includes a 3.9% increase for Alexandria public schools. The library is a partner to our school system and an important educational resource. We offer hundreds of programs for children that support early literacy and school readiness. Over 8,000 children participated in summer reading programs at the library last year. Many of the 540 expected new public school students will be English language learners who can take free English courses at the library. We support digital literacy by providing free computer, Internet and wireless access and free technology training.

The Alexandria Library serves every resident of Alexandria. Last year we recorded over 1 million visits with over 1.3 million items borrowed.

I ask you to consider expanding access to the libraries, especially on weekends, and to restore funding for materials.

Objection to

Proposed Termination of Senior Center@ Charles Houston

The Participants of the Senior Center at Charles Houston (hereinafter SC@CH) are stunned and upset about the proposal by ~~DCHS (Dept. of Community & Human Svcs)~~ to the Alexandria City Council (ACC) to terminate the subject program. The SC@CH was formerly titled, operated and known as the Krunch Bunch. We adamantly and strenuously oppose the proposal to terminate the program in its current configuration, operation and structure. The alternative, as related to us, is to bus current SC@CH participants to the St. Martin program for seniors on the west end in Alexandria.

The reason offered for the termination of the current SC@CH is to comply with a 5% budget reduction mandated by the ACC. Further, we were informed that a low volume participation in the 'congregate meals' portion of the SC@CH factored into the decision to propose terminating the SC@CH as it is now. The obvious solution to address low volume participation in the 'congregate meals' portion of the program is to cancel said portion to realize some reduction.

Additionally, the proposal to terminate the SC@CH and bus us to St. Martin on the west end of Alexandria is to deem the current SC@CH and its participants as inconsequential. The SC@CH (formerly Krunch Bunch), is a 43 year old substantial and integral part of the Alexandria community serving a vibrant, diverse and evolving senior population. The SC@CH Leadership and Staff have provided exemplary programs, activities and partnerships that realistically and effectively engaged the participants. This program stimulates, informs and assists us with critical , physical, intellectual and educational interaction which studies have shown are vital to successful aging particularly and successful living in any age demographic generally. Living on purpose and with purpose is a meaningful existence fostered by the SC@CH.

Many of the SC@CH participants have historical, familial, educational and geographical ties^{to} the program and the physical location of the Charles Houston Recreation Center. Some attended when the site was the location of the old Parker-Gray School and subsequently The Charles H. Houston Elementary School. Charles Hamilton Houston, the school's and center's namesake, was a mentor^{to} Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. Attorney Houston also was part of the team that successfully argued what became the landmark decision Brown v Topeka Board of Education, ending segregated U.S. public school education. What is also worthy of celebrating and continuing is the fact that many of the participants were born and/or lived and grew up in the nearby neighborhood of "Colored Rosemont" just a few blocks from Charles Houston. So, the location at Charles Houston is significant and hallowed to the participants who started their socialization and interaction here and are now continuing that dynamic in this stage of our life cycle. Currently, several participants' parents attended the program when it was "The Krunch Bunch."

Despite the re-development in Alexandria at large and Charles Houston area (Parker-Gray District), specifically, we still have a connection and affection for the Charles Houston Center because of

shared history, education, family and community. The Hall of Fame Display located near the entrance of the Center serves as a reminder and source of pride of our place in and contributions to Alexandria and to the Wythe location.

To be treated as incidental at best and interloper at worst is offensive. Any proposal of this magnitude should have been vetted and discussed, at minimum, with the stake holders – the participants first and foremost, ARHA, Department of Parks and Recreation. Unless the proposal was vetted with everyone but us the participants. To be informed after the proposal has been developed, then have various Commission members react to SC@CH participants dismay and outrage is also offensive, because we are an after thought.

In proposing the termination of the current SC@CH program, a considerate and sincere approach would have involved the agency/entity/person(s) evaluating and observing the program as it evolved, progressed and improved. A continuing and objective observation of the program would disclose the increasing emergence of a) more baby boomers joining the program; b) diverse and varied interest of the participants; c) more robust level of physical abilities; and d) more civic, intellectual and culturally active participants. Moreover, diverse and exemplary programs and activities that could serve as a national template for successful aging.

To address the continuing diversity and evolution discussed above, the SC@CH Leadership and Staff continuously poll and solicit our interests, encourage and welcome feed back from the participants. Based on the aforementioned interaction, the SC@CH Leadership and Staff plan, coordinate and execute activities and programs to improve and expand the scope of successful aging. Some of the programs and activities are listed as follows:

1. Yoga
2. Exercise with ^{Arthritis} ~~Monique~~ (Instructor Certified by the Arthritis Foundation)
3. Fitness Walking
4. Arts and Crafts (Painting, needlepoint, crocheting, wreath making)
5. Crocheting lap quilts for residents at Woodbine Nursing Center and Veterans Hospital Wash, DC
6. Intergenerational activities in partnership with Burgundy Farms School for 25 years
7. Computer Lab
8. Historical Tours exploring DMV area history
9. Shopping for pleasure, necessities and nutrition (locally sourced vendors for produce and goods)
10. Environmental health (Annual Pontoon Boat Tour of Anacostia River monitoring clean-up)
11. Cooking demonstrations for healthy eating
12. Health and wellness observations and participation in Health Expos
13. Regular Blood Pressure Screenings
14. Games (brain teasers, ^{scategories} ~~scrabble~~, crossword puzzles, word scramble, dominoes, pokeno, bingo, ^{pictionary} ~~assorted card games~~)

15. Ancient Art Dancing, line dancing

Numerous organizations have formed partnerships with the current SC@CH to make these activities and programs possible and successful.

AARP (10 years)

Alexandria Black History Museum and Resource Center

Departmental Progressive Club (*rec'd their 2013 Award for Outstanding Service to the Community*)

Burgundy Farms School (25 year collaboration)

TC Williams High School of Cosmetology

TC Williams International Academy

TC Williams Cyber Seniors *& Cyber Teens* since 2003 (First such program in the DMV area)

Smithsonian African and African-American Museum of Art

Departmental Club

Arthritis Foundation

PIE's Fitness Studio's

Alfred Street Baptist Church

Russell Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

Shiloh Baptist Church

My Father's House Non-denominational Church

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Zeta Chi Omega Chapter, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority

Virginia Co-operative *Extension* Service

ASCD - *Assoc. for Supervisors & Curriculum Devel.*

Marymount University, Department of Nursing ~~Walgreens Pharmacy~~

~~Walgreens Pharmacy~~
CVS

Alexandria Homecare

Northern Virginia Resource Center for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

The SC@CH participants who are in their 70's, 80's and 90's remember being bused pass physically sound and adequately equipped schools and recreational facilities to substandard and sometimes isolated and segregated ones. It is repugnant that this

cycle of busing participants away from the newest recreational facility that is easily accessible for most of the participants.

Other than the African-American (Black) churches, Charles Houston is one of the few sites that attest and symbolize the existence of the vibrant African-American presence in Alexandria. We belong at Charles Houston!!!!

Who proposed the termination of the current SC@CH? Why did you/they propose terminating the Program? We respectfully request that a 5% budget cut be designated somewhere else. We request that the ACC not agree to this cut that would terminate the current SC@CH if and when the proposal comes before the council for consideration. Alexandria must serve all of its citizens.

Participants

Senior Center at Charles Houston

Jackie Henderson

From: Suzanne Heiler Brown via Call.Click.Connect. <CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 2:14 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #92080: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council FUND ACPS BUDGET!!!

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 92080.

Request Details:

- Name: Suzanne Heiler Brown
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 703.508.1566
- Email: sueheiler@yahoo.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: FUND ACPS BUDGET!!!
- Attachment: [C%3a%5cUsers%5cSuzanne%5cDesktop%5cACPS budget.docx](#)
- Expected Response Date: Monday, March 21

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

If you need assistance with handling this request, please contact 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.

March 11, 2016

Dear Ms. Mayor and City Council Members:

For FY 2017, the City Manager proposed a total operating appropriation for Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) of \$203.6 million (which is short by over \$3.9 million) and a CIP allocation of \$35.9 million (which is short by over \$8.5 million), leaving a combined funding gap of **\$12.2 million**.

We are out of time. These projects can no longer be pushed to another budget season. Renovations and needs to happen now. There are immediate capacity concerns and fully funding these needs are vital.

Redistricting is happening, but it is only one component in addressing the capacity concerns. Even with new boundaries, there are simply not enough seats in the classrooms (or buses) for all of the students. Swing space, a new West end leased-space elementary school and centralized Pre-K are all components needed for this plan. There are significant classroom shortages for next year.

Swing Space and Modernization Need:

- Modernization is necessary to create optimal and equitable learning environments by addressing educational adequacy, building conditions and capacity constraints.
 - Failing building conditions – the CIP fully lays out the state and failing conditions of the majority of our schools. While the City has done a full analysis of their buildings and were dismayed by the conditions of many of these buildings, the schools are in similar, and in several cases, worse condition.
 - Optimal and equitable learning environments by addressing educational adequacy – hallways, closets and cramped corridors are not classrooms and are not at all conducive to learning.
- Swing space provides temporary classrooms in a centralized location for students to attend school while their school is being renovated or slated for full or partial replacement.
 - Shorten construction schedules and minimize construction costs.
 - Improve safety by moving students away from construction sites.
 - Minimize disruption and support the continuity of instruction.

Swing space will be required for any replacements/renovations of existing properties beyond the current FY 2017-FY 2026.

The City's budget does include a contingency of \$3.0 million to cover the operating costs of the new West End Elementary School and the Central Pre-K Center for ACPS. However, this contingency is not available to ACPS until formally appropriated and it clearly will not be enough to cover all of these needs.

Pre-K Need:

- Capacity constraints continue to grow at our elementary schools that currently utilize 30 full-size classrooms for pre-K education,
- Need for full- day wrap-around Services , including transportation,
- Consistent interest from community and political stakeholders in developing a well-coordinated and comprehensive service delivery system within Pre-K partners,
- Current structure inhibits the ability to share data and access information across agencies,

- Current capacity challenges inhibit the ability to provide expansion or opportunities for Pre-K.

It is time to make the hard decisions and fully fund the ACPS budget. We look forward to you supporting the children of Alexandria and fully funding these budget needs.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Heiler Brown and Lewie Brown, Jr.
1722 Dogwood Drive
Alexandria, VA 22302

Jackie Henderson

From: Dave Levy via Call.Click.Connect. <CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 3:34 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #92166: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council COMPLETE THE STREETS It is past t

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 92166.

Request Details:

- Name: Dave Levy
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 703-549-5289
- Email: bentbiking@yahoo.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: COMPLETE THE STREETS

It is past time to complete Alexandria's streets for the needs of all users. As noted in the Non-Motorized Transportation element of the CIP portion of the budget: "Complete Streets is the term used to describe a comprehensive, integrated transportation network with infrastructure and design that allows for safe and convenient travel along and across streets for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, riders and drivers of public transportation, as well as drivers of other motor vehicles. In April 2014, City Council reenacted its Complete Streets Policy, which was originally drafted and initiated by the Alexandria Transportation Commission in 2011." Safety is a major component of the program. As a driver, not just a walker and cyclist, I think the program provides facilities that reduce my risk of being involved in a crash.

It has been, however, nearly 20 years now since the first Pedestrian and Bicycling plan was incorporated into the Transportation Master plan. While we have made notable progress recently, the proposed budget is a step backwards and fails to implement the City's commitment to a greener, lower energy future. We cannot expect dribs and drabs of \$15,000 and \$30,000 program items to make substantial, city-wide progress on Complete Streets.

I request that you provide continuing, consistent annual funding of the listed amounts for these elements of the Complete Streets Program:

1. Priority Project Recommendations in Pedestrian & Bicycle Master Plan \$500,000
2. Pedestrian Signals & Technology Citywide \$100,000
3. Residential Sidewalk Program for Qualifying Streets \$100,000
4. Roadway Resurfacing Sidewalk Projects \$100,000
5. Annual ADA sidewalk, curb ramp and bus stop improvements \$100,000
6. Ongoing Crosswalk and Marking upgrades \$100,000

Thank you all for considering my recommendation.

- Expected Response Date: Tuesday, March 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.

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

Jackie Henderson

From: Phuong Yokitis via Call.Click.Connect. <CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 2:21 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #92082: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council To the Mayor, Vice Mayor and City Council

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 92082.

Request Details:

- Name: Phuong Yokitis
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 703-739-9131
- Email: mpyokitis@verizon.net
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: To the Mayor, Vice Mayor and City Council:

I am writing to urge you to fully fund the ACPS budget. The schools need the resources to help with overcrowding and building maintenance. I am a parent of a fourth grader and a seventh grader. My fourth grader, who attends Maury Elementary, has a class that meets in the copy room. There are 17 students who are gathered around two rectangular work tables. There is enough space for each child to put a paper in front of them and no room for anything else. The copy room is no place to teach or to learn. That is just one example of the needs at Maury.

My concern for my seventh grader is the lack of space at Minnie Howard when her time comes. As it is, I've read that Minnie Howard will have to find 20 rooms to accommodate the rising 9th graders. The rising 8th grade class is larger. Enrollment is sure to increase with each subsequent grade. How will Minnie Howard be able to accommodate our growing population?

ACPS has a plan in place but it needs your help. Please fully fund the ACPS budget. We need to address the problems now. Thank you.

- Expected Response Date: Monday, March 21

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

If you need assistance with handling this request, please contact 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: Fannie Allen via Call.Click.Connect. <CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 6:21 AM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #92123: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council To: The Mayor and City CouncilSubject

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 92123.

Request Details:

- Name: Fannie Allen
 - Approximate Address: No Address Specified
 - Phone Number: 703-566-3270
 - Email: allenetiquette@comcast.net
 - Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
 - Request Description: To: The Mayor and City Council
Subject: Funding – School Capacity
Briefly:
 - Longtime West End resident concerned about schools as a community member, even without children attending, because it is good for all of us when every child succeeds - home, school, community and workforce.
 - Thought the City and ACPS already agreed upon a new West End school and now are unhappy to hear its funding may be in jeopardy.
 - I support a new Pre K Center that (all-day) would free up 20 elementary school classroom in the West End.
 - Thought ACPS and the City have already agreed we need more space to meet our obligation to educate our city's children. I appreciate the City honoring that commitment and supporting our community's future -home, school, community and workforce.
- Thank you for your service to the City/Community.
- Expected Response Date: Tuesday, March 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.

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

Jackie Henderson

From: Rosa Byrd via Call.Click.Connect. <CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 6:13 AM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #92122: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Good Morning, Thank you for responding

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 92122.

Request Details:

- Name: Rosa Byrd
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 703-549-2931
- Email: rebyrd@comcast.net
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Good Morning,
Thank you for responding positively to the appeal for the restoration of funds for the Seniors' of Charles Houston (Krunch Bunch). Know you are very busy, will keep this short. Thanks again.
- Expected Response Date: Tuesday, March 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.

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

Jackie Henderson

From: Liz Cherry via Call.Click.Connect. <CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 7:54 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #92117: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Dear Ms. Mayor and City Council Members:

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 92117.

Request Details:

- Name: Liz Cherry
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 7035685523
- Email: lizc@fool.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Dear Ms. Mayor and City Council Members:

For FY 2017, the City Manager proposed a total operating appropriation for Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) of \$203.6 million (which is short by over \$3.9 million) and a CIP allocation of \$35.9 million (which is short by over \$8.5 million), leaving a combined funding gap of \$12.2 million.

We are out of time. These projects can no longer be pushed to another budget season. Renovations and centralization of Pre-K needs to happen now. There are immediate capacity concerns and fully funding these needs are vital.

Redistricting is happening, but it is only one component in addressing the capacity concerns. Even with new boundaries, there are simply not enough seats in the classrooms (or buses) for all of the students. Swing space, a new West end leased-space elementary school and centralized Pre-K are all components needed for this plan. There are significant classroom shortages for next year, much less the years to come.

Pre-K Need:

- Capacity constraints continue to grow at our elementary schools that currently utilize 30 full-size classrooms for pre-K education
- Varied Pre-K opportunities across the city
- Need for full- day wrap-around Services , including transportation
- Consistent interest from community and political stakeholders in developing a well-coordinated and comprehensive service delivery system within Pre-K partners
- Unable to meet the needs for early learning experiences in the city
- Current structure inhibits the ability to share data and access information across agencies
- Current capacity challenges inhibit the ability to provide expansion or opportunities for Pre-K while the state has increased the number

Swing Space and Modernization Need:

- Modernization is necessary to create optimal and equitable learning environments by addressing educational adequacy, building conditions and capacity constraints.
- Swing space provides temporary classrooms in a centralized location for students to attend school while schools are being renovated or slated for full or partial replacement.

Swing space is necessary to:

- Shorten construction schedules and minimize construction costs.
- Improve safety by moving students away from construction sites.

- Minimize disruption and support the continuity of instruction.

Modernization:

- Failing building conditions – the CIP fully lays out the state and failing conditions of the majority of our schools. While the City has done a full analysis of their buildings and were dismayed by the conditions of many of these buildings. The school are in similar, and in several cases, worse condition.
- Optimal and equitable learning environments by addressing educational adequacy – hallways, closets and cramped corridors are not classrooms and are not at all conducive to learning.

Swing space will be required for any replacements/renovations of existing properties beyond the current FY 2017-FY 2026.

The City's budget does include a contingency of \$3.0 million to cover the operating costs of the new West End Elementary School and the Central Pre-K Center for ACPS. However, this contingency is not available to ACPS until formally appropriated and it clearly will not be enough to cover all of these needs.

It is time to make the hard decisions and fully fund the ACPS budget. We look forward to you supporting the children of Alexandria and fully funding these budget needs.

Sincerely,

Liz Cherry
Mom to Angus Argetsinger
George Mason Grade 2

- Expected Response Date: Monday, March 21

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

If you need assistance with handling this request, please contact 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: Peter Squire via Call.Click.Connect. <CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 5:09 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #92114: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Many of you have talked about education

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 92114.

Request Details:

- Name: Peter Squire
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: No Phone
- Email: psquire@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Many of you have talked about education in your election platform, now is your opportunity to follow through with those promises.

As a resident of Alexandria City for the past 11 years, and now the parent of an ACPS student, I am writing to urge you to fully fund our schools for FY 2017!

For FY 2017, the City Manager proposed a total operating appropriation for Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) of \$203.6 million (which is short by over \$3.9 million) and a Capital Improvement Project (CIP) allocation of \$35.9 million (which is short by over \$8.5 million, leaving a combined funding gap of \$12.2 million. Moreover, there continues to be struggles within the Alexandria education system to fully support all students, and provide space for them.

We are out of time. Projects can no longer be pushed to another budget season. There are immediate capacity concerns and fully funding these needs is vital. Redistricting is happening, but it is only one component in addressing the capacity concerns. Even with new boundaries, there are simply not enough seats in the classrooms (or buses) for all of the students.

Funds are needed to centralize Pre-K. This will free up additional space in our elementary schools, while also allowing more opportunities for the full-day wrap around services and transportation that our students deserve.

Funds are needed to continue to create optimal and equitable learning environments by addressing educational adequacy, building conditions and capacity constraints.

Funds are needed to provide Swing space so that students have temporary classrooms and can attend school during renovations. This will shorten construction schedules and minimize disruptions to student learning.

It is time to make the hard decisions and fully fund the ACPS budget. As a long time resident and ACPS parent, I believe in quality education for all Alexandria students. I look forward to you supporting our children and fully funding these budget needs.

Sincerely,

Peter Squire

- Expected Response Date: Monday, March 21

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

If you need assistance with handling this request, please contact 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: CityMail@alexandriava.gov
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 4:51 PM
To: Jackie Henderson; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Personal Data Record for Applicants to City Boards, Commissions and Committees

FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION

City Clerk and Clerk of Council
301 King Street, Room 2300
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
703.746.4550



CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

PERSONAL DATA RECORD FORM
FOR
APPLICANTS TO CITY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

Planning Commission
Name of Board, Commission, Committee
or Authority

Commissioner
Type of Position

All appointments to City Boards and Commissions are made by the City Council through the Executive Secretary for Boards and Commissions. Please complete this application in its entirety, return it to the **Office of City Clerk and Clerk of Council**, and your application will be forwarded to the City Council. Please fill in all applicable blanks on the form. If additional space is needed to answer any of the questions, add necessary pages to this form. Incomplete applications will not be forwarded to City Council. All applicants are encouraged to contact the Council members and introduce themselves.

| | | | |
|---|--|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Name: | O'Leary, Samantha, Lyn (<i>last, first, middle</i>) | | |
| Home Address: | 5406 Wycklow Court, Alexandria, VA 22304 | | |
| Home Phone: | 732-371-9600 | Business Phone: | |
| E-Mail Address: | samantha.oleary09@gmail.com | | |
| Fax No: | | | |
| Date of Birth: | February 1, 1987 | Place of Birth: | St. Charles, Illinois |
| Do you now live in the City of Alexandria? YES If yes, how long: 8 months | | | |
| Have you ever served the City of Alexandria in any capacity? NO | | | |

If yes, please explain:

Statement of interest / Why You Should Be Appointed: **I recently moved to Alexandria and want to become more involved in the future of our city. I previously lived in Arlington, where I served on the Commission on the Status of Women. Through that appointment, I became very involved in local, civic matters and found that there are eager ears in local government. Leaders want to hear what our citizens have to say, and I want to take up the mantle as a citizen advocate for planning matters in our city. I live in the Seminary Hill area, just down the lane from Landmark mall and right next to a significant amount of the 395-HOV lane construction. I think the city is handling those issues well, but I think it is key for the Planning Commission to have the perspective of a citizen homeowner who is living through these changes that we can apply to other projects to improve and modernize Alexandria.**

Have you applied for a position on a City Board, Commission, Committee or Authority in the last six months? **YES**

If yes, please state the names of the boards for which you have applied:
Commission on Women

Are you currently a member of a City Board, Commission, Committee or Authority? **NO**

If yes, please list the board:

How many terms have you served on this board?

If you have served more than two consecutive terms on this board, please state the specific qualifications you possess which merit consideration for continued service:

Are you now paid by the City of Alexandria? **NO**

If yes, please state your department, job title and describe your duties:

Do any of your immediate relatives or business associates now serve the City of Alexandria in any capacity? **NO**

If yes, please explain:

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS: Sec. 2-4-7 of the City Code requires appointees to attend at least 75% of the yearly committee meetings. Absences may be excused because of personal illness or serious illness of members of the immediate family, death of a family member, unscheduled or unforeseen business trips, and emergency work assignments only. All other absences are recorded as unexcused.

In light of the above, will you be able to attend at least 75 percent of the regular meetings of the board which you may be appointed? **YES**

If applicable, will you comply with the provisions of the City's conflict of interest requirements in City Ordinance 2867? **YES**

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: (Please list certificates, diplomas, degrees, seminars, etc.)

**American University, School of Public Affairs Graduated May 2011
Master of Public Policy (Health Policy Focus), Honors Pi Alpha Alpha
Honor Society Gettysburg College Graduated May 2009 Bachelor of
Arts in English and Philosophy, Honors Sigma Tau Delta Honor**

Society

SUMMARY OF WORK AND PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE: (Please list titles and duties for the past five years)

UnitedHealth Group, UnitedHealthcare Community& State National Medicaid Policy Director, Washington, DC November 2015 - Present • Conducting thorough analysis to develop policy positions that support overall business advancement initiatives. • Serving as a policy expert to market leaders, developing strategic positions to shape the direction of programs to serve complex populations and advocate for modernized Medicaid programs. UnitedHealth Group, Optum Government Solutions Director of Strategy, Washington, DC December 2013 – Present • Led team of analysts researching, tracking, and analyzing Federal and State regulations to size potential business development opportunities for a diverse set of services/products to support public sector healthcare IT policy priorities. • Participated in and prepared materials for meetings with State leaders at the Medicaid Director/Health and Human Services/Marketplace CEO-levels as well as gubernatorial and legislative staff members. UnitedHealth Group, Optum Government Solutions Chief of Staff, Washington, DC January 2013 – December 2013 • Drove the execution of newly-installed Optum Government Solutions CEO and Senior Leadership Team's broad array of strategic initiatives to build-out a new sales and delivery organization, including re-designed business development processes, annual business planning, and market research. • Served as liaison with internal stakeholders such as senior leaders in Optum and UnitedHealth Care business units and UnitedHealth Group corporate divisions, to further Optum Government's business objectives. UnitedHealth Group, The Lewin Group, States and Payers Practice Consultant, Falls Church, VA May 2011 - January 2013 • Consulted for State Governments, Federal Agencies and health plans on issues surrounding Medicaid, CHIP, health information technology, and Affordable Care Act implementation. • Served as project manager for two large federal contracts (over \$2M per year in contract revenue). Responsibilities included managing deliverables, client relationships, and stakeholder communications. • Performed statistical analysis on large sets of Medicare and Medicaid data; conducted over 10 literature reviews and synthesized results for clients. Conducted over 15 presentations for federal and state clients and stakeholders. Social Security Administration, Office of Retirement Policy Policy Analysis Intern (GS-9), Washington, DC May 2010 - May 2011 • Performed distributional analysis of Social Security reform proposals using SAS projection modeling for the White House; Congress, including House Committee on Ways & Means; and National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform.

REFERENCES: (Please list name and addresses of four references that you have contacted and support your application):

- 1 **William Nagle** **5406 Wycklow Court Alexandria, VA 22304**
- 2 **Lisa Chimento** **524 Fort Williams Parkway Alexandria, VA**
- 3 **Kate Sims** **4117 W St NW Apt 101 Washington, DC**
 20007
- 4 **Kelly Holodak** **2 Misteltoe Drive Matawan, NJ 07747**

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

APPLICANTS FOR THE PLANNING COMMISSION AND BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS,

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:

Are you a citizen of the United States? **YES**

APPLICANTS FOR THE BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW ,

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:

Have you been a resident of the City of Alexandria for at least one year?

APPLICANTS FOR THE BOARD OF REVIEW OF REAL ESTATE ASSESSMENTS,

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:

Do you own real property in the City of Alexandria?

APPLICANTS FOR THE BUDGET AND FISCAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE,

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:

Are you a resident of and residing in the City of Alexandria and will continue to do so during the term of appointment?

Are you an officer or director of any organization that receives appropriations or grants through the City of Alexandria?

APPLICANTS FOR THE COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD,

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:

Have you been a resident of the City of Alexandria for at least one year?

Are you a consumer (current or former direct recipient of public or private mental health, mental retardation, or substance abuse treatment or rehabilitation) or immediate family member of a consumer or a principal care giver who is not paid?

Are you a consumer receiving services?

Are you an employee or board member of an organization which receives funding from any
Community Services Board?

By submitting this application electronically, I hereby certify that all information contained herein is true and complete and that this transaction will be subject to the Virginia Uniform Electronic Transactions Act.

SUBMISSION OF THIS PAGE IS VOLUNTARY

CONFIDENTIAL - NOT FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION

Non-Discrimination Data Supplemental Questions For Applicants to City Boards, Commissions and Committees

Completion of this form is **VOLUNTARY**. When completed, the form is separated from your application prior to the application's submission to City Council. **Council and staff do not use the form in determining appointments.** Information provided on the form is treated confidentially and the form is forwarded to the Alexandria Office on Human Rights for compilation of statistics. One responsibility of the Human Rights Commission (HRC) is to track whether the diversity in our City's population is reflected in appointments made to boards, commissions, committees and authorities; the HRC does this using only data supplied on this form. The HRC reports statistics only to Council.

The HRC's main role is to ensure discrimination does not occur in our city based on race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, familial status, age, sexual orientation or disability with respect to housing, employment, public accommodations, health and social services, education, credit or city contracts.

For what Board, Commission, Committee or
Authority are you applying?

Date of application?
March 14, 2016

Do you live in the City of Alexandria?

What is your race/ethnic origin? Please check all that apply.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| American Indian or Alaskan Native | Hispanic |
| Asian or Pacific Islander | Arab, Afghani or Middle-Eastern |
| Black | Other race or ethnic origin (please specify) |
| White (not of Hispanic origin) | |

What is your gender?

What is your sexual orientation?

Do you have a disability?

If "Yes", briefly describe disability

How did you learn of the vacancy for which you are applying? Check one only.

specify :

Jackie Henderson

From: brookedunbar@gmail.com via Call.Click.Connect. <CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 4:33 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #92109: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Dear Ms. Mayor and City Council Members:

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 92109.

Request Details:

- Name: *Call.Click.Connect.* Customer
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: No Phone
- Email: brookedunbar@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Dear Ms. Mayor and City Council Members:

As a resident of Alexandria City for the past 11 years, and now the parent of an ACPS student, I am writing to urge you to fully fund our schools for FY 2017.

For FY 2017, the City Manager proposed a total operating appropriation for Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) of \$203.6 million (which is short by over \$3.9 million) and a CIP allocation of \$35.9 million (which is short by over \$8.5 million, leaving a combined funding gap of \$12.2 million.

We are out of time. Projects can no longer be pushed to another budget season. There are immediate capacity concerns and fully funding these needs is vital. Redistricting is happening, but it is only one component in addressing the capacity concerns. Even with new boundaries, there are simply not enough seats in the classrooms (or buses) for all of the students. Swing space, a new West end leased-space elementary school, and centralized Pre-K are all components needed to address capacity concerns.

Funds are needed to centralize Pre-K. This will free up additional space in our elementary schools, while also allowing more opportunities for the full-day wrap around services and transportation that our students deserve.

Funds are needed to continue to create optimal and equitable learning environments by addressing educational adequacy, building conditions and capacity constraints.

Funds are needed to provide Swing space so that students have temporary classrooms and can attend school during renovations. This will shorten construction schedules and minimize disruptions to student learning.

It is time to make the hard decisions and fully fund the ACPS budget. As a long time resident and ACPS parent, I believe in quality education for all Alexandria students. I look forward to you supporting our children and fully funding these budget needs.

Sincerely,

Brooke Dunbar

- Expected Response Date: Monday, March 21

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

If you need assistance with handling this request, please contact 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: Cynthia Skinner via Call.Click.Connect. <CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 4:07 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #92108: 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 92108.

Request Details:

- Name: Cynthia Skinner
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: No Phone
- Email: cynthiabskinner@hotmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Dear Members of the Alexandria City Council:

I am writing to urge you to fully fund the budget request of the Alexandria Public School System for FY2017. While I recognize that as city leaders, you have to balance competing interests in tight budget environments. But I would argue that ensuring that the public school system has the resources it needs to serve all students in the city, including the youngest and most vulnerable, is an investment that benefits the entire community. Enrollment has steadily grown in all city schools and shows no sign of stopping, and many schools are at or beyond full capacity. Minnie Howard is already on track to be overcapacity by next year, and TC Williams main campus is already bursting at the seams. As a parent of a current 7th grader (and 2 younger ACPs students), I am concerned by the deferral of tough decisions about capacity, building maintenance and expansion needs that seems to continue year after year without a frank conversation what will happen to our city schools if we continue at this pace. Resources must be allocated to ensure the system can continue to serve its growing population. The benefits to strong early education, particularly for low income and vulnerable children, has been well researched and documented, and a Pre-K center, for example, also offers an option for freeing up necessary capacity at many city elementary schools. The city must support all options for increasing much needed capacity at all city schools.

The city has already shown its commitment to children and families through their support of the development of a Children & Youth Master plan, and school system leaders have built on that effort to develop a strategic plan to ensure that all students in the city succeed. I ask that city leaders confirm that commitment through fully funding the ACPs budget to ensure our school system has the resources it needs to be a top school system providing an excellent education for all of its students - one that all citizens can be proud of.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Skinner

ACPS parent, community member and member of the Children & Youth Master Plan Design Team and ACPs Strategic Planning Committee

- Expected Response Date: Monday, March 21

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

If you need assistance with handling this request, please contact 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: Adriana Abeyta via Call.Click.Connect. <CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 3:57 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #92105: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Dear Ms. Mayor and City Council Members:

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 92105.

Request Details:

- Name: Adriana Abeyta
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 505-263-6072
- Email: aabeyta99@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Dear Ms. Mayor and City Council Members:

It is time to make the hard decisions and fully fund the ACPS budget. We look forward to you supporting the children of Alexandria and fully funding these budget needs outlined below.

For FY 2017, the City Manager proposed a total operating appropriation for Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) of \$203.6 million (which is short by over \$3.9 million) and a CIP allocation of \$35.9 million (which is short by over \$8.5 million, leaving a combined funding gap of \$12.2 million.)

We are out of time. These projects cannot longer be pushed to another budget season. Renovations and centralization of Pre-K needs to happen now. There are immediate capacity concerns and fully funding these needs are vital.

Redistricting is happening, but it is only one component in addressing the component in addressing the capacity concerns. Even with new boundaries, there are simply not enough seats in the classrooms (or buses) for all of the students. Swing space, a new West end leased-space elementary school, centralized Pre-K are all components needed for this plan. There are significant classroom shortages for next year, much less the years to come.

Pre-K Need:

- Capacity constraints continue to grow at our elementary schools that currently utilize 30 full-size classrooms for pre-K education
- Varied Pre-K opportunities across the city
- Need for full- day wrap-around Services , including transportation
- Consistent interest from community and political stakeholders in developing a well-coordinated and comprehensive service delivery system within Pre-K partners
- Unable to meet the needs for early learning experiences in the city
- Current structure inhibits the ability to share data and access information across agencies
- Current capacity challenges inhibit the ability to provide expansion or opportunities for Pre-K while the state has increased the number

Swing Space and Modernization Need:

- Modernization is necessary to create optimal and equitable learning environments by addressing educational adequacy, building conditions and capacity constraints.
- Swing space provides temporary classrooms in a centralized location for students to attend school while schools are being renovated or slated for full or partial replacement.

Swing space is necessary to:

- Shorten construction schedules and minimize construction costs.
- Improve safety by moving students away from construction sites.
- Minimize disruption and support the continuity of instruction.

Modernization:

- Failing building conditions – the CIP fully lays out the state and failing conditions of the majority of our schools. While the City has done a full analysis of their buildings and were dismayed by the conditions of many of their building. The school are in similar, and in several cases, worse condition.
- Optimal and equitable learning environments by addressing educational adequacy – hallways, closets and cramped corridors are not classrooms and are not at all conducive to learning.

Swing space will be required for any replacements/renovations of existing properties beyond the current FY 2017-FY 2026.

The City's budget does include a contingency of \$3.0 million to cover the operating costs of the new West End Elementary School and the Central Pre-K Center for ACPS. However, this contingency is not available to ACPS until formally appropriated and it clearly will not be enough to cover all of these needs.

It is time to make the hard decisions and fully fund the ACPS budget. We look forward to you supporting the children of Alexandria and fully funding these budget needs.

Sincerely,

Adriana Abeyta

- Expected Response Date: Monday, March 21

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

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

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Jackie Henderson

From: Mary Lutz via Call.Click.Connect. <CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 3:50 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #92102: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council I am writing out of concern for two item

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 92102.

Request Details:

- Name: Mary Lutz
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 703-517-2843
- Email: MQL18@yahoo.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: I am writing out of concern for two items that are not currently completely funded in the City Manager's proposed budget. The first is a new elementary school in the west end, and the second is the need for two, consolidated pre-K centers. Both of these are critical to the future success of ACPS, and I urge the City Council to fully-fund these items as we no longer can afford to keep "kicking the can down the road" with regard to ACPS capacity issues and our schools' real needs.

We are out of time. These projects can no longer be pushed to another budget season. There are immediate capacity concerns that only continue to grow year after year. Some may argue that redistricting is being done to alleviate this problem, but it is not enough. Even with new boundaries, there are simply not enough seats in the classrooms for all of the students and enrollment is projected to continue growing.

In the west end, hundreds of children are crowded out of their neighborhood school and must be bussed across town. This deprives children and families from being full participants in their neighborhood community and creates resentment among the affected families. The proposed new elementary school in the west end will ease the overcrowding and allow west end children and families to be members of their neighborhood community by attending their neighborhood school after redistricting. West end families deserve to be able to attend their neighborhood schools.

Many other elementary schools currently house far more students than they were designed to hold. These conditions do not just make a bad learning environment for children, they also make a bad working environment for teachers, making teacher retention more difficult. There is no denying that the City needs a new elementary school and it needs to be constructed now.

Renovations and centralization of Pre-K also needs to happen now. ACPS currently provides pre-K in 30 classrooms throughout several existing elementary schools, which would no longer be needed once the pre-K programs are consolidated. The resulting additional classroom space in elementary schools would then be available to serve existing and future students and would lessen the degree to which current school boundaries must be changed during redistricting.

Many families have benefitted greatly from ACPS' quality, public pre-K service, and studies consistently show that quality pre-K improves educational outcomes. For this reason, many of you, along with current and former area elected officials, have consistently called for expanding public pre-K. Without the pre-K centers, ACPS will ultimately have to cease providing pre-K services at all because it will have to use the 30 classrooms now used for pre-K in our elementary schools to serve elementary students.

The bottom line is that without the new west end elementary school and without the two pre-K centers, ACPS will undergo a much more drastic redistricting and ACPS will ultimately be forced to cease providing pre-K services at

all, to the detriment not just of the children who would otherwise receive those services, but to the entire Alexandria community.

If you do not fund the new elementary school in the west end and the two, consolidated pre-K centers, you will be telling the more than 14,000 ACPS families that you do not care that our children are in overcrowded schools and cannot even attend their neighborhood school. And you will be sending a clear signal that the City only continues to pay lip service about quality pre-K rather than to meet this critical need and actually provide it. Please fund these important projects now – time is of the essence and the City of Alexandria can no longer afford to wait!

- Expected Response Date: Monday, March 21

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

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Jackie Henderson

From: Rebeckah Adcock via Call.Click.Connect. <CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 3:44 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #92099: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Mayor Silberberg and Alexandria City Cou

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 92099.

Request Details:

- Name: Rebeckah Adcock
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 7035019371
- Email: rebafree@yahoo.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Mayor Silberberg and Alexandria City Council:

Tonight you will be reviewing and making choices about the ACPS funding and projects. As a decade long Alexandria city resident and property owner and an ACPS parent, I strongly urge you to approve a comprehensive budget that fully supports and improves ACPS schools, infrastructure, programs, and opportunities.

Basic public infrastructure, emergency services, functional transportation and good local schools are the MOST IMPORTANT components to every single outstanding community: all else comes after. To date, the city council has a underwhelming reputation for prioritizing ACPS needs and planning. Given the well-above average City property and business tax rates and base, there is simply no reasonable excuse for the Council to not provide robust, recurring resources to improve school facilities and resources for the population increase that has occurred and that we know will continue. ACPS schools are out of space and resources now, and no amount 'moving the chairs around on the sinking ship' of redistricting will meaningfully fix that problem.

Given the wealth and success of Alexandria and smaller size of our student population, ACPS should be the top performing public school system by ALL measures in the region...but, we aren't even close. Our community's challenges are similar to Arlington and Fairfax Counties, our children are surely as capable, our teachers are dedicated and a majority of families are engaged in their children's school – the only lacking variable is anemic funding and budgetary support from the City.

Even those citizens without children in ACPS benefit from our schools improving since the single biggest variable in among otherwise equal home values in the area is the quality of the school district – higher values means more return on investment and more tax revenue for the city. The young families now filling up all the new development and transitioning neighborhoods will begin to flee to better schools if the City Council continues to refuse to keep up with their demand for excellent schools. Alexandria is a well-educated, wealthy town - it's time that City leaders started treating the children of Alexandria as our greatest long-term asset.

Fix the schools, improve the schools and build the new schools. DO NOT put my children in classrooms with 28 to 1 child to teacher ratios. DO NOT force parents and PTA's, especially those in less affluent neighborhoods, to have to fundraise for school resources and capital improvements. (How can the council defend any schools need to update decades old playgrounds with fundraising and private money?)

We are the parents of ACPS, we are watching and we will not tolerate the City's school being anything less than a top budgetary priority any longer.

Rebeckah Adcock
rebafree@yahoo.com personal

703-501-9371 cell
20 West Braddock Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22301

- Expected Response Date: Monday, March 21

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

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Jackie Henderson

From: Phuong Yokitis via Call.Click.Connect. <CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 2:21 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #92082: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council To the Mayor, Vice Mayor and City Council

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 92082.

Request Details:

- Name: Phuong Yokitis
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 703-739-9131
- Email: mpyokitis@verizon.net
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: To the Mayor, Vice Mayor and City Council:

I am writing to urge you to fully fund the ACPS budget. The schools need the resources to help with overcrowding and building maintenance. I am a parent of a fourth grader and a seventh grader. My fourth grader, who attends Maury Elementary, has a class that meets in the copy room. There are 17 students who are gathered around two rectangular work tables. There is enough space for each child to put a paper in front of them and no room for anything else. The copy room is no place to teach or to learn. That is just one example of the needs at Maury.

My concern for my seventh grader is the lack of space at Minnie Howard when her time comes. As it is, I've read that Minnie Howard will have to find 20 rooms to accommodate the rising 9th graders. The rising 8th grade class is larger. Enrollment is sure to increase with each subsequent grade. How will Minnie Howard be able to accommodate our growing population?

ACPS has a plan in place but it needs your help. Please fully fund the ACPS budget. We need to address the problems now. Thank you.

- Expected Response Date: Monday, March 21

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

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Jackie Henderson

From: Amanda Eisenhour via Call.Click.Connect. <CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 11:18 AM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #92035: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council To the Mayor, Vice Mayor,, and esteemed

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 92035.

Request Details:

- Name: Amanda Eisenhour
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 571-481-8298
- Email: amanda4799@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: To the Mayor, Vice Mayor,, and esteemed members of the Alexandria City Council -

Nearly every person sitting on the city council today had said, at some point in their campaign, that education is a top priority. Protecting the future of children is rarely a controversial issue, and nearly every Alexandrian is connected, somehow, to ACPs. The city's most direct opportunity to support the schools is unconditionally approve the operating budget.

I am a Junior at T.C. Williams, and I know that I am very lucky to be a part of our school system -- compared to many systems in the country, we are incredibly fortunate to have a one for one device policy, adequate transportation systems, and access to a diverse set of courses and extracurricular activities. In reality, however, our system is growing -- the same population growth that is strengthening our city's economy and creating vibrant neighborhoods is transferring to our schools. Smart growth is not just about walkable streets and mixed income housing -- it means that all public infrastructure must keep up with the changing population, including education.

We cannot afford to spread the resources that we already have too thinly across all of our students -- every child deserves an adequate living environment and learning materials, and every staff member deserves a salary comparable to the immense amount of work they take on to educate the next generation. The budget, in its current form, has been through countless rounds of discussion, in focus groups and wider community forums. I had the unique privilege of leading the student group that provided input on this, and we are confident that it has taken our needs into account.

This budget does not leave room for cuts -- it is pragmatic, fiscally sound, and reflective of the needs of a growing system. On behalf of the many students this plan will benefit, I urge you to pass it in its entirety.

Sincerely,

Amanda Eisenhour

- Expected Response Date: Monday, March 21

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Jackie Henderson

From: Meredith Konrad via Call.Click.Connect. <CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 11:38 AM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #92039: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Attached is a letter requesting the City

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 92039.

Request Details:

- Name: Meredith Konrad
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 202-253-0897
- Email: mkonrad2809@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Attached is a letter requesting the City Council members begin to take seriously the issue of education funding in Alexandria City. It is vital the Council fully funds the budget the school board has approved.
- Attachment: [ACPS Budget Letter 3 14 16.docx](#)
- Expected Response Date: Monday, March 21

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

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Dear Ms. Mayor and City Council Members:

For FY 2017, the City Manager proposed a total operating appropriation for Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) of \$203.6 million (which is short by over \$3.9 million) and a CIP allocation of \$35.9 million (which is short by over \$8.5 million), leaving a combined funding gap of **\$12.2 million**.

We are out of time. These projects can no longer be pushed to another budget season. Renovations and centralization of Pre-K needs to happen now. There are immediate capacity concerns and fully funding these needs are vital.

Redistricting is happening, but it is only one component in addressing the capacity concerns. Even with new boundaries, there are simply not enough seats in the classrooms (or buses) for all of the students. Swing space, a new West end leased-space elementary school and centralized Pre-K are all components needed for this plan. There are significant classroom shortages for next year, much less the years to come.

Pre-K Need:

- Capacity constraints continue to grow at our elementary schools that currently utilize 30 full-size classrooms for pre-K education
- Varied Pre-K opportunities across the city
- Need for full- day wrap-around Services , including transportation
- Consistent interest from community and political stakeholders in developing a well-coordinated and comprehensive service delivery system within Pre-K partners
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Swing Space and Modernization Need:

- Modernization is necessary to create optimal and equitable learning environments by addressing educational adequacy, building conditions and capacity constraints.
- Swing space provides temporary classrooms in a centralized location for students to attend school while schools are being renovated or slated for full or partial replacement.

Swing space is necessary to:

- Shorten construction schedules and minimize construction costs.
- Improve safety by moving students away from construction sites.
- Minimize disruption and support the continuity of instruction.

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- Failing building conditions – the CIP fully lays out the state and failing conditions of the majority of our schools. While the City has done a full analysis of their buildings and were dismayed by the conditions of many of these buildings. The school are in similar, and in several cases, worse condition.

- Optimal and equitable learning environments by addressing educational adequacy – hallways, closets and cramped corridors are not classrooms and are not at all conducive to learning.

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The City's budget does include a contingency of \$3.0 million to cover the operating costs of the new West End Elementary School and the Central Pre-K Center for ACPS. However, this contingency is not available to ACPS until formally appropriated and it clearly will not be enough to cover all of these needs.

It is time to make the hard decisions and fully fund the ACPS budget. We look forward to you supporting the children of Alexandria and fully funding these budget needs.

Sincerely,

Meredith Konrad
202-253-0897
Mkonrad2809@gmail.com