



Mount Vernon
Council
of Citizens'
Associations

Record

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MVCCA COUNCIL MEETING

December 17, 2008 8 p.m.

Walt Whitman School, Jack Knowles Lecture Hall

PRESIDING: Co-chair David Dale.

ATTENDING: Co-chairs David Dale, Pat Rea, Katherine Ward; Committee Chairs Louise Cleveland, Queenie Cox, Judy Harbeck, John Jeszenszky, David Plummer, Catherine Voorhees, David Voorhees; FCFCFA Rep Karen Pohorylo ; SFDC Rep Jim Davis; Treasurer Tonda Phalen; Secretary Carol Coyle.

Representatives from Belle Haven Terrace, Collingwood on the Potomac, Engleside, Hollin Glen, Hollin Hall, Huntington, New Gum Springs, Newington Forest, Pavilions at Huntington Metro, Potomac Valley – Riverbend, River Towers, Skyview Park, Southwood, Spring Bank, Stratford Landing, Stratford on the Potomac IV, Sulgrave Manor, Waynewood, Wessynton, William Randall Estates, Williamsburg Manor North, Woodley Hills, Woodley Hills Estates.

MINUTES – Accepted as published.

TREASURER’S REPORT - Accepted as published.

SUPERVISOR’S TIME – Supervisor Hyland expressed thanks for all the get well wishes after his auto accident.

County Budget deficit is currently projected at \$650 million due to decrease of 14% in property values in addition to cuts in State and Federal funding. Projected Lines of Business cuts (LOBs) are available online or in hard copy or CD at his office. (http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/lobs/agency_presentations_context.htm)

Board of Supervisors (BOS) Infill Meeting. Co-chair Katherine Ward and Transportation chair Catherine Voorhees and others attended. It is rare to have citizen involvement with Board committee meetings. The committee has decided that the ‘angle above plane’ regulation does not solve the problem with water runoff; they are looking at Alexandria’s ‘setback ratio’ regulation. Community input is encouraged for the January meeting of the task force. Supervisor Hyland reports that the good news is that the County will now be required to give notice of infill applications to affected residences, affected neighborhood, and the Supervisor’s office. Additionally, the County will be required to inspect the properties to assure that the proposed changes will actually work. Route One Transit Study funds (\$1 million) were re-allocated to the Merrifield area without any notification to those affected (i.e., us). Supervisor Hyland plans to find out who is responsible for this.

There are still several Boards, Authorities, and Commissions for which Supervisor Hyland needs appointees (these include health-related groups as well as the new Economic Advisory Commission, “dedicated to find ways to improve Fairfax County’s economy.”

Re: Kings Crossing: JBG Rosenfeld now wants to keep Chuck E Cheese and lease the rest of the existing building to WalMart for a Superstore (Supervisor opposes). Supervisor has asked the Board to direct the Zoning Administrator and the County Attorney to determine if this use is disallowed under our “big box” ordinance; even if so, approval of the various phases of the development will not be automatic. He alternatively suggests that County Park Authority consider purchase of the property for a park. Neal McBride (Newington Forest) suggests that the \$9.5 million from land sale in Lorton might be used for this purpose.

continued page 2...

MVCCA BOARD

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	John McCormick	571-331-1066
SCSP	Frank Cohn	703-780-5698
FCFCFA	Karen Pohorylo	703-780-7825
SFDC	Jim Davis	703-799-3278
	Tom Hook	703-765-6869

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2009 Gala! Save the Date—May 2, 2009! Nominations are now being accepted for the Mount Vernon Citizen of the Year and Organization of the Year. Nominations should be sent to MVCCA, P.O. Box 203, Mt. Vernon, VA 22121-0203 no later than March 2, 2009. Download an application at the Council’s website, www.mvcca.org.

Council Minutes

NEW MV POLICE STATION COMMANDER – Lt. David Moyer (appointed in September) detailed his background since joining the force in 1993 and then gave an overview of our current crime statistics. There are a minimum of 10 officers available at all times. LOBs will affect many contingent services; already cut are language training, budget for uniforms, self-defense classes for women, other overtime hours. He hopes to keep bicycle patrols; crime prevention (training for neighborhood watch, home security, etc; school resource officers). Lt. Moyer says that his guys are here because this is an active station and they want to be here.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget and Finance – Joint meeting with Education, q.v. Committee would like input on what we want the County to do: increase taxes in order to maintain services? Or cut more?

Consumer Affairs – Joint meeting with Health and Human Services, q.v. Topic for January meeting will be insurance: homeowners', renters', disaster.

Education – Joint with Budget; see minutes. Further reductions are resulting in decreased support staff in K-12 (secretaries, HR staff), teacher training, and professional development.

Environment and Recreation – See minutes and addendum. Since the meeting, County Storm Water is developing plans for Belle Haven and Dogue Creek watershed areas; public input at an open meeting Wednesday, January 14, 7 p.m., at Huntley Meadows. Little Hunting Creek watershed is planned and changes are underway.

Health and Human Services – See minutes for information on Services for Seniors and Family Caregivers and also for participation in County planning in 2009 and beyond. The Chair urged the Council to continue its longstanding support for quality public services by calling for the BOS to "advertise" (announce) the FY 2010 real estate tax maximum RATE estimated to be high enough to sustain services at current levels despite projected fall in revenue from several sources. Next April, after public review of needs in all core services (and acceptable "Reduction Options"), the Budget Plan may be balanced at a lesser tax rate than advertised, but not an increased rate. Advertisement of an insufficient rate, in advance of public hearings on the Budget Plan, has undercut past MVCCA efforts to express strong non-partisan public support for good fiscal management with adequate funding of high quality essential services.

Planning and Zoning – See minutes. Committee is still in need of a Chair.

Public Safety – See minutes.

Transportation – See minutes. Next meeting will have representatives from Woodrow Wilson Bridge and Hot Lanes.

Affordable and Workforce Housing – See minutes. Committee will be reviewing the Comprehensive Plan and want to talk to someone from Zoning about possible solutions to affordable housing. Katherine suggests that the committee canvass more members of the community (beyond just the committee) for input.

FCFCA – Karen Pohorylo (Engleside) is our new rep to Federation. A speaker from Forestry talked about the [Emerald Ash Borer](#) epidemic. Firewood and wood chips imported from other parts of the country brought this borer, and it is now affecting local trees.

Speaker from Providence District Trails and Sidewalks talked about ["cool neighborhoods."](#) A neighborhood which reduces its carbon foot-

print by 2% per household qualifies for the designation. (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/environment/coolcounties) Soliciting nominations for [Fairfax County Citizen of the Year](#) (www.fairfaxfederation.org)

SFDC – New rep to SFDC Jim Davis (Sulgrave Manor) mentioned clothing collection boxes on Route 1; Goodwill Stores is interested in the CLBarnes Furniture building; Executive Lara Fritts is leaving December 31 for a new job in Michigan.

RESOLUTIONS

EDUC 2008-2 – After discussion, it was agreed to change the title of the resolution to **FULL DISCLOSURE FOR FAIRFAX COUNTY'S FY2010 ADVERTISED BUDGET PLAN** Co-chair David Dale and committee chair Judy Harbeck will tweak the wording and prepare a cover letter that simplifies the purpose of the resolution. **Approved 15-2-5.**

ADDITION TO STRATEGIC PLANNING'S COUNCIL MISSION STATEMENT to encourage coordination with other groups both in and outside MVMD. **Approved 22-0-0.**

CO-CHAIR' REPORT

Beginning in January, the Record will not be mailed. It will be posted on the Council website (mvcca.org), and a limited number of copies will be available at Council meetings.

Treasurer's Report			
For Period January 1, 2009 through January 6, 2009			
	Budget 2009	Actual to Date	Budget/Actual
Balance Beginning Period		\$8,746.67 ¹	
RECEIPTS			
Dues	\$4,000.00	\$1,833.00	-\$2,167.00
Dues from new member drive	\$250.00	\$0.00	-\$250.00
Record Subscriptions	\$250.00	\$0.00	-\$250.00
Gala Income	\$2,400.00	\$0.00	-\$2,400.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$8,600.00	\$1,833.00	-\$5,067.00
DISBURSEMENTS			
Record Production ²	\$3,470.00	\$0.00	\$3,470.00
Record Postage ²	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Administrative	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
Gala Expenses	\$3,200.00	\$0.00	\$3,200.00
Web Site	\$520.00	\$0.00	\$520.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
New Member Marketing	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
Insurance	\$660.00	\$0.00	\$660.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$8,600.00	\$0.00	\$8,600.00
ENDING BALANCE		\$10,579.67	

¹ Beginning balance results from Dec 2008 report ending balance minus actual expenses paid in late December for the December *Record*.

² Board decision to eliminate mailed copies of the *Record* eliminates any potential income from subscriptions and postage expenditures, as well as decreases production costs. These changes were disclosed prior to Councils November vote on 2009 budget. These items will be adjusted and removed were appropriate in subsequent reports, and the balance budget sum will be noted under Disbursements—miscellaneous.

Committee Reports

Dues are due by the end of this month. 18 communities have paid. Sheldon Hoenig (Wessynton) has formed a new committee, Northern VA Citizens V. Infill (NOVACAIN) Stop the Pain.

New member: Lyssa Seward, new President of Waynewood Citizens Association.

Planning Commissioner for MVMD, Earl Flanagan, reports that submissions by non-profits (like MVCCA) to VDOT of any Comprehensive Plan changes that will impact traffic are subject to filing fees. The law says "localities" should submit. Contact our State representatives to lobby for excusing non-profits (like MVCCA and SFDC) from this regulation.

Committee Reports

BUDGET & FINANCE

The Committee met Wednesday, November 5, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the Walt Whitman Middle School Principal's Conference Room. Present were: David Voorhees (Committee Chair), Pat Rea (MVCCA Co-Chair), Stratford (Sec. IV) on the Potomac, Tauxemont, Hollin Hall Village, Wessynton, Wellington

The committee reviewed a proposed resolution regarding RHA funding for mortgages on existing housing in Fairfax County. The committee decided to not take a position on the proposal since it appears to be revenue neutral.

The second issue the committee took up was outstanding bonds and bond issuing authority granted by voters. Upon review of the documentation from the Fairfax County 2009 Approved Budget, the committee has requested the County Debt Manager Leonard Wales to provide a speaker at our next meeting.

The committee also discussed the Fairfax County Public Schools three tiered proposal for the 2010 school budget. The FCPS should be commended for submitting a proposal that complies with the directive of the Board of Supervisors. However, since it is clear from the projected revenues that the current residential real estate tax rate will not provide sufficient funding to maintain all school and county services, to the extent that the schools believe that more tax revenue is needed to fund the school system the committee would like to see a suggestion from FCPS as to how much the residential real estate taxes should be raised. Furthermore, the committee suggested that any school budget cuts should be aimed toward having the least impact on the quality of education in the schools, that is cuts should first be made to equipment, infrastructure and administrative staff prior to a reduction of teachers and student programs.

The next meeting for the Budget and Finance Committee is scheduled for February 4, 2009 at 7:30 at the Walt Whitman Middle School Principal's conference room.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Consumer Affairs met on Tuesday, January 6, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at Walt Whitman Middle School in the Principal's Conference Room. The following member associations attended: Belle Haven; New Gum Springs; Sulgrave Manor; Wellington; Williamsburg Manor; and an association (Mt. Vernon Lakes) from Lee District.

The following handouts from the State Corporation, Bureau of Insurance were provided: 1) When A Disaster Strikes: What to Do After an Insured Homeowners Loss – A Question and Answer Guide for Homeowners; 2) Homeowners Insurance – Consumer Guide; 3) Auto Insurance – Consumer's Guide; 4) Credit Scoring – How It Affects Your Automobile and Homeowners Insurance; 5) Renters Insurance – Consumer's Guide; 6) Homeowners Insurance – Sample Premium Tables for 2008/2009; and Auto Insurance – Sample Premium Tables 2008/2009.

An overview was provided on each of the handouts and the attendees shared their knowledge and experience associated with insurance and credit cards. After all comments and concerns were addressed, the meeting was adjourned within the agreed timeframe.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 11, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at Walt Whitman Middle School in the Principal's Conference Room. Topic: How to read your telephone bill. A representative from Verizon is the invited speaker.

EDUCATION

The Education Committee met at 8 p.m. on January 7, 2009, in the media center at Whitman Middle School. Associations represented were: Stratford on the Potomac, Hollin Hall, Potomac Valley Riverbend, Wellington, Sulgrave Manor, Newington Forest, Spring Bank, CAHH, Stratford Landing, Riverside Estates and Williamsburg Manor North. Co-chair David Dale and Ron Fitzsimmons from Supervisor Hyland's office also attended.

Dean Tistadt, FCPS Assistant Superintendent and Chief Operating Officer, Facilities and Transportation, and Lee Ann Pender, also of that office, gave a presentation on the history and financial implications of the proposed purchase of the BPG building (also known as the "Red Cross building") as Phase 2 of the consolidation of administrative offices begun in 2004 with the purchase of Gatehouse 1 and associated property.

MVCCA in 2004 supported the administrative consolidation plan (including Phase 2 which at that time envisioned construction of a sister building to Gatehouse 1) in order to reduce the economic and operational inefficiency of housing administrative personnel at multiple locations. Consolidating into a one-stop shop was expected to reduce maintenance costs, lease expenses, travel expenses, lost time in travel, as well as permit some reductions in staff besides the operational benefits of better interaction among staff and easier access for parents, the public and school-based staff.

Committee Reports

Gatehouse 1 did fulfill those expectations in that the project was not only self-funded (debt service was fully covered by funds already in the operating budget and previously used to support multiple locations) but actually reduced costs permitting funds to be freed up for instructional purposes. In addition, vacated properties were returned to the County for other County uses or for sale, and as a result the County was able to increase the amount of approved school bond funds which could be released for school construction and renovation.

Obviously, the severe current budget climate also demands severe scrutiny of any transaction but it is equally true that poor economic times also often provide opportunity which may not come again.

According to the presentation, the BPG purchase may represent just such an opportunity in that the downturn in both commercial real estate and construction have drastically reduced both price and renovation costs to under \$100 million, well below prior estimates or new construction.

More importantly, the BPG proposal would also be completely self-funded, would not require any additional operating budget funds and would not in any way negatively affect school construction and renovation funds. Outside consultants evaluating the proposal have drawn similar conclusions and identified many millions of dollars in savings, as well, which could be used for instructional purposes to reduce deficits expected, particularly in the next few cycles.

The purchase would be made with Economic Development Authority instruments, which would be the obligation of the County but which would not have an affect on County bond ratings, tax rates or borrowing ability, and the County would essentially "lease" to FCPS for the amount of the debt service (principal and interest). As stated, and experienced with Gatehouse 1, that lease/debt service amount is expected to be less than currently being expended in support of the multiple small offices, resulting in a net gain to the operating budget.

At the request of the Board of Supervisors, FCPS has continued to negotiate the price downward with the owner and renovation costs have also declined due to market conditions and changes in plans. Renovation costs will be substantially limited to systems replacement (roof, heating and air conditioning) and conversion for energy and cost efficiency, and LEED certification will be sought. Furniture and fixtures will be re-used and brought from other locations. Because of the building configuration, many School Board meetings and hearings could likely be accommodated without structural change. Overall, as in Gatehouse 1, facilities would be efficient and modern, but austere.

As other benefits, staff reductions will likely make part of the BPG building available for commercial lease or use by other County agencies, and the purchase of an existing building would mean offices can begin moving this summer and be operable during renovation thus maximizing cost savings. In particular, since recent enrollment increases have made it necessary to return Lacey, Devonshire, and Dun Loring to school use, the ability to accommodate staff from those facilities would avoid the need for costly leases and reduce delay in adding school capacity in those areas.

Although due to time limitations, the Committee did not in January take a formal position, the consensus appeared to be that the BPG purchase was a win-win situation with the caveat that care needs to be taken, in these disastrous budget times, to clearly explain the proposal to the public, parents and indeed to school-based staff, who may not immediately perceive that the purchase would not take any operational funds from the classroom (indeed would add some) or from funds for construction and renovation.

The Committee also considered and passed two resolutions which are printed elsewhere in this RECORD and the text of the resolutions essentially reflect the deliberations of the Committee.

However, with respect to MVCCA ED 2009-1 (grading policy) it should be noted that the Committee did discuss "grade inflation" and standards issues but concluded that standardization to avoid detriment was critical, that there is no evidence, for example, that Montgomery County has lower standards or expectations because of use of a 10-point scale and that there remains (recognized or otherwise) the ability of teachers to give the grade deserved. Moreover, although the FCPS study focused on college issues, it was noted that GPA issues also affect graduation rates and technical programs, and that poor, minority and limited English students, and some students with learning disabilities, may be particularly disadvantaged, especially since they tend to have fewer GPA "bumps" through advanced classes.

February Meetings:

2/4/09, 8 p.m., Whitman MS media center

2/11/09, 7:30 p.m., Whitman media center (joint budget presentation)

ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION

The committee met on 7 January 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in South County Government Room 219. Present were David Plummer (chair), Katherine Ward (MVCCA co-chair), Collingwood-on-Potomac, Spring Bank, Sulgrave Manor, Hollin Hills, Mount Vernon on the Potomac, Pavilions at Huntington Metro, Riverside Gardens, Riverside Estates, Newington Forest, Stratford Landing, and Woodley Hills Community Association.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Watershed Forum

The Chair relayed information provided by Danielle Wynne, ecologist with the Department of Public Works (DPWES), regarding the upcoming Watershed Forum for the Belle Haven, Dogue Creek and Four Mile Run watersheds. The forum will be held on Wednesday, January 14th at 7 pm (registration begins at 6:30 pm) at Huntley Meadows Park (3701 Lockheed Blvd.). The forum is free and open to the public, and no prior knowledge about watershed planning is necessary. The committee expressed the sentiment that these forums (which have been held previously for other watersheds) have been useful in identifying problem areas and possible solutions. However, committee members also expressed the opinion that certain obvious stakeholders have seemingly not been involved, such as VDOT and the business com-

Committee Reports

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

munity. A general consensus was that water quality issues could be more easily addressed than water quantity issues since the latter would require land that is generally unavailable or too costly. Working through the Public Facilities Manual (PFM), applying improvements incrementally, and increased enforcement were suggested ways to achieve long-term benefits.

Mount Eagle Park

Cathy Ledec, representing Pavilions at Huntington Metro, brought forth concerns involving development activities taking place adjacent to Mount Eagle Neighborhood Park. This small park, which currently features a ball field, is scheduled to be used temporarily as a staging area for the ongoing construction taking place on what was previously a parking lot serving the south entrance to the Huntington Metro. The citizens are concerned about 1) the inevitable damage to the park during construction and also 2) how the park will be developed after the construction is completed. For the former, the Chair will invite the developer to the February committee meeting to present the project plans. For the latter, the committee recommended contacting Sandy Stallman, Manager, Park Planning Branch, Fairfax County Park Authority, to ensure that the local citizens are fully engaged in any park planning activities.

Ms. Ledec also expressed concerns about the public safety in and near Mount Eagle Park. This area is heavily used as a walking conduit between the Huntington Metro and apartment/condominium communities along Richmond Highway. Several muggings have been reported in this area which has no lighting. The communities have engaged Fairfax County police and established a neighborhood watch. The community hopes that any park planning will address some of these problems.

Reallocation of RHA Expenditures

Martin Tillet, representing Spring Bank, introduced a draft environmentally-friendly resolution that would encourage the Redevelopment and Housing Authority (RHA) to redirect their limited funds toward a mortgage-assistance program to facilitate the purchase of the numerous existing homes under foreclosure. These homes are empty and only serve to attract squatters and contribute to neighborhood blight. Leveraging the existing stock of now-affordable housing instead of introducing new, environmentally-unfriendly development (such as North Hill), would be environmentally beneficial while providing a needed housing solution. The general consensus of the committee members was to forward the draft resolution for consideration by the Budget, E&R and Special Committee for Affordable and Workforce Housing (SCAWH) committees in a collaborative fashion so a unified position would be achieved.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the E&R committee will be held on Wednesday, February 4, in Room 219 of the South County Government Center at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

On Tuesday, January 6, 7:30 p.m., MVCCA Committee for Health and Human Services met at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, 2nd floor Engh Conference Room, to identify trends and issues in health and human services that may impact community planning, in 2009 and beyond. Participating in discussion were committee members from 5 member associations: Collingwood on Potomac, Belle Haven Terrace, Hollindale, Wellington, and Williamsburg Manor; they were joined by MVCCA Co-chair Pat Rea and by Special Committee on Affordable and Workforce Housing Chair John Jeszenszky.

Human Services & Housing issues remain joined

Tasked with identifying trends and issues that may impact community planning, the committee acknowledged during the past year several important Fairfax County demographic/strategic planning studies undertaken by independent consultants, citizen commissions, and even the "blue ribbon" Beeman Commission. These include—as described in our December 2008 report—*Anticipating the Future: A Discussion of Trends in Fairfax County* (March 2006), the subsequent *Fairfax Fifty+Action Plan* (2007) outlining planning issues raised by demographic "aging" anticipated over the next 15 years, the *Blueprint for Success: Strategic Directions for the Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness in the Fairfax-Falls Church Community* (2008), and the *Bee-man Commission Report* (2008) that recommends "transformation" in the delivery of community mental health services. All of these studies, as well as the County's *Comprehensive Plan* and the *2009 Fairfax County Legislative Program* with the Supplement (Issue Paper) *Critical Needs in Human Services*, reviewed below, are documents published on the web site, www.fairfaxcounty.gov at links easily located by typing key title words into the "Search" box.

Each of these strategic planning efforts acknowledges major issues connected to housing. The large gap in appropriate housing affordable to the range of household incomes of those working in the County points to negative consequences for economic development and for delivery of essential services in public safety, education and health-care. Among households at and below Area Median Income, since 2000, there was both an exodus of those seeking affordable homes at the price of a long commute and a rise here in the number of households (including 45.4% of all renters) paying far more than 30% of their income for housing. Two consequences are transportation congestion and a rising percentage of households without medical insurance, both costly to remedy. In addition, the County began to assess the special housing needs of very low-income persons who are frail and elderly, or have disabilities that have severely limited their income, or are burdened by chronic illnesses and uninsured medical expenses (see for example, the *Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*). The known human and also public fiscal costs of failure to provide stable housing for these especially vulnerable populations are driving urban planning, here and throughout the nation, to consider the "homes first" approach to more cost-effective service delivery. Community planning for integrated health care (including mental health) emphasizes the particular need for stable housing options appropriate and affordable to those in recovery: without these, timely discharge from hospital care is thwarted, continuity of managed care for chronic illness is unlikely, and relapse into crisis is both costly and frequent.

Committee Reports

Reviewing the "Comp Plan"

Pat Rea outlined the basic structure of *The Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan*, required by the state and subjected to public review and recommendations for amendments every 5 years, next in early 2010. In January 2009, MVCCA begins a new review process, with Committees scheduled for "introductory discussion to identify problem areas within their respective areas of expertise." Changes may be proposed in any section of the Comp Plan: (1) the countywide Policy Plan, which includes Housing and Transportation sections, (2) the Area IV overview, and (3) particular features of the five Area IV Planning Districts (several of which contain pieces of the Mount Vernon Magisterial District and the Richmond Highway corridor).

HHS Chair Louise Cleveland called attention to some recently adopted amendments especially relevant to human services, in the Policy Plan and its appendices, re "Affordable" and "Workforce" Housing definitions and incentives, "Affordable Dwelling Unit" terms, and guidelines promoting accessibility through "universal design."

SCAWH Chair John Jeszensky described questions raised by the Special Committee, as it seeks to understand how existing proscriptive zoning may restrict (1) home sharing within single family residences, (2) use of accessory dwelling units, (3) development of efficiency (single occupant) apartments, and (4) "MHP" zoned areas (e.g. any rules bearing on duplex or other clustering that could enlarge open space and increase energy efficiency). He invited interested members to participate in an informational meeting to be scheduled with a Zoning department representative.

Reviewing 2009 Issue Paper, "Critical Needs in Human Services"

The Board of Supervisors approves an annual *Legislative Program* (county advocacy for specific Virginia General Assembly actions needed to facilitate County government). The DRAFT *2009 Fairfax County Legislative Program* included as a *Supplement, Critical Needs in Human Services* (a companion Issue Paper, with detailed needs/impact statements); this draft document, as submitted for BOS approval, was distributed to the MVCCA General Council by Gerry Hyland in late November. The attached 25-page Issues Paper, *Critical Needs in Human Services* was distributed by the HHS chair to committee representatives at their meetings Dec. 2 and again Jan. 6, along with e-mailed notice that was available on the county web site. The *Program* states an array of specific Regional and/or County Initiatives and Positions on issues ranging from Governance, Taxation and Land Use to Education, Transportation, Mental Health and Public Safety. The 25-page Issues Paper "*Critical Needs in Human Services*" presents background and needs analysis for specific state actions in each of a dozen categories of human services needs: both "Regional Priorities" (e.g. state flexibility and improved funding for two state-mandated mental health services, for Children and for Rapid Urgent Care) and "Other Critical Needs." Among these are Child Day Care (e.g. actions to assure quality and availability of childcare/early learning programs at rates affordable to low-income working families), Child Welfare Services (e.g. improved policies, procedures, and funding to expedite adoptions), Long Term Care Services for Older Adults and Persons with Disabilities (e.g. improved Medicaid reimbursement rates to stabi-

lize a shrinking direct-service work force, more disability waivers, minimum staffing for the state ombudsman program that investigates residential facilities) and funds for state-mandated Mental Health Services.

Resolution HHS 2009-01: The HHS committee recommends that MVCCA express public support for the Issues Paper *Critical Needs in Human Services*, approved as part of the *2009 Fairfax County Legislative Program* for advocacy to state legislators and agencies, and commends it to the attention of our elected state representatives. A Resolution expressing our recommendation is published in this January *Record*.

HHS 2009 Agenda: Please note that 2009 meetings of HHS Committee are now scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m., at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, in either the Engh Room OR Conference Room C/D, on the "first Tuesday" monthly. Please consult the MVCCA web site (the current *Record* and the HHS web page), for updated agenda information.

Public meetings on HHS matters:

Tuesday, Feb. 3, 7:30 p.m., MVCCA Health and Human Services Committee meets at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, in **Conference Room C/D, 2nd floor.**

PLANNING & ZONING

The January 5, 2009 Planning and Zoning Committee meeting was called to order at 7:40pm by acting Chair David Dale. In attendance were representatives from the following communities: Mount Vernon Civic, Wessynton Homes, Marlan Forest, Montebello, Skyview Park, Newington Civic, Hollin Hills, Williamsburg Manor North, Sherwood Estates, Engleside, Wellington Heights, Newington Forest, Riverside Estates, and Hollin Hall Village. Two land use cases were heard and discussion of the strategic plan was started. No resolutions were passed.

The first presentation was from the Lorton Arts Foundation on the plans for the arts center located at the Lorton Workhouse complex. The arts center is now open to visitors and a number of studios are in operation. Additional construction is underway on the building to provide 40 residential-studio units. Some changes to the original plan have been requested: minor changes to the location of buildings and parking, a new access road, extending the hours of operation for the performance venues, an increase in the concurrent attendance limit, and an additional 4500 sf building for storage. Concern was expressed about the apparent unnecessary removal of mature trees.

The second presentation was a return visit for representatives of the Hilltop Sand and Gravel location. Wegmans has now signed a lease if the site can be developed as planned. The current plan includes a 150,000 sf Wegmans, 150,000 sf of additional retail and office, and two bank pad site with drive-thru. The traffic study seems to support the plan with the specified road improvements. More information about the complete proposal can be found on the web site www.hilltopvillagecenter.com.

Committee Reports

Some objections and issues that remain include: the corner 4-story office building will be too visible and too tall; the traffic study did not adequately evaluate cut-thru traffic on Newington Road; the expected traffic increase of up to 22,000 trips per day will clog Telegraph Road; the hours of operation are unspecified; unknown noise and lighting problems; the locations for trash dumpsters not shown; the screening of the back of Wegmans from Telegraph Road is inadequate; and the plan does not specify LEED certification.

The Committee then began discussion of topics for the Strategic Planning Committee. The unifying theme is that we need to find a mechanism to tie future development to the adequacy of transportation, schools, parks, and the environment. It was agreed that there should be incentives to place higher density commercial development at commercial centers and restrictive limits placed on commercial development between commercial centers. We will need to review projects like Kings Crossing to see why they failed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m. The next meeting is Monday, February 2 at 7:30 p.m. at Whitman Middle School in the Jack Knowles Lecture Hall.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Associations represented: Hollin Hills, Mt. Vernon, Mt. Vernon Manor, Mt. Zephyr, Riverside Estates, Riverside Gardens, Southwood, Stratford on Potomac IV, Tauxemont, Waynewood, and Wellington.

By way of introduction, the Chair noted that in December 2008 there were 165 arrests for DUI in Fairfax County. Kurt Erickson, the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), then began a presentation on his organization. WRAP was founded in 1982 and is a public-private partnership which works to prevent drunk driving and underage drinking in the Washington-Metropolitan area. Through public education, innovative health education programs and advocacy, WRAP is credited with keeping the metro-Washington area's alcohol-related traffic deaths consistently lower than the national average. The national average is 45% of all vehicular deaths. In the Washington-Metropolitan area the average has been reduced to 33%. It does this with a budget of only \$300,000. WRAP has only three employees – two full-time and one part-time. Its administrative overhead is only 2.1% of the total.

WRAP has four major focuses. The first focus involves youth outreach. Each year, WRAP partners with local law enforcement in addressing thousands of Washington-metropolitan area high school and college students with its Alcohol Awareness for Students presentation. Offered in 45 minute sessions, the program uses an interactive Power-Point presentation, video and Fatal Vision Goggles to educate teenagers and young adults about the dangers and consequences of underage drinking and drunk driving. Each year, WRAP also partners with GEICO to award high school student groups in the Washington-metropolitan area with \$500 awards for promoting alcohol and drug-free lifestyles to their peers. In addition, WRAP publishes a 12 page, school resource guide, which is designed to prevent underage drinking. The guide provides information on the drinking laws and conse-

quences, as well as facts, statistics, and suggested school club activities related to this topic. In addition, as a means of combating teen drinking and impaired driving during the summer when the greatest number of teen traffic deaths occur, WRAP issues an annual, parent education initiative, "Ten Tips for a Safe Summer." During this part of the presentation the Chair commended Mr. Erickson for the organization's focus on underage drinking and its other activities designed for young adults.

WRAP's second focus involves adult outreach. WRAP is best known for its SoberRide program. The program which started in 1993 provides free cab rides for fares up to \$50, for individuals who have been drinking. Since its inception, over 40,000 individuals have taken advantage of this service. According to the WRAP website, the program operates during the December/January holiday season, St. Patrick's Day, Independence Day, and Halloween. During these holidays, individuals, who are at least 21 years old, may use the SoberRide program by calling 800-200-8294 (TAXI). Nine different taxi cab services participate in the program. This last New Year's Eve, Sober Ride provided 468 free rides home. Arrangements cannot be made in advance and SoberRide will only deliver individuals to a residence or hotel -- not to another party or bar. SoberRide will not provide rides for individuals under the age of 21 as it is illegal for them to consume alcohol. In addition, WRAP has other adult outreach programs. WRAP's Safe and Vital Employees (SAVE) business/military outreach program brings traffic safety rights into the workplace. The goal of the 45 minute program is to keep employees and military personnel safe, healthy, and productive while helping to reduce health insurance, workers' compensation costs, and other related expenses. Each year, WRAP holds a Law Enforcement Awards of Excellence for Impaired Driving Prevention program, which honors law enforcement officers in the Greater Washington area for their work in impaired driving prevention. WRAP also publishes a corporate guide for safe driving and safe celebrating. The 12-page publication provides information on the area's drunk driving laws, related facts, statistics, and party tips.

The third focus of WRAP is its advocacy efforts. For example in 2006, WRAP secured both the doubling of penalties for underage drunk drivers and increased penalties for persons driving with high blood alcohol concentration levels in Maryland and increasing the penalties for both underage drinkers and those unlawfully furnishing alcohol to teenagers in Virginia. In 2007, WRAP successfully advocated for the creation of Maryland's Task Force to Combat Driving Under the Influence of Drugs and Alcohol (and now serves on this task force), strengthening ignition interlock requirements for driving under the influence offenders in Virginia, and championing the re-criminalization of underage drinking in the District of Columbia. In addition, WRAP is a registered lobbyist in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

The fourth focus of WRAP is its public education efforts. WRAP serves as an educational resource to public and private sector organizations, businesses, and institutions throughout the year. For example, WRAP serves as the project director for Checkpoint Strikeforce, an annual law enforcement and public education effort to effectively detect and arrest drunk drivers. WRAP also publishes an annual report, "How Safe are Our Roads," which reports on highway safety with respect to drunk driving in the Washington metropolitan area.

Committee Reports

At the end of his presentation, Mr. Erickson commented that WRAP's success can be measured by the increased number of SoberRides that have been requested in recent years, the strength of the Checkpoint Strikeforce campaign, and the fact that the number of deaths due to drunk driving in the Washington metropolitan area have been cut in half in recent years.

After the presentation, the Chair continued with the monthly review of the reductions offered by the various Fairfax County Public Safety agencies in response to the anticipated funding shortfall for the FY 2010 Budget. The month there was a review of the LOBs of the Fairfax County General District Court (GDC). The County Executive directed GDC to review its lines of business (LOBs) in detail to identify priorities, and to recommend budget reductions/cuts equivalent to 15% of its adopted FY 2009 budget. For GDC, the proposed reduction is \$363,625. The GDC is largely State funded. The Magistrate's Office is State funded but receives a County supplement for magistrate salaries. The County Services Division of the GDC is County funded. There are four units of the Court Services Division: Pretrial Evaluation Unit, Supervision Unit, Administrative Unit, and the Volunteer/Intern Unit. A significant percentage of the funding is directed funding which is not touchable. As a result there is very little flexibility in offering LOB reductions. The first item offered is the Magistrate supplement which is expected to be an allocation of \$321,551 for FY2010. The second item offered is the Volunteer Coordinator Position. This position is responsible for coordinating the approximately 41 volunteers that provide a very effective cost saving program.

The Chair gave a brief update on the Beacon Project – Fairfax County's effort to establish a Delancey St. replication. In 2005, OAR received an earmark of \$500,000 in the Federal FY 2005 budget to begin the replication. It took two years to develop a program unique to Fairfax County. The purpose is to provide persons involved with the court, who are intent on turning their lives around, with the opportunity to join a self-contained unit where they can work together to overcome their substance abuse and learn life skills that will make them law abiding, productive members of society. Last year the first four members were selected. A home was leased in Chantilly. Training was begun for the construction industry and for catering. One member dropped out. A second relapsed and was dropped. The remainder are continuing and progressing. The problem now is that the funding has run out. Senator Webb has indicated he will try to get more funding. In the interim, OAR will continue the program with its limited funding; however, there is not enough funding to bring in new members at this time.

An update was provided on the effort to meet with Battalion Chief Roatch concerning proposed improvements to the providing of CERT training services. The meeting has again been delayed due scheduling conflicts among the committee members who want to meet with Chief Roatch. It is now planned to schedule a meeting in January. He has agreed to come to the Mount Vernon District.

The next Public Safety Committee meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, February 5 in the Supervisor's Conference Rm., Mount Vernon Governmental Center.

TRANSPORTATION

The Transportation Committee, MVCCA met on Monday, January 5, 2009 in the Library of the Walt Whitman Middle School. The meeting was chaired by Catherine M. Voorhees. Attending were Katherine Ward (co-chair), Bryon Johnston (PCC/Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project), Jennifer Aument (Trans-Urban HOT lanes), Young Ho Chang (VDOT consultant for I-95/395 HOT lanes project) and representatives of 19 member citizen associations (Belle Haven Terrace, Engleside, The Fairfax/Huntington, Hollin Hall Village, Montebello, Mount Vernon Manor, Mount Vernon on the Potomac, Pavilions at Huntington Metro, Potomac Valley-River Bend, Riverside Gardens, Southwood, Stratford Landing, Sulgrave Manor, Waynewood, Wellington Civic, Wellington Heights, Wessynton, Williamsburg Manor North, Woodland Park, Woodley Hills).

Byron Johnston, Woodrow Wilson Bridge Community Relations -

The bridge is fully operational (5 travel lanes in each direction). Byron Johnston's commute from MD 210 to Telegraph Road was 30 minutes before the bridge was fully opened. Now, the trip between the two points is 4 minutes. A committee member remarked how his commute to the DC Naval Base off of I-295 now moves at 20 mph compared to the stop and go traffic before due to the back-up on the bridge. Byron Johnston indicated that the WWB project would like to hear positive comments, as well as problem areas (johnstonb@wwbgcc.com).

Route 1 N will have its own lane onto the bridge. Route 1 S will be an add-on lane. The paving on Route 1 is mostly complete. However, the two left turn lanes are not opened yet due to signal work and regarding that is needed. The left-turn lanes should be open this spring.

The Pedestrian/Bike path near the Hampton Inn cannot open until an overhead sign is installed and pooling of water issues are resolved. The bike path is on the City of Alexandria scenic side and on the Maryland side would enable bikers to ride to National Harbor.

Thru and local lanes: Committee members requested that adequate signage be installed in advance of the thru and local lanes to allow vehicles to be in the correct position (eliminate swerving at the last minute members have seen). If one takes the Thru lanes, their first exit is at the Eisenhower Avenue connector road. VDOT is constructing an exit from the Thru lanes at Mill Road. After this exit is completed, the Eisenhower Avenue connector road will be closed for about 6 months. Suggestions were offered to assist travelers to get into the correct lane by using dedicated pavement markers (shield for Rt. 1, Mt. Vernon, etc.) in addition to a series of signs. However, another view was that pavement markers could distract drivers. Bryon indicated VDOT regulations would have to be followed.

Jug handle at the automobile dealership does not have final pavement markings. Committee members requested temporary markings because vehicles make a left-hand turn from both lanes, instead of going straight to Fort Hunt Road. Committee members remarked that the intersection was unsafe and an accident waiting to happen.

Committee Reports

With the new flyovers created by the WWB project, how is VDOT going to handle the de-icing of these roads when icy weather occurs? Bryon indicated that VDOT handles maintenance of these roads.

Telegraph Road Interchange - East Road is a new road that replaces Burgundy Road. Flyovers under construction are to open in late spring/early summer 2009. In Fall 2010, a flyover from the outer loop to Kings Highway should open. The ramp at Pershing Drive to Hoffman Drive is open that should enable bike/pedestrian traffic to Hoffman Center via the Holiday Inn.

Replanting will be one of the last things done for the project. Questions were raised about the Cameron Run flooding issue and measures that the WWB project is taking to correct the problem. Bryon noted that the beltway is being raised in the area that had been flooded in the past. With respect to the sediment, the WWB project used silt fences; but even still the WWB project has photographic documents showing that sediment in Cameron Run changed over time. Like too many areas, clean-up will not occur by entities working in the region because, instead of fixing the problem, fingers are pointed to other entities. Co-chair Katherine Ward stated that citizens do not care who is at fault, they just want ACTION, the removal of sediment deposits.

Young Ho Chang, VDOT consultant for the HOT lanes project

The I-395/I-95 HOT lanes project will expand the existing 28 mile HOV lane to 3 lanes from Eads Street (Pentagon) to Maxapponex, Virginia with a private/public partnership. Unlike the beltway HOT lanes project, VDOT will receive a \$195 million concession from the private partner, Flur-Transurban. The Northern Section from Eads Street to Garrisonville Road in Stafford County has the NEPA (environmental report) completed, the regional transit study is complete and a bus rapid transit study is underway. A public meeting will be scheduled on February 9, 10 and 11, 2009. The locations and times have not been finalized, but should be advertised in the newspaper.

HOV drivers on the HOT lanes would not have to pay a toll. Only vehicles under 3 passengers need to pay a toll. The toll will be based on a mathematical formula that takes into consideration the speed of traffic, distance between vehicles, number of vehicles traveling on the HOT lanes and Jen Aument indicated the toll could start at 10 cents per mile and increase to as much as a \$1 per mile. The idea is to keep the HOV/HOT lanes moving by controlling the amount on non-HOV drivers by increasing the toll.

11 new access (and departure?) points will be added to the HOV/HOT lanes. A transponder that allows one to select HOV (3 or more riders ride for free) or HOT lanes (charged the toll). Cameras and transponder readers will be installed above the lanes to check the number of occupants of a vehicle (for HOV travelers) or to charge vehicles' transponders the toll for HOT lane travelers. No transponder, a law enforcement officer is still required for a VA ticket. However, plans are to send suspected violators a photo with the car license plate.

If you forget your transponder (your car is in the shop and you are driving a rental) or forget to change the transponder from HOV mode to HOT mode, the private partner will provide a telephone number and/

or a website to report these types of honest mistakes. The private partner Transurban explained that they were looking for violators who purposely cheat the system and will provide travelers the ability to report honest mistakes so that their transponders are corrected debited, instead of receiving a notice of violation in the mail.

It was noted that public involvement was lacking in the beltway HOT lanes project as the presentation was THIS is what you are getting, Ho Chang explained that the I-95/I-395 HOT lane project will have public meetings on February 9, 10 and 11, 2009. The chair will be notified of the times and places.

Old Business

Richmond Highway Corridor - Is the MVCCA out of step with the community? During a VDOT briefing concerning the Richmond Highway Speed Study with Senator Toddy Puller, Delegate Kris Amundson, Delegate Sickles, representatives for Senator Barker, Delegate Englin and Supervisor Hyland, I was asked what the community wanted for Richmond Highway. I responded that road improvements have been needed for 20 years and during this time, despite the Comprehensive Plan reciting 9 priorities for Richmond Highway, the projects have been few and far between. I stated that VDOT should close a number of curb cuts on Richmond Highway so that there would be less stop and go traffic during rush hour. Our delegate responded "that the MVCCA Transportation committee" was out of touch with the community. Brett Kenney stated that Supervisors Hyland, as well as the Lee District Supervisor believe road improvements will make a difference in the number of crashes on Richmond Highway and requested the same.

VDOT made the argument that closing curb cuts would require costly storm water controls (that cost millions of dollars). My response was that the storm water control system for Richmond Highway basically dumped trash in all of the watersheds that cross Richmond Highway. VDOT then stated that they did not own the right of way to close curb cuts. The result of this meeting was that the state senators and delegates thought that VDOT needed to go back to the communities and the businesses (Chamber of Commerce), explain that Richmond Highway is the worst road in terms of crashes and injuries in the Commonwealth (50% more crashes than the next road) and ask for solutions to the problem.

Transportation Committee members indicated that there are those that want pedestrian safety and those that want free-flow of traffic. However, both of these objectives can be solved by improvements to Richmond Highway, including a pedestrian bridge for safe crossing. The chair is aware of a horse trail bridge in Green River, Wyoming that enables horse travelers, as well as pedestrians and bicyclists, to cross a railroad and/or a road. If Green River, Wyoming can provide a horse pedestrian bridge with gradual ramps, why should the Commonwealth of Virginia (and Fairfax County) not provide the same safe crossing for its residents?

Meeting was adjourned at 10:10 p.m. Our next meeting will be February 2, 2009 at Walt Whitman Middle School Library at 8 p.m.

Committee Reports

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AFFORDABLE AND WORKFORCE HOUSING

The following community organizations were represented at the January 5th meeting held at the Mount Vernon Government Center: Collingwood on the Potomac, Hollin Hills Civic Assn., Mason Hill, Riverside Estates CA, Stratford Landing, Stratford on the Potomac Sec. IV, Sulgrave Manor, Woodley Hills Civic Assn. Woodley Hills Estates and MVCCA Education Com. Patrick Rea MVCCA Co-chair and Elisabeth Lardner FCRHA also attended.

The Committee has begun the task of reviewing the County Comprehensive Plan. The initial discussion was about the priorities of the review. Co-chair Jeszyszky recommended that the initial work be on the policy plan to see whether there are adequate provisions to include affordable housing in further development in the County. Three committee volunteers and the Co-chair are meeting twice a month to detail the work. Any recommendations developed will be presented to the Committee.

As part of the review, it was decided to invite a representative from the County Zoning Division to get a better understanding of zoning limitations. For example - what the limitations are for subdividing a home? - creating an accessory structure; or how many related people can occupy a single family home - how many unrelated people? Action is underway to arrange for a representative for the next meeting. The Committee members offered suggestions for specific questions to be addressed at the meeting. A summary of the questions will be distributed to the members for review and comment.

It was reported that the next County presentation on the North Hill has been delayed until March in order to allow time for the County to present cost figures for the development.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for **Thursday, January 29, 2009** at 7 pm, at the Mount Vernon Government Center.

Committee Resolutions

EDUCATION

MVCCA EDUC 2009-1: In Support of Option 4 Changes to High School Grade Policies

1 WHEREAS, in response to questions raised by parents, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) conducted an investigation ("Investigation") of current high school grading policies both as to grade point scales and weighting of advanced course grades in order to determine if FCPS policies unfairly disadvantaged Fairfax County students in seeking college admission, or in selection for college honors programs or merit-based scholarships, and, if so, to provide options for addressing any imbalance; and

2 WHEREAS, the Investigation resulted in a Report, submitted to FCPS Superintendent Dr. Jack Dale in December 2008 ("Report") and thereafter Dr. Dale released his Recommendation as a School Board Agenda Item for the January 8, 2009, Regular meeting ("Dale's Recommendation") for action by the School Board; and

3 WHEREAS, the Report found that:

(1) the FCPS grading scale is more restrictive than the 10-point scale most commonly used in the United States (example: requiring 94 for a grade of "A" as opposed to 90) and results in a lower distribution of Grade Point Averages ("GPA") in both the upper and lower ends of the achievement spectrum compared to other school divisions;

(2) the FCPS policy on awarding weight points to advanced classes such as AP and IB (.5) is more restrictive than that more commonly in use (1.0) and results in lower GPAs for students taking such classes compared to other jurisdictions;

(3) while many factors are used in college admission procedures as well as in honors program and merit scholarship decisions, GPA is a very important factor and FCPS students are probably negatively impacted in honors and scholarship decisions although study limitations did not allow definitive evaluation of admission procedure impacts;

(4) there is no data-driven consensus on whether stricter grading policies encourage higher achievement but weighted scales for challenging classes do encourage participation; and

4 WHEREAS the Report provided four options: (1) No Change; (2) Change weights only to .5 for Honors and 1.0 for AP/IB; (3) Change scale only to 10-point, and (4) change both weights and scale; and

5 WHEREAS Dale's Recommendation proposed adoption of Option 2 (increasing weights for advanced classes only) which, while it would assist and encourage students taking high level courses, would address neither the overall GPA issue for core classes nor the disadvantaged position of middle ground students; and

6 WHEREAS comprehensive and longitudinal studies relied on in the Report have also concluded that four factors are primarily used in college admissions decisions (in order): grades in college preparatory courses, strength of the curriculum, standardized test scores, and high school GPA, and that even small disparities in GPA may determine college acceptance or rejection; and

Committee Resolutions

7 WHEREAS, the ever-increasing college applicant pool is out-pacing available seats, and thus both increasing competition for admission and forcing colleges to rely more heavily on mathematical cut scores and less on individual evaluation, at a time when rising higher education costs have also fueled concern nationwide about the effects of grading policies on college admissions, receipt of merit-based scholarships, and placement into honors programs; and

8 WHEREAS, most divisions, inside and outside Virginia, already use a 10-point grading scale, of those States seeking to make state-wide policy most have chosen the 10-point scale, and both the federal government and The College Board report high school GPA using a 10-point grading scale in the absence of information from schools for data gathering and program purposes, so that the FCPS policy is rapidly becoming outdated and thus subject to misinterpretation particularly by out-of-state colleges; and

9 WHEREAS Fairfax County citizens have an interest not only in assuring that high standards are maintained but also in assuring that students are not placed at competitive disadvantage in seeking admission to college, to honors programs or in receiving scholarships; and

10 WHEREAS over 8,000 citizens have signed a petition effectively requesting adoption of Option 4, which would eliminate competitive disadvantage and bring FCPS policies in line with current nationwide trends,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED based on all of the above that the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations urges the Fairfax County School Board to adopt Option 4 and establish a 10-point scale for high school grades, add a .5 weight for honors classes, increase the weight for AP/IB courses to 1.0, and make any other alterations needed to bring policies in line with other school divisions in order to reduce competitive disadvantage for Fairfax County students while maintaining high academic standards.

MVCCA EDUC 2009-2: In Support of South County Middle School

1 WHEREAS Fairfax County Public School ("FCPS") staff have recommended that a stand-alone of South County Middle School be included in the FY2010-2014 Capital Improvement Plan ("CIP") to be adopted by the Fairfax County School Board in January 2009; and

2 WHEREAS construction of South County Middle School ("SCMS") not later than the currently proposed completion date of December 31, 2011 would alleviate severe overcrowding at South County Secondary School ("SCSS"), would permit SCSS to be returned to its originally intended function as a high school thereby increasing its capacity, and would eliminate the current need for continual boundary adjustments, splitting of communities, transportation problems, and fragmenting of student educational experiences to address continued area growth and overcrowding; and

3 WHEREAS the area surrounding the current SCSS and the proposed SCMS is among the fastest growing in the County and its close proximity to Ft. Belvoir makes it likely that such growth will increase as a result of on-going Base Realignment and Closure ("BRAC") activities; and

4 WHEREAS BRAC will likely also impact schools now receiving "overflow" from SCSS (Hayfield, Lake Braddock, West Springfield), so that failure to promptly construct SCMS and return SCSS to high school status may exacerbate overcrowding in surrounding schools as well as SCSS; and

5 WHEREAS because construction of the current SCSS was made possible in part by a public-private partnership which also envisioned prompt construction of the promised middle school, and similar efforts are underway to assist in construction of SCMS, inclusion on the CIP both assists and encourages those efforts and fulfills the reasonable expectations of the community,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations urges the Fairfax County School Board to accept the staff recommendation to include a stand-alone South County Middle School in the FY2010-2014 Capital Improvement Plan.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PLEASE NOTE: The MVCCA Board of Directors did not approve this resolution for publication or action. It is being published at the request of the Committee Chair in accordance with the MVCCA bylaws.

HHS-09-01: 2009 "Critical Needs in Human Services"

1 WHEREAS the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations (MVCCA) has long recognized that strategic investments in human services programs can and do save public funds by minimizing need for more costly responses to community crises;

2 WHEREAS Fairfax County has a long record of combining local with state and federal funds to support effective programs that are valued and demanded by County residents;

3 WHEREAS many publicly supported programs provide human services so essential that they are mandated through Federal or State statutes, such as: services for children, under the Comprehensive Services Act and foster care; certain services in public health, mental health and mental retardation; early intervention and child and adult protective services; and some services for senior citizens; and **whereas** state funding to maintain these programs cannot be reduced further without shifting a significant additional burden to localities, unless state requirements are also reduced;

Committee Resolutions

4 WHEREAS declining state revenues and county revenues, in the midst of a national economic downturn, are threatening to weaken the safety net for many of our most vulnerable citizens, now at the very moment of increasing need; and

5 WHEREAS County staff prepared for approval by the Board of Supervisors a DRAFT *2009 Fairfax County Legislative Program* that included a *Supplement*, an Issue Paper titled *Critical Needs in Human Services*; and this DRAFT *Program* for County advocacy with Commonwealth officials and agencies was posted on the County's web site and distributed by Supervisor Hyland to the MVCCA General Council in November 2008; and the *Supplement* on human services was also distributed to MVCCA's Health and Human Services Committee in December for consideration as described in their Report to the January *MVCCA RECORD*;

6 WHEREAS the Issue Paper *Critical Needs in Human Services* recommends for remedial actions at the State level (1) historically underfunded mandatory programs that are being weakened as populations in need grow and (2) particular health and human services where cuts in State funding will be especially short-sighted and counter-productive now, increasing both state and local costs over time;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations expresses support for the Issue Paper *Critical Needs in Human Services*, now approved by the Board of Supervisors as part of the *2009 Fairfax County Legislative Program*, and commends this statement of recommended state actions to the attention of our elected state legislators in the 2009 Virginia General Assembly.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, January 28, 8 p.m.
Walt Whitman Middle School
Jack Knowles Lecture Hall

AGENDA

Call to Order

- Approval of Secretary's Minutes
- Approval of Treasurer's Report
- Committee Reports
- Co-Chair's Report on Board Actions

Published Items and Resolutions

New Business

- Member Association Representatives' Time
- MV Supervisor's Time
- Other Elected Representatives and Public Time

Adjournment

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

MVCCA Board—Feb 12, 7:30 p.m., Sherwood Hall Library

Comm	Date	Time	Place	Chair
AWH	1/29	7:00	MVGC	Jeszenszky/McCormick
BUDG	2/4	7:30	WWMS	D. Voorhees
COAF	2/11	7:30	WWMS	Cox
EDUC	2/4	8:00	WWMS-MC	Harbeck
E&R	2/4	7:00	SCGC-Rm219	Plummer
H/HS	2/3	7:30	IMVH-C/D	Cleveland
PL/Z	2/2	7:30	WWMS-LH	Dale, Acting Chair
PSAF	2/5	7:30	MVGC	Shawkey
SP	To Be Announced			Cohn
TRAN	12/2	8:00	WWMS	C. Voorhees

**HHS joint meeting with Route One Task Force for Human Services. Regular HHS meeting will NOT take place on 1/4, Election Day. Details page 6.*

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