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1-12-19  
\*Bert Ely

## **A statement by Bert Ely to the Alexandria City Council regarding the recent Residential Permit Parking survey**

January 12, 2019

Mr. Mayor and members of Council I am Bert Ely and I live at 200 South Pitt. Let me begin by offering my congratulations to the new members of Council and to our new mayor. Given all the challenges facing Alexandria, the next three years will be quite momentous for Council and the City.

For the new members of Council, let me commend to you the Open Mic session that opens every Council public hearing, for Open Mic will give you a unique opportunity to hear directly concerns that Alexandrians have. Some may seem trivial or repetitious, but Open Mic gives citizens the unique opportunity to vent directly to Council while often focusing attention on emerging issues or on a supposedly-settled matter that is reemerging as an issue.

Speaking only for myself I would like to talk to you this morning about the supposedly settled process by which local residents initiate requests for changes in on-street parking restrictions, as administered through the Residential Permit Parking program, or RPP.

That civic virtue of citizen participation in resolving residential parking issues is why I and many others were quite troubled when City staff announced recently, and I quote, that "in order to proactively manage parking issues in residential areas, staff has been directed to identify specific circumstances when staff could also initiate the public process for changes" in the RPP. I for one would like to know who gave that directive.

Having twice served on the Old Town Area Parking Study, or OTAPS, I fully appreciate how time-consuming and contentious debates over changes in parking restrictions can be for City staff, yet these debates represent the essence of democracy, and specifically citizen participation in resolving, as best as possible, the conflicting parking needs of residents, visitors, and local businesses.

I fully appreciate staff frustration with these often time-consuming debates and continuing complaints from the public about the administration of the RPP and parking enforcement, but giving City staff bureaucratic authority to establish and alter parking districts and to change parking rules and restrictions runs counter to basic democratic principles, principles increasingly being challenged across the river and around the world.

Council should not consider the results of the very superficial and poorly constructed RPP questionnaire that staff recently conducted on-line to be a sufficient substitute for direct citizen involvement, discussion, and debate before any changes are made in the RPP.

Attached to my statement is a copy of that questionnaire. I do not have sufficient time to itemize its many shortcomings, including how it was distributed to the citizenry, but Council should disregard its results.

Instead, Council should create an RPP Advisory Group, composed of residents from across the City, to develop recommendations to Council as to how the RPP process should be improved as well as possible changes in the procedures of the Traffic and Parking Board.

Most importantly, this Advisory Group should make specific recommendations to Council as to what RPP decisions, if any, should be delegated to City staff and what decisions should remain with those residents directly affected by those decisions.

I fully appreciate why City staff, and especially those who feel they know best how to resolve specific parking issues, might reject this recommendation but in this time of growing authoritarianism, Council should resist reducing citizen involvement in the administration or modification of the RPP.

Thank you for your time today – I welcome your questions.

# Residential Permit Parking Program Questionnaire

The Residential Permit Parking (RPP) Program is being updated and we need your feedback on the top issues we should review!

Currently, the process to create, expand, or change restrictions must be requested by the residents and existing parking challenges must be demonstrated. In order to proactively manage parking issues in residential areas, staff has been directed to identify specific circumstances when staff could also initiate the public process for changes.

In addition to a staff-initiated process, the RPP Refresh project will consider other updates to the program. Staff would like your feedback on which issues should be addressed. The top 2-3 topics will be discussed in more detail at future Subcommittee meetings as part of this update. The remaining topics may be reviewed in a later phase.

For more information about the issues, including the problem/challenge, potential opportunities for improvement, background data, and enforcement considerations, please review the [chart](#).

Note: \* - Required Fields

Next

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# Residential Permit Parking Program Questionnaire

1. Select the top three issues you think should be reviewed under the RPP Refresh project in order of priority. Please refer to the [Summary of Issues Chart](#) for more details about each topic. \*

First Choice: \*

-- Please Select --

Second Choice: \*

-- Please Select --

Third Choice: \*

-- Please Select --

2. Do you support updating the City Code to allow the RPP program to have the option to implement new technology, such as a virtual permit system (permits are associated with a vehicle's license plate instead of displaying a physical permit) and additional enforcement through license plate readers (LPRs)? \*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ No Opinion

3. Are there other residential parking issues that could be addressed with the City Code update for this program?

4. Do you currently live in a parking district? \*

☐ Yes

☐ No

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Submit

50%



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Alexandria, VA

22314

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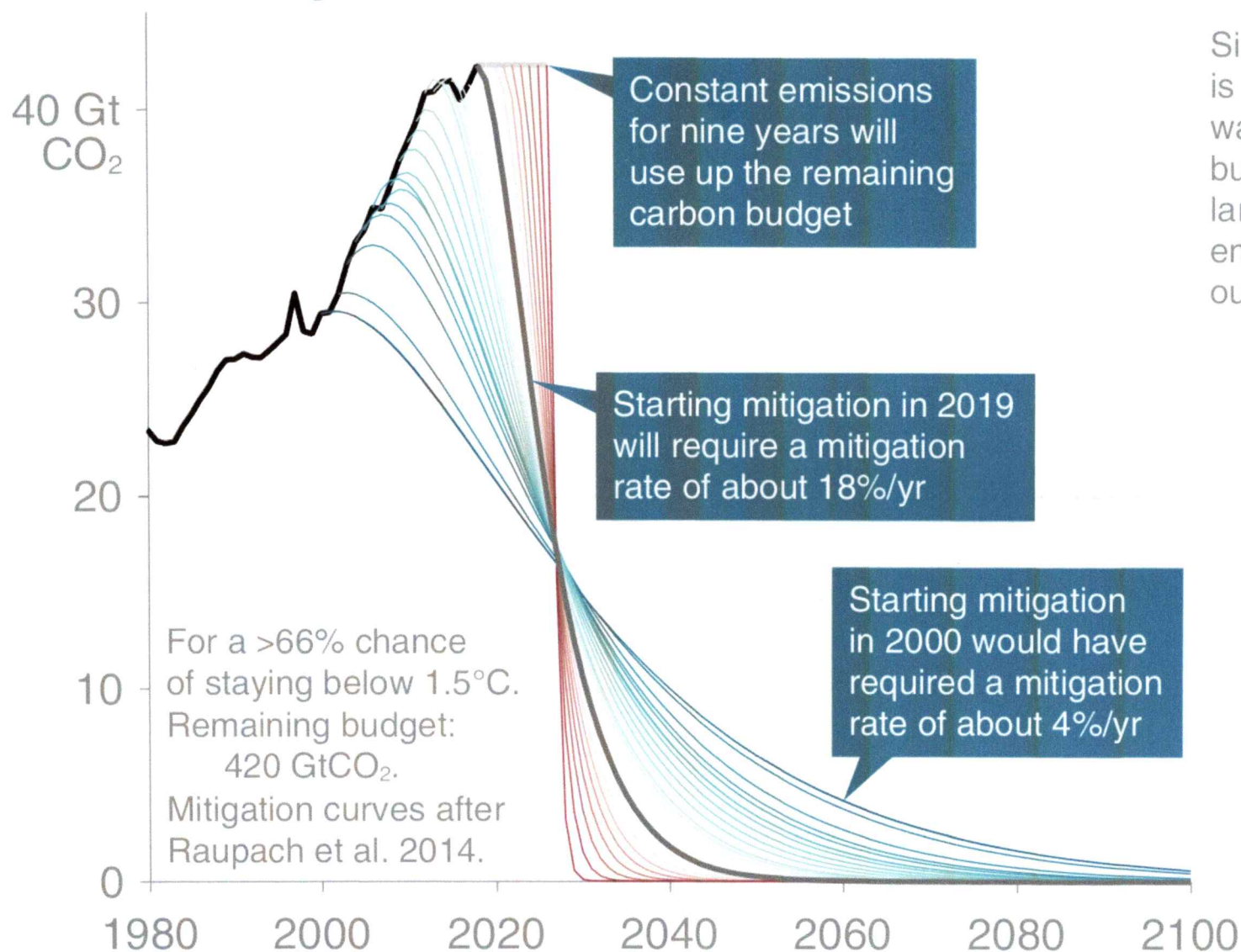
Alexandria, VA and

others



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\*Kathie Hukstra

## CO<sub>2</sub> mitigation curves: 1.5°C



Since 18%/yr mitigation is impossible, the only way to achieve this budget is with very large "negative" emissions: pulling CO<sub>2</sub> out of the atmosphere.

@robbie\_andrew • Data: GCP • Emissions budget from IPCC SR1.5

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1-12-19.  
\* Quinn Lindsey

# Pet miniature pigs should be legal in the City of Alexandria

By Quinn Lindsey a George Washington Middle School 6th grader, lifetime Alexandria resident and pig lover.

## Alexandria City Ordinance-

### Chapter 7 Animals and Fowl

#### Sec 5-7-1 Swine prohibited

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to keep or allow to be kept any swine within the city.
- (b) Violations of this section shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$5 and not more than \$10. Each day of violation exists or continues shall constitute a separate and distinct offense. (Code 1963, Sec. 4-1)

I do not want to make agricultural pigs legal in the city, I want to make domestic pet mini pigs legal. This is an update to the current city ordinances to reflect current times.



# The difference between mini pigs and agricultural pigs

<https://www.peta.org/features/dog-pig/>

The American Mini Pig or smaller mini pigs of today.. When full grown, most can expect their mini pigs to be in the 14-18 inch size range on average and some smaller bred mini pigs average **50-150 lbs.**

An agricultural hog often means a domestic pig that weighs more than **120 lbs.** Hogs usually weigh between **300 and 700 lbs.**

<https://www.livescience.com/50623-pigs-facts.html>

# Mini Pigs Are Smart!

I think mini pigs should be legal because studies ( <https://www.peta.org/features/dog-pig/> ) show pigs are smarter than dogs. They also are the same size of a medium sized dog.

“Pigs outperform 3-year-old human children on cognition tests and are smarter than any domestic animal, and animal experts consider them more trainable than cats or dogs. Pigs are hygienic. When given the chance, they are more particular about their sanitary behavior than most dogs.”

# Vaccinations, Registration, Rules

Can mini pigs be vaccinated against common swine diseases? Yes they can, just like a dog

There are 6 major pig diseases that they can be vaccinated against.

I believe that the current City Ordinances on dogs can be used to help regulate pet mini pigs

Many local municipalities are mini pig friendly.

I will provide you an informational packet on sample ordinances.

# Just the facts

Thank you for your time here are some facts about pigs.

<https://www.peta.org/features/dog-pig/>

## Dig These Mini Pig Facts

- Pigs dream and see in color.
- Pigs are naturally slender. They only become fat when humans overfeed them.
- Pigs are sociable. They like to cuddle and snuggle up, nose to nose, with their blankets owners and other pets.
- Pigs roll in mud to cool down and ward off parasites and sunburn, just as elephants do.
- Pigs are considered emotional support animals.
- Thank you for you time, I can be reached via email at:  
[quinnlindsey06@gmail.com](mailto:quinnlindsey06@gmail.com), I will also email everyone an informational packet after this meeting.

This is the pig that I want and they are litter boxed  
trained!!!!!!!!!!

