

## Jackie Henderson

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**From:** William McCarthy via Call.Click.Connect.  
<CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 21, 2017 5:57 PM  
**To:** City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click  
Connect; Gloria Sitton  
**Subject:** Call.Click.Connect. #119363: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council I own  
a small business in Old Town that

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 119363.

### Request Details:

This is a "public" request. Information may be provided to anyone who requests it.

- Name: William McCarthy
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 7037180172
- Email: bill@wjmassociates.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: I own a small business in Old Town that will be severely impacted by the proposed BID tax. I am not a tourist attraction and will not benefit from this BID tax in any way. I only work in Old Town because I love the area. I believe that between business license tax and the property taxes I pay for our building, I am massively overtaxed already. Additional taxes will force me to move my business out of Alexandria and the revenues I generate for the city currently will leave with me.

William J. McCarthy  
William J. McCarthy & Associates, Inc.  
1006 Cameron Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

- Expected Response Date: Friday, April 28

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## Jackie Henderson

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**From:** Stacy carlson via Call.Click.Connect.  
<CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 22, 2017 7:31 AM  
**To:** City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click  
Connect; Gloria Sitton  
**Subject:** Call.Click.Connect. #119377: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council No  
descriptive text provided

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

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### Request Details:

This is a "private" request. Information should only be provided to the original customer or those who know the full Call.Click.Connect. request number for this, which is "119377-A9H6CA".

- Name: Stacy carlson
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: No Phone
- Email: stacy.carlson@icloud.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: No descriptive text provided
- Attachment: Founders Park letter.docx
- Expected Response Date: Monday, May 1

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

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April 17, 2017

Dear Madam Mayor and Members of the City Council,

On any given day or evening, I invite you to come walk through Founders Park. You'll see dog owners and dogs, a rousing game of volleyball, a quiet couple sitting on a bench, a father tossing a football with his son, people relaxing on the grass, mothers pushing strollers. People are of all nationalities. They come to Founders Park because they know it is always a peaceful, open space. They can talk without shouting over someone else's music. They can walk along the paths or settle down to enjoy the day without the diversion, noise or alcohol of a wedding or celebration taking up space and making visitors feel like they're intruders in a public park.

Don't include Founders Park in a BID, and certainly don't 'activate' Founders Park. Don't ruin the park's serenity and inclusion by allowing events in a park uniquely available for tranquil enjoyment along the waterfront. Also, where would all the people who would come to such events park? They would circle the streets over and over looking for a spot, much as they do now on sunny days, spewing carbon into the air, and putting bicyclists and pedestrians at risk.

I believe the Waterfront Small Area Plan clearly states the City should retain Founders Park's current character and use, and also that the Olin Landscape Plan maintains Founders Park as the site along the Waterfront reserved for individual activities. Let other areas that are already designated for 'activation,' stay as they are and don't upset visitors, tourists and the Alexandria community by further commercializing the waterfront, by turning Founders Park into yet another "venue" that doesn't reflect the character or history of our wonderful city.

Please keep your commitment to retain the current character and use of Founders Park. Please remove the park and its adjacent neighborhoods from the boundaries of any BID.

Yes, I live across the street from the park; and who knows better than a local resident what happiness occurs there day after day?

Sincerely,

Stacy Carlson  
410 N. Union Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

**Jackie Henderson**

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**From:** Celia Booth <cabooth@mccafferyassoc.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 25, 2017 4:54 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** VOTE NO for the BID!!!

To the City Council,

As a resident AND a business owner in the City of Alexandria, I urge you to vote NO for the Old Town Business Improvement District (aka BID).

I already pay what I feel to be ridiculously high taxes on BOTH my residence and my business property. I run a small business and find the tax burden to be excessive. In my current business location in the Parker Gray historic district, I will not see any benefit from BID tax spending.

Sincerely,

Celia Booth

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Celia A. Booth, CIH, CSP Vice President McCaffery & Associates, Inc. 107 S. West Street #709 Alexandria, VA 22314 703-548-6144 Fax - 703-548-6146

## Jackie Henderson

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**From:** Carolyn Dyro via Call.Click.Connect.  
<CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 24, 2017 1:50 PM  
**To:** City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click  
Connect; Gloria Sitton  
**Subject:** Call.Click.Connect. #119508: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Dear  
Council Members,I am writing to

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 119508.

### Request Details:

This is a "public" request. Information may be provided to anyone who requests it.

- Name: Carolyn Dyro
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 978-473-6217
- Email: carolyndyro@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Dear Council Members,

I am writing to you in support of the Old Town BID. I am the manager of an independently owned boutique on King Street, and I see the vital need for such an organization to keep our business strong and growing. In the four years I have been at this shop, I have seen a drastic decrease in our foot traffic - even in the busy summer and holiday seasons. This directly results in less sales. Numerous stores have closed on our block, leaving it looking like a ghost town, and most recently we have been banned from putting out our A frame sign to entice people into the store. All of this is terrible for small business!

I feel that we are lucky enough to have a very loyal clientele that keep us in business because the quantity, and quite frankly quality of new visitors has sharply decreased. We used to make significant big ticket sales to out of town visitors with big money to spend, and over the years these visitors have been replaced with more low budget shoppers. I feel in part this is because our section of King Street looks like one you should just walk on by because of all the empty storefronts. We do our own beautification of the sidewalk and provide seating for visitors, because there are no public rest spots on the entirety of King Street, which just seems odd to me. I think that a BID is needed to beautify the streets and create a more comfortable, welcoming shopping experience for the visitors to our beautiful city. I also hope that a BID will bring special events to Old Town for visitors and residents alike to enjoy.

About the A frame signs; our store has a very attractive, eye catching sign that cost us money to make, and in turn made us money by drawing people in. (Especially now with all the closed shops around us, it was the one sure way to show people that we are open for business!) I was actually outraged when I got the flyer in the mail telling us that they were banned. It said meetings had been held to get retailers opinions on this issue, though the news of the ban was the first I had heard of it. I really wondered why, if they have all of our addresses, fliers were not sent out prior to this decision to give all retailers a voice. That just seemed so backward to me. I would certainly have gone to these meetings if I had known anything about it. I have come to find out that there is a major and shocking lack of communication throughout the business community here in Old Town. As a manager, I would love to see a BID in place where every business will be AWARE of and have the opportunity to be INVOLVED in issues that directly affect our business.

As an employee in and resident of Alexandria, I really think this Old Town is very special, but could be so much more with the addition of more communal spaces, events, and beautification. I believe the BID will bring much needed revitalization to this great city.

Thank you for your time,

Carolyn Dyro

- Expected Response Date: Monday, May 1

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## Jackie Henderson

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**From:** Isin Ludlow <isinludlow@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 27, 2017 7:31 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** BID

Dear City Council members,

I am an Alexandria resident and own numerous buildings in Old Town. BID initiative has taken speed recently and I wanted to make sure my voice is also heard.

I am very strongly against it. This not only represents my personal thoughts but those of others who do business in some of these locations. You must all be well aware that Alexandria is full of vacant buildings. Some due to change in market and business practices but many due to high taxes and heavy regulations. Many locations in the Greater Washington area have seen dramatic positive and progressive change in the last many years. Among them Chevy Chase, Wisconsin corridor, 15th Street downtown area, Arlington, Rosslyn. Old Town as the most historic, charming, safe and close- in community in the area has been able to do nothing except closures in recent years. We have to look within to find solutions and BID is not one but an additional contributor to problems Old Town faces in this wrong direction. If BID goes through, there is almost no question that many businesses that are already struggling to stay alive will be gone. On a personal level, we have a building on Duke Street that has been vacant for three years although continually listed for lease or sale has not had a single interested party. The irony is City of Alexandria continued to increase our real estate taxes. Unless the City Council starts seeing the issues from the business and real estate owners view, the direction of Alexandria will continue to go down. Residents and businesses alike all want a successful, safe, clean, problem free Alexandria but we are not going to get there by increasing bureaucracy and spending more money via taxes or BID creation. If the City does its job properly and efficiently all the issues raised by BID supporters should disappear. City should do all in its power to enable its residents and businesses to thrive under proper law and order, not harassment and overreaching regulations that stifle its progress. Not a single upscale business moved into Alexandria in many recent years. King Street corridor will benefit and there will be no need for BID if the City and Commerce Department do their job of attracting good businesses to our community. Old Town Alexandria is the best small community in the area but we do nothing to promote it and it is on a sure path to decline and BID will be the last nail.

Isin Ludlow

703 403 0307

## Jackie Henderson

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**From:** Kyong Yi via Call.Click.Connect.  
<CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 28, 2017 11:15 AM  
**To:** City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click  
Connect; Gloria Sitton  
**Subject:** Call.Click.Connect. #119805: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Visit  
Alexandria and its board of Gover

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

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### Request Details:

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- Name: Kyong Yi
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 7035358151
- Email: kyong@fontainecaffe.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Visit Alexandria and its board of Governors on last week's Alexandria Times, came out in supporting the Old Town Bid. I want to point out that many of its board members, Old town BID Exploratory Committee, and MGM readiness subcommittee consist of many of same people and/or same interest group(Hotels, same group who owns many businesses along the King and Waterfront).

With everyone talking about the great ROI for extra tax business owners and land owners along the BID district, we should ask the city of Alexandria to make the investment. It's the main street of the City of Alexandria by the City Hall! If the ROI is so great for all, mostly for the city with extra tax revenue from the extra sales and increase in the commercial properties per BID committee. Why doesn't the city make the best investment opportunity given to it? Because the city does not have the solid financial data that shows increase in business sales. When is the right time for city to start supporting local businesses and it's residents? NOT just tourists? City should compete for the younger and more vibrant residents and future small business owners by making the investment and not add more taxes on small businesses and making more barriers to enter the market.

Scott Shaw, who is a member of the director of the AEDP, wrote his opinion on the Alexandria Times yesterday as if he is learning about what old town BID is as a restaurant owner like the rest of us. But that is not the case. I think this is a very misleading and deceiving for him to not to state that he is one of the AEDP board member. City manager is also one of the board member.

Vice Major, Justin Wilson, is one of of board member for Visit Alexandria, who came out last week in support of the Old town BID.

So, let's get public and local businesses opinion on Old Town Bid and City is not supporting it is just a ploy.

I ask the Major and the city council to really think about what this is doing the local residents and local small businesses.

Thank you for your time.

Kyong Yi/ local resident and business owner.



- Expected Response Date: Friday, May 5

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## Jackie Henderson

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**From:** David & Miriam Olinger via Call.Click.Connect.  
<CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 30, 2017 7:02 PM  
**To:** City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click  
Connect; Gloria Sitton  
**Subject:** Call.Click.Connect. #119891: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council My  
wife and I are residents of Old Town

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 119891.

### Request Details:

This is a "private" request. Information should only be provided to the original customer or those who know the full Call.Click.Connect. request number for this, which is "119891-AA6ACC".

- Name: David & Miriam Olinger
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 703 535 3150
- Email: dsolinger100@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: My wife and I are residents of Old Town who live within the boundaries of the proposed BID. To date, we have received no direct information regarding BID plans nor have we been invited to any related meetings. It is our impression that residents will have no say in the formation of the BID Board which will have the ability to make decisions which can greatly affect people's quality of life. In exchange for paying taxes, we have the privilege of voting for a Council that we look to to make decisions benefitting the whole community- residents and businesses alike. To cede responsibilities to an unelected body in which many of the people affected will have no say is, in our opinion, shirking your duties and undemocratic in nature.

From reading the local papers, many small merchants don't see the advantages of a BID and fear being driven out of business if they are forced to pay yet another tax. Furthermore, it has been stated that residents in the Business Improvement District won't be expected to pay the add-on tax. Even if that's the case initially, my understanding is that a tax on residents could be forthcoming with Council approval at a later date.

Finally, there already are a number of agencies (some taxpayer funded) that promote the City's business and touristic interests. City Departments are responsible for housekeeping & beautification functions (streets, trash, trees, signage etc.) and events (with private organizations). Do we really need another expensive entity (with high overhead) to collect revenue while functioning independently of citizen oversight?

- Expected Response Date: Monday, May 8

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**Jackie Henderson**

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**From:** William Lang <outlook\_AF6177D3552FDFB0@outlook.com> on behalf of William Lang <wll@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 01, 2017 9:02 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** OPPOSE Old Town Business Improvement District

I have a small business located at 1600 Prince Street and I strongly oppose the BID. Many of the businesses within the BID boundary are not directly consumer facing...at least not the types of consumers that a BID would address. This is just yet another tax. The desirable nature of the Old Town area causes higher property values and thus higher taxes, anyway.

Please do not approve this BID

William Lang

## Jackie Henderson

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**From:** Rosanne S Gentile <rgentile@ft.NewYorkLife.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 02, 2017 3:04 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** We oppose the bid.

Hello,

We do not run a retail business or have a store front presence, nor are we a hotel, restaurant or in the tourist business. We offer financial products to our established clients and about 85% of all of my business is conducted over the phone.

Please take this view into consideration when you vote on Thursday.

Thanks.

Rose & Matt Gentile

Rose Gentile, CLTC  
*Retirement, The Way You Dreamed It*

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## Jackie Henderson

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**From:** Mary Ray via Call.Click.Connect.  
<CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 03, 2017 2:04 PM  
**To:** City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click  
Connect; Gloria Sitton  
**Subject:** Call.Click.Connect. #120246: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council at 400  
PRINCE ST Dear Mayor and City Council, I conti

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 120246.

### Request Details:

This is a "public" request. Information may be provided to anyone who requests it.

- Name: Mary Ray
- Approximate Address: 400 PRINCE ST (See [map below](#))
- Phone Number: 703 683 0920
- Email: MRayLCSW@gmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Dear Mayor and City Council,

I continue to have grave concern about the BID as it is currently written up, being voted on. Claims that the BID, as presented at this time, will accomplish the goals stated by it's proponents do not stand up to the rigors of academic research-see Kim Puten's research on the other BID's referred to by these BID proponents, nor the current realities of retail's downturn-see Bloomberg article of 4/24/17-nor in any way appears to attempt to provide representative governance.

I and many others, respectfully disagree with the argument that if we just "get it off the ground", we can shape the BID to be to our liking. It's more complicated than that. The BID's bylaws will determine whether the BID's establishment has a preponderance of negative or of positive outcomes.

Instead of accepting whatever terms of the BID's bylaws have been presented as "the last best hope we have of turning things around", let us work toward making any proposed Old Town BID something that will actually work to our benefit. Let's remain in opposition until there are written assurances in the bylaws that reflect the best practices of representative governance and of our community's values.

Let's work together to change the bylaws that allocate small businesses second class voting rights and that allocate first class voting rights based on the proportion of commercial property holdings. Let's work together to remove the portion of the bylaws which limit small businesses without property holdings to 40% of the board's officers. Let's work together to include the representation of residents and historically oriented organizations and agencies in the district on the proposed board. Let's work together to modify the tax proposal to be less regressive before it is enacted in order to reduce conflict and redundancy. Let's see if the city would use business license reporting as a guide to exempt or only proportionally charge businesses that can not easily afford the proposed BID tax increases. Lets make these changes for the cause of "business improvement".

Do not allow the BID people to fool you. Old Town Alexandria is already a unique place. We have the events, excellent city services and ambiance folks come from all over the world to experience. Voting for this BID as is will "Georgetown" Alexandria, make us into a city of chain stores with flower pots, no parking and retail which continues to turn over.

This BID is not part of the industry of freely joined associations. This BID if approved will bring with it an involuntary regressive tax which, if not paid, will have legal repercussions. This BID's establishment with its current bylaws will have negative outcomes that will outweigh its positives, as well as many "unexpected consequences" which will be to the detriment of our fair town.

Instead make Alexandria city a place that is known for caring and support that we provide to new and existing business persons. Change the modalities and policies for small businesses to establish and maintain themselves in our city. Add in a smiling city employee who walks around with the potential new business owners and ensures they get all the information they need the first time they stop in city hall. Streamline the paperwork.

More issues:

**BID STILL UNKNOWN TO MOST:**

When I go out to speak to business owners to be sure they have heard about and understand this BID, if I stop in 15 places 13 of those owners and workers have not even heard of the upcoming BID vote. Why rush such an important decision? Make sure all of the business owners know about, understand and have had the opportunity to share their opinions about this BID.

**ALEXANDRIA IS UNIQUE:**

I also hope you read the research piece that Kim Putens MBA sent to you. Kim spoke to, read and researched, other local BIDs as the BID committee has claimed that those communities have received benefit from a BID. The other localities with BIDs are vastly different from our location. Comparing Alexandria to other local BIDs is like comparing small mealy apples to our big juicy orange. We have the historic beauty and events that those locations did not. We have citizens who volunteer.

**ROSSLYN BID NOW TAXES RESIDENTS TOO**

One thing I do believe when the BID committee states Alexandria BID will do what other BIDS have done-Rosslyn BID began taxing only the businesses/business residential mixed properties in the BID. Rosslyn BID then added in the residential properties, despite great protest from residents. If this BID as written is voted in, I do believe these BID members intend to add in the residential properties in time.

**BLOOMBERG ARTICLE ON RETAIL FAILURE TREND**

I want to ask you to read/listen to an article that was published 4/24/17 by Bloomberg. Retail stores are going bankrupt and will continue to go bankrupt due to the increase of online shopping. Do you really think that a BID set up in our city will halt a national trend? Here is the article:

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-04-24/retailers-are-going-bankrupt-at-a-record-pace>

**CLAIMS THAT THIS BID IS NOT A TAX**

If the BID were not a tax, I would have no objection. A better analogy for the BID with respect to shopping for a car might be: Government legislation requires an increase in real estate taxes to pay for the administration of a set of bylaws which may or may not purchase a car that some may or may not be allowed to ride in at the discretion of an appointed board.

This BID is about an additional tax. The bylaws of this BID favor large commercial property owners and big businesses. This BID dissuades via taxes the small businesses from staying and young creatives from coming to create in our city. If voted into existence this BID requires all businesses and property owners pay the BID tax or be subject to lien or eviction.

**CLAIMS THIS BID IS GOOD FOR OUR CITY**

Too many more events in the district will lead to conflicts with the resident's interests (like parking and nighttime noise), a diminishment of residential property values and the overall reduction in property taxes collected for the city's needs. Why "Visit Alexandria", a city funded 501(c)6, has not sufficiently served "businesses...residents...employees...and...visitors" in our district is another question.

**WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OPTION OF A VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION?**

Old Town Civic Association, Alexandria Association etc... examples of citizens getting together to address concerns and taking action. Voluntarily joined, voluntarily funded and voluntarily run. Why pay someone who does not know and love our town to tell us what to do? We know best what our city needs. Let's set up a new volunteer organization to do it ourselves with freely given volunteer contributions.

Voting for this BID indicates:

1. you do not care about the historic nature of our city,
2. you do not understand that this BID favors the rich and harms the small business owners, that this BID is set up so that the rich run the BID leaving the many small business owners out in the cold to live with the decisions of the few wealthy - or worse you do understand and are voting for it anyway
3. you do not believe the downturn of retail in our country applies to our city as well
4. you do not want to work to make sure our city's budget is applied to maintenance of what is already great you prefer instead to make businesses pay whether they like it, can afford it or not, to replace what we have with with cheap, flashy matching new things or whatever some highly paid promotional expert decides to do with involuntarily collected BID tax funds.
5. you do not expect clear presentation of goals and modalities to achieve these goals in order to vote a new organization capable of taxing others into existence, instead, you support the tactics of obfuscation and smoke and mirrors promises for future vague benefits utilized by the the creators of this BID
6. you do not actually value/trust/rely on volunteer efforts in our city as you claimed to when you thanked the thousands of volunteers at the recent city volunteer appreciation event.
7. you do not actually live in the BID district, nor do you own or run a business within the proposed BID district so voting in a new BID tax is easy for you. Those upon whom this tax will be levied should be those who vote on such a thing equally and openly

I am a citizen and business owner despite all recent indications by your actions and inactions toward this BID proposal I am ---

Continuing to hope for assurances that the bylaws of any BID reflect the best practices of representative governance and of our community's values.

Continuing to hope for glasnost/openess in governmental affairs and that of other established committees.

Continuing to hope for action based on real research and facts by the officials and government of the city of Alexandria. With concern Mary C. Ray

- Expected Response Date: Wednesday, May 10

The Alexandria,  
Autograph Collection

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**Jackie Henderson**

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**From:** Tom Crowley <tc@lepeabody.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 04, 2017 11:11 AM  
**To:** City Council  
**Cc:** danh@targetedcreative.com  
**Subject:** BID Tax

City Council,

I am the owner of a number of properties that will be impacted by the BID tax that is currently before you. I strongly oppose this tax and this taxing concept. If you would like to discuss this issue, I would be happy to meet with you.

Tom Crowley



**Jackie Henderson**

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**From:** dgmprop@aol.com  
**Sent:** Friday, May 05, 2017 7:50 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** BID position

Dear City Council,

Please accept this e-mail as an indication of my strong opposition to BID. As a property owner at 104 South Columbus (currently used as an office and zoned CD), and as a small business owner (2 employees), this additional tax burden would make my owning of this property very questionable. I do not profit from tourism and my location is not in the foot traffic of King Street. If there is an additional tax, I believe it should be restricted to King Street and retail or restaurant establishments, not to small businesses who are simply no different from office space outside this designated area in 22314. I am happy to talk with any one who has the time to listen to my perspective.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane G. Murphy  
104 South Columbus Street  
Alex., Va. 22314  
703 408 1152

**Jackie Henderson**

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**From:** elaine stokols <ladylois38@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 06, 2017 4:02 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** BID

To whom it may concern: my name is Elaine Stokols. I am one of the owners and the operating manager of the building at 606 King Street which is currently leased to Brueggers Bagels. I am writing to express my opposition to the BID proposal which is currently making its way through the city council. I am in strong opposition to another tax in addition to the taxes which we are currently paying in order to support functions which should already be supported. We are small family owners of our building and the vast majority of functions which involve the BID will do little to benefit us, but will be very costly for us.

For the city of Alexandria to even consider prioritizing, as less important, Old Town, is a total anathema to me. The income from tourism alone is reason enough to maximize Old Town's importance without another functioning board of directors being paid to do what is the responsibility of the elected members of the city council. Thank you for your time and attention in this very serious matter. I am sure my opposition will just be one among many. Sincerely, Elaine Stokols  
Email at: ladylois38@hotmail.com Sent from my iPad

## Jackie Henderson

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**From:** Thomas McCaffery <tmccaffery@mccafferyassoc.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 08, 2017 11:40 AM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Old Town Business Improvement District -- VOTE NO

As an owner / occupant of business property in, or adjacent to, the proposed Old Town Business Improvement District (BID) (1100 - 1104 Princess Street), and a citizen/voter of Alexandria City, I strongly oppose the creation of the BID.

This proposal is specifically unfair as it provides multiple "votes" to property owners and only one vote to non-property owner businesses in the "district." As a result, it is estimated that approximately fifty (50) out of 735 commercial properties in the "district" will effectively control the BID Board. Second, the number of "votes" is proportional to the amount of additional taxes paid, which can be altered by the City Council at any time to further concentrate the BID's power to just a handful of selected individuals.

Further, the proposed BID, including its Executive Director and staff (Operations Director, Marketing and Communications Director, Planning and Transportation Director, Public Space Manager and an Administrative Assistant) is duplicative of existing Alexandria City services and staff which are already paid for by extremely high taxes. The Executive Director and staff are expected to be paid for by 25% of the tax money collected, significantly reducing the impact of the additional funds on the BID itself. However, with the number of directors and managers on the staff supported by just one Administrative Assistant, it is clear that the staff will grow very quickly to a larger number leaving less of the tax money to pay for the ostensible purposes of the BID.

Additionally, after watching local politics for nearly thirty years it is apparent to me that every dollar raised through this new taxing authority will be offset by at least dollar for dollar (and probably greater) reductions in spending by Alexandria City on services to the BID area and the immediate surrounding areas such as the Parker-Gray Historic District. When I first moved into Alexandria I was told by veteran city residents that the city's government was "Of the Real Estate Developers, By the Real Estate Developers and For the Real Estate Developers." There is nothing in the BID proposal that counters this decades old perception.

Finally, it is clear that the entire thrust of the BID is toward increasing tourism dollars in Old Town. However, as a nation-wide business consultancy, like many in Alexandria which will be taxed to finance the BID, I have absolutely no involvement in Alexandria City's on again / off again relationship with tourism. Thus, there is absolutely no benefit to either the residents of Alexandria City (including my own family) or my business from the creation of the BID. Frankly, as a city resident I avoid the tourist areas of Old Town area to the maximum extent possible. However, I do rely on services provided by other non-tourist based businesses in the Old Town area. With the higher BID taxes piled upon the already planned business property tax increases, these businesses will be either forced to raise the prices / rates for their services or move out of the affected area. Either result will damage my business.

Therefore, the proposed BID is bad for the city, bad for the residents of the BID district, bad for most

of the businesses of the BID District, and is ultimately bad politics. This proposal will only benefit a very few large tourism based businesses at the expense of many others. I respectfully request that you vote NO on the Old Town BID proposal when comes before the City Council for approval.

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Thomas F. McCaffery

President

McCaffery & Associates, Inc.

703 548 6144

[www.mccafferyassoc.com](http://www.mccafferyassoc.com)

## Jackie Henderson

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**From:** Paul Birckner <pbirckner@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 08, 2017 9:01 PM  
**To:** Jackie Henderson  
**Subject:** BID

Dear Ms. Henderson:

My name is Paul Birckner, owner of 108 South Columbus. I want the City Council to know that I vote against the BID proposal.

Yours truly,

Paul Birckner

6606 Farmer Drive

Fort Washington, Md. 20744

301-449-4399

**Jackie Henderson**

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**From:** marko1 <marko1@bellsouth.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 09, 2017 8:21 AM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** NO to BID

May 9, 2017

**To: Alexandria City Council**

**Re: No to the Proposed BID**

As a commercial property owner and native born Alexandrian, this is to request that you **do not approve** a Business Improvement District currently under consideration by City Council. I am against it as we do not need more bureaucracy and taxes on top of what we already pay. The Old Town area has been and is already a beauty place and a major destination, as you know. Your consideration of this implies that The City will slouch off services in the BID area, relying on a BID Bureaucracy. Yes, there are some things that you, The City, should do better like removing heavy truck traffic from the alleys which is damaging the cobblestones and buildings, but allowing a BID won't fix this or other City wide issues. Thank you.

Mark Olivola  
Owner: The Ice House office building at 110 South Lee Street  
910-617-5617