



Mount Vernon  
Council  
of Citizens'  
Associations

# Record

By Subscription \$15 Per Year

Volume XLI, No. 3, March 2009

**MVCCA COUNCIL MEETING**  
**February 25, 2009 8 p.m.**  
**Walt Whitman School Cafeteria**

**PRESIDING:** Co-chair David Dale.

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

Representatives from Belle Haven Terrace, Collingwood on the Potomac, Engleside, The Fairfax, Hollin Glen, Hollin Hall Village, Hollin Hills, Huntington, Marlan Forest, Mount Vernon on the Potomac, Mount Zephyr, New Gum Springs, Newington, Newington Forest, River Towers, Riverside Estates,

Stratford Landing, Stratford on the Potomac IV, Sulgrave Manor, United Voice at Kings Crossing, Waynewood, Wellington, Wellington Heights, Wessynton, William H. Randall, Williamsburg Manor North, Woodley Hills, Woodley Hills Estates.

**MINUTES** – Accepted as printed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – Accepted as printed.

**SUPERVISOR'S TIME**

Supervisor Hyland reports that Board of Supervisors, citing the economy, voted not to purchase the King's Crossing property. Re: County Budget: Real estate assessments are down an average of 12% in the county; if you did not get a notice, your assessment has not changed. There will probably be an increase in the tax rate in order to balance the budget. Most agencies have cut their budgets by 15% already, which, if no way is found to prevent it, will result in the loss of 57 police, a significant number of firefighters, decreased hours at the Libraries.

The County Executive will meet next week with the Budget Committee to discuss the proposed budget; meeting is open to the public.

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**MVCCA BOARD**

Co-Chairs	David Dale .....	703-765-8247
	Patrick Rea .....	703-385-3322
	Katherine Ward .....	703-627-8782
Treasurer	Tonda Phalen.....	703-768-7091
Secretary	Carol Coyle .....	703-780-7955
Editor	<i>vacant</i> .....	
BUDG	David Voorhees .....	703-765-7551
COAF	Queenie Cox.....	703-360-2414
EDUC	Judy Harbeck .....	703-780-1883
E&R	David Plummer .....	703-360-7964
H/HS	Louise Cleveland .....	703-780-9151
PL/Z	<i>vacant</i> (David Dale, <i>Acting</i> ) .....	703-765-8247
PSAF	Dallas Shawkey .....	703-360-2185
TRANS	Catherine Voorhees .....	703-765-7551
SCAWH	John Jeszenszky.....	703-799-9635
	John McCormick .....	571-331-1066
SCSP	Frank Cohn .....	703-780-5698
FCFCA	Karen Pohorylo .....	703-780-7825
SFDC	Jim Davis .....	703-799-3278
	Tom Hook .....	703-765-6869
Webmaster	Karen Keefer.....	703-660-6699

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**2009 Gala! Save the Date—May 2, 2009!** Virginia S. Williams has been chosen as Citizen of the Year and UCM as Organization of the Year. The Gala invitation and reservation form is at the end of this Record, or download the flyer at the Council's website, [www.mvcca.org](http://www.mvcca.org). For more information, contact Carol Coyle at 703-780-7955.

**Correction to February Record Waiver Announcement:** The property on Telegraph Rd is in the Mount Vernon District not Springfield.

**Board Vacancies:** Contact co-chair if interested in applying.  
Planning and Zoning Chair  
Editor of the Record

# Council Minutes

Impact on the schools will be huge; an increase of \$.01 in the tax rate will equal another \$20,000,000 for the schools. Wessynton president Larry Zaragoza pointed out that the things that attract people to Fairfax County are the schools, safety of the area, services provided, and that this needs to be stressed to people making budget decisions.

"Gerry's Navy," the boat and crew who patrol the River from here to the Occoquan, are once again in danger of being eliminated.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Budget and Finance** – Minutes as published.

**Consumer Affairs** – Minutes as published. No meeting this month as next week is Consumer Awareness Week and there will be presentations at the Governmental Center in Fairfax, South County Governmental Center, and NVCC Annandale Campus. Still waiting for a response from Verizon.

Check Consumer Affairs website ([www.mvcca.org](http://www.mvcca.org)) for rules re: door to door solicitations.

State Senator Patsy Ticer has introduced legislation in the State Senate to prevent the unwanted delivery of newspapers. Committee chair plans to go to Richmond to testify.

GALA will be held May 2 at Mount Vernon Country Club.

Nominations for Citizen and Organization of the Year are due next week. Details of time, cost, and names of honorees will be published next month.

**Education** – Minutes as published. Next meeting will be joint with Budget Committee.

Committee chair stressed that "same money as last year" is not a satisfactory goal; an increase in the School Budget of 3.5% will result in a decrease of \$1,000 per student. There will be an additional 6,000 to 8,000 additional students; of the c.170,000 students, about 40% receive free or reduced-price lunches. State money to the schools will be less because State revenues are down. Already there are no planned raises for teachers and there have been cuts in the administration. Class size will be increased significantly resulting in less individual attention. Some high school classes (particularly vocational) will be cancelled. The end result could be lack of accreditation.

Committee would like the BOS to calculate the amount of money (and the tax rate to achieve it) needed to restore services to their current levels.

**Environment and Recreation** – Minutes as published. Committee chair had pictures of the result of "tree butchering" (topping of trees which, ultimately, causes them to die) and of the workers who do not practice adequate safety measures as required by the State. Chair stated that this is a Consumer Affairs issue as well.

He reports that he has it "on good authority" that by the end of March we will see "extraordinary changes in the Mount Vernon parking lot."

**Health and Human Services** – See minutes. Chair states that County human services are essential to quality of life for everyone, and service reductions could have impact in unexpected ways--in schools, public safety, and even environmental matters such as air quality control. She thanked John Byers, MV rep to the Human

Services Council, for taking on the tough job of "triage" among proposed reduction choices.

Upcoming meetings include a Public Forum on February 26; an ad hoc HHS Committee meeting on Saturday at 9:00 in the Board Room at IMVH to prepare a resolution; and regular committee meeting on March 3 to vote on the resolution.

**Planning and Zoning** – Minutes as published. There are two people who have volunteered to chair this committee, and Co-chairs will decide soon.

**Public Safety** – Minutes as published.

**Transportation** – Minutes as published. Next meeting on March 2 will have follow-up with Kathy Richter.

Mulligan Road will not be opened until Telegraph Road is widened to accommodate the additional traffic(!)

**Affordable and Workforce Housing** – Minutes as published.

**Strategic Long-Range Planning** – In this issue of The Record Committee has published a list of "what will happen if we don't do something."

**FCFCA** – [www.betterregion.org](http://www.betterregion.org), [www.smartergrowth.net](http://www.smartergrowth.net)

Federation's Citizen of the Year is Anne Andrews from Stratford Landing.

## Treasurer's Report For Period January 1, 2009 through March 12, 2009

	Budget 2009	Actual to Date	Budget/Actual
<b>Balance Beginning Period</b>		<b>\$8,746.67<sup>1</sup></b>	
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
Dues	\$4,000	\$3,651.00	-\$349.00
Dues from new member drive	\$250	\$0.00	-\$250.00
Record Subscriptions	\$250	\$0.00	-\$250.00
Gala Income	\$4,100	\$0.00	-\$4,100.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$8,600</b>	<b>\$3,651.00</b>	<b>-\$4,949.00</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>			
Record Production <sup>2</sup>	\$3,470	\$30.87	\$3,439.13
Record Postage <sup>2</sup>	\$200	\$0.00	\$200.00
Administrative	\$300	\$130.98	\$169.02
Gala Expenses	\$3,200	\$0.00	\$3,200.00
Web Site	\$520	\$0.00	\$520.00
Miscellaneous	\$0	\$0.00	\$300.00
New Member Marketing	\$250	\$0.00	\$250.00
Insurance	\$660	\$660.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>\$8,600.00</b>	<b>\$821.85</b>	<b>\$7,778.15</b>
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>		<b>\$11,575.82</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Beginning balance results from December 2008 report ending balance minus actual expenses paid in late December for the December Record.

<sup>2</sup> Board decision to eliminate mailed copies of Record eliminates any potential income from Record subscriptions and Record Postage expenditures, as well as decreases Record Production costs; these changes were disclosed prior to Council's November vote on 2009 Budget. However, because the Editor position is vacant and it is unclear how long we may need to pay someone to put the newsletter together, this line item will remain in the budget until we have more information to adequately necessary adjustments.

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## Council Minutes

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Dominion Power's application for additional transmission lines was approved.

**SFDC** – Representative Jim Davis (Economic Development Committee) says that one problem with attracting development is that there is no high speed internet available in the Route One corridor. Jim asks that we share any visions we have --- things we would like (or not like) to see made available along Route One --- with him, and he will bring them to SFDC. [sonicarchitect@verizon.net](mailto:sonicarchitect@verizon.net)

### CO-CHAIR' REPORT

1. Appointments of Committee Chairs were ratified by acclamation.
2. Gretchen has had to resign as editor of The Record due to time constraints and travel with her new job.
3. Waivers: County regs say that waiver should be for a good reason and there should be offsetting benefits. Gerry will request that we be notified electronically when a waiver is requested.
4. Infill height problems: angle of bulk plane v. setback ratio. Discussion is ongoing; 1-2 more public meetings with the people from County P&Z.
5. Get your nominations in for Citizen and Organization of the Year.

### RESOLUTIONS

#### PZ-2009-01 PROPOSED HILLTOP SAND AND GRAVEL DEVELOPMENT (AKA WEGMAN'S)

Representative from Newington Civic Association presented a list of objections that her community has to this development, namely loss of ballfield, design issues including lack of LEEDS certification, national security issues, non-compliance with Comprehensive Plan, pond for water containment, devaluation of adjacent residential properties, and, most importantly, the traffic impact.

Newington proposed a substitute motion which was defeated 7-12-9.

Friendly amendment to strike Item 6 from the proposed Resolution was accepted.

**Resolution passed 13-10-4**

### MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS' TIME

Jean Witt, president of Woodley Hills Estates, presented a rebuttal to disparaging comments allegedly made at the Spring Bank Community meeting and reported in the Alexandria Gazette by Chuck Hagee. Spring Bank President David Dale apologized and said that he was misquoted.

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## Committee Reports

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### BUDGET AND FINANCE

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Minutes of the Budget and Finance Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, March 4, 2009 at 7:30 pm  
Walt Whitman Middle School Lecture Hall

Present: David Voorhees (Committee Chair), Hollin Hall Village, Huntington, Stratford (Sec. IV) on the Potomac, Tauxemont, , Wessynton, Williamsburg Manor, Mount Vernon Civic.

The committee meeting was attended by Mount Vernon District Supervisor Gerry Hyland; Fairfax County Executive Tony Griffin and also a surprise speaker Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Sharon Bulova.

Since the meeting was open to the public and was advertised by Gerry Hyland's office as well, the meeting was also attended by about forty persons. The informal format of the meeting allowed questions from the audience to Tony Griffin until the podium was handed over to Chairman Bulova.

Chairman Bulova expressed the board's desire to use the car sticker tax as one form of raising revenue instead of raising property taxes. She also indicated that if we can provide a groundswell of support for the meals tax, that could be included in a referendum. Also discussed was the problems associated with closing a center in Annandale which provides services for disabled adults including the possibility of providing those services at a new county facility at Braddock Glen. Both Chairman Bulova and Tony Griffin indicated that the board had no interest in raising the BPOL taxes. On the issue of county fees, Chairman Bulova indicated her concern over the exorbitant hikes in zoning appeals from the current rate of about \$350 to well over \$2000.

The Budget and Finance committee held an additional meeting on March 6, 2009 in which the proposed budget resolution was discussed with members of the board of the MVCCA and approved the current resolution. The representatives in attendance for the March 6 meeting were from Wellington, Hollin Hall Village, Huntington, Tauxemont, , Wessynton, Williamsburg Manor, Mount Vernon Civic and Collingwood on the Potomac.

The next meeting for the Budget and Finance Committee is scheduled for April 8, 2009 at 7:30 at the Walt Whitman Middle School Principal's conference room.

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### CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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No meeting for March since it was National Consumer Awareness Week.

Next meeting: April 7th at 7:30 p.m. at Walt Whitman Middle School in the Principal's conference room.

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# Committee Reports

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## EDUCATION

The MVCCA Education Committee met on March 4, 2009, at 7:30 pm in the Whitman Middle School Lecture Hall to hear a presentation of the County Advertised Budget by Anthony Griffin, County Executive, and by Sharon Bulova, Chair of the Board of Supervisors, with Gerry Hyland, Mount Vernon District Supervisor, also present. At about 8:45, the Committee reconvened in the Whitman media center. Eligible associations present included: Wessynton, Stratford Landing, Wellington, Waynewood, Potomac Valley Riverbend, Stratford on the Potomac, Hollin Hills, Sulgrave Manor, Newington Forest, Williamsburg Manor North, and Southwood. Representatives from Riverside Estates and Mt. Zephyr also attended.

The primary purpose of the meeting was to arrive at a position on appropriate funding of the FY2010 school budget from County sources and review a draft resolution previously prepared and circulated by the Chair. The Resolution printed elsewhere in this RECORD was adopted unanimously and reflects the discussions and concerns of the Committee. The original decision of the Committee was to strongly support full funding of the 3.5% school transfer increase in the School Board Advertised Budget but the Chair was given discretion to make changes as necessary to achieve unanimity with other MVCCA committee positions.

The Committee also discussed disappointment with the 1.07 maximum advertised property tax rate suggested by the County Executive in that the .03 difference between that and the "flat" revenue figure of 1.04 on which the County Advertised Budget was based was seen as inadequate to allow full public comment and Board flexibility on retention of services compared to tax burden. Members were urged to e-mail the BOS to suggest a higher rate be advertised at the 3/9 BOS meeting, in keeping with the previous adopted Resolution of MVCCA.

Unfortunately the BOS chose to advertise only 1.05 as the maximum tax rate, effectively putting an end to meaningful public input on the balance of taxes and services, which was sought out in the budget dialogues, and now effectively closed by the BOS removing its own flexibility to respond.

Next meeting: April 1, 2009, 8pm, Whitman library  
Subject to include recommendations for budget conformation to School Board [Note: may be subject to date/time change due to BOS hearings; email notice will be sent to committee members]

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## ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION

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The committee met on 11 March 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in South County Government Room 212. Present were David Plummer (chair), Hollin Hall Village, Huntington Community Association, Riverside Gardens, Spring Bank, Stratford Landing, Sulgrave

Manor, Riverside Estates, Wellington Heights, Williamsburg Manor, and Woodley Hills Community Association.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

### Watershed Review

The Chair and others reviewed the first meeting of the Watershed Advisory Group (WAG) for the Belle Haven, Dogue Creek and Four Mile Run watersheds which was held on Thursday, March 5th. The WAG provided attendees with an overview of watersheds in general as well as typical degradation in urban and developed areas. The presentation also reviewed the current health of the watersheds as well as current and future land uses. Forum facilitators asked WAG members to again identify known problem areas.

### Noise Pollution from Motorcycles

Todd Koenings from Sulgrave Manor indicated that, during the warmer weather, his family is continuously disturbed by noisy motorcycles along Route 235 heading to and from the GW Parkway, easily heard above normal activity in any part of the home. He noted that many of these motorcycles have installed mufflers that generate at least 2 to 4 times the amount of noise compared to the standard mufflers that motorcycles must be manufactured with, per federal regulations. Mr. Koenings submitted the online advertisement from a local motorcycle dealership selling "performance packages" as a very good representation of the overall problem: "Maybe you just want that awesome earth-quaking, window-rattling exhaust that sets off car alarms as you ride on by. Want to make men dive out of the way and women grab their children and head inside and lock the doors? We can help with that, too!" Mr. Koenings agreed to forward citations to the chair describing the legal considerations and acute and chronic health problems related to noise pollution.

### Tree Butchers

The Chair led the continuing discussion about tree companies servicing our neighborhoods with no apparent knowledge of proper tree maintenance. Investigations have resulted in the following facts: Virginia does not require a license for tree trimming businesses, with an approach of "buyer beware"; previous attempts to strengthen the rules for tree workers have produced no results; enforcement of business licensure is a problem; consumer education needs to be strengthened, with the International Association of Arboriculture being a good source as well as a Fairfax County pamphlet "How to Kill a Tree". The overall recommendation is that interested parties should add this subject to the County's legislative package for the next year, and the E&R work with the County consumer protection groups and with the Fairfax Federation to achieve that goal. In the meantime, residents should be aware that "topping" is an unacceptable way to prune a tree. For a reference please see this document from Virginia Tech: <http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/nursery/430-458/430-458.pdf>.

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## Committee Reports

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### Clean Water

The committee asked that Steve Atchison of Storm Water Planning be invited to update the E&R committee on current and future projects, priorities and funding.

### Budget

The committee discussed various aspects of the proposed County budget and voted to approve a handful of proposed additions and changes to the draft resolution provided by the Budget and Finance Committee. The committee was in unanimous support of the proposed Storm water Tax District and increase in the storm water fund from 1 cent to 1.5 cents. The committee unanimously voted to restore funding for the deer management program whose elimination would reverse hard-fought gains in understory tree growth. The committee also voted unanimously to note that Fairfax County has one of the lowest BPOL tax rates for developers / builders in the Commonwealth, implying that BPOL is an overlooked source of revenue. Finally, the committee voted to resolve that Fairfax County avert unacceptable losses in environmental quality by not eliminating the above-referenced programs.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the E&R committee will be held on Wednesday, April 1st, in Room 219 of the South County Government Center at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

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## HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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**On Tuesday, March 3, 7:30 PM, MVCCA Committee for Health and Human Services** met at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Engh Room to review, approve (unanimously), and forward for consideration of the March MVCCA General Council meeting, a Resolution, "FY 2010 Health and Human Services Planning," which includes an attachment, "MVCCA Recommendations to Restore Critical Health and Human Services."

Participating on March 3 were representatives from 12 member associations, 8 of whom comprised a "drafting work group" for a previous Saturday Feb. 28 meeting: Collingwood on the Potomac, Belle Haven Terrace, Hollindale, Hollin Glen, Hollin Hills, Springbank, Stratford Landing, Stratford on Potomac-Sec. IV, Wellington, Williamsburg Manor, Woodley Hills Estates, and Mount Zephyr. They were joined by MVCCA Co-chair Pat Rea.

Several committee members also participated in the Route One Task Force meeting forum on Feb. 26, when Deputy County Executive for Human Services Verdia Haywood presented "Highlights" of his analysis of the County's *FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan* and outlined impacts of its proposed widespread and severe "reductions in services," particularly among the 9 county agencies grouped as "Human Services." At this forum, Haywood and community participants discussed the proposed choices, among 15% "Reduction Options" that every agency was required to

offer (with description of likely impacts, in a prioritized list). Everyone agreed that the ROs NOT TAKEN—i.e. the services that are NOT to be reduced, but kept at level FY 2009 funding—were well selected and deserve support from advocates for good government: among them, such Human Services as the Consolidated Community Funding Pool that grants funds to effective programs operated by nonprofits, the model Juvenile Probation Houses that are studied by other jurisdictions for their success in redirecting at-risk youth toward positive life choices, and the effective Adult Substance Abuse treatment programs called Crossroads. However, the County Executive acknowledges in the *Citizen's Guide* to the Budget Plan, that to meet the mandate for a balanced Budget Plan without raising average homeowner's tax bills above FY 2009 levels (equalizing the Rate/\$100 valuation at \$1.04), that he has proposed deep and unavoidable "reductions in services" across all departments, described with admirable clarity and transparency specific reduction choices that have moderate to severe impact, and recommended to the Supervisors that they provide flexibility for the public review of these choices by selecting an "Advertised Rate" 3 cents higher than the one the Plan requires, at \$1.07.

The County Executive's *Citizen's Guide to the Advertised Budget Plan and Presentation* to the Board of Supervisors, Haywood's Human Services overview, and the Human Services Council's *Letter of Recommendations Regarding Development of the FY 2010 Budget (12/18/08)* and subsequent *Summary of Proposed Reductions to Human Services* were made available and considered in the two Committee meetings.

The HHS Committee—having reviewed these and other sources—finds that impacts of reductions in Human Services agencies (some of which are amplified by reductions in educational, public safety, and other services) are in many cases appalling, especially to those aware of the energetic efforts since 2001 to plan and build a stronger and more efficient network of services. In sum: The proposed reductions include many that will create gaps in services for very vulnerable individuals and families, weaken the public and private network of health and human services available to all, and damage the County's capacity for partnership in the strategies that may respond to emergent crises in our community—more effectively, for more people, at lower cost—in the coming year and many years to come. Among the services eliminated or diminished are proven effective programs in prevention and intervention we cannot afford to lose, especially now as demands for services grow. The stakes are high.

### The Balancing Act

Complex choices will confront the Supervisors, when they adjust and approve a Budget Plan on April 27. MVCCA's task is to make clear recommendations, among the choices that remain, that mitigate the losses we now expect — identifying services that can and must be restored, while pointing to any further revenue enhancements that will help provide a better balance.

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## Committee Reports

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The Resolution on *FY 2010 Planning* expresses recommendations to the BOS and details items for action in its attachment, *MVCCA Recommendations to Restore Critical Health and Human Services*. The total cost is \$11.73 million, and such action requires our support for enhanced revenue above the \$1.04 Rate.

Concerning revenue enhancement, the HHS Committee (considering proposed reductions in all services, not just those in human services) strongly recommended an even higher Advertised Rate than the County Executive, up to \$1.09, and the Budget Committee agreed on a recommendation of "at least \$1.07," just before the Supervisors voted March 9 on \$1.05.

Citizens and Supervisors alike must think ahead, beyond the uncertainties that are breeding fearful reactions, and the "sticker shock" of one person's tax bill compared with a neighbor's: whatever new Rate is adopted, owners of houses that dropped the *least* in *value*, assessed January 2009, will see the most increase in their next tax *bill*, and owners of houses assessed at the highest value still pay the most.

Keep this in mind: at the \$1.04 Rate required to fund the proposed Budget Plan, the owner of an AVERAGE-value home (January 2009) will pay just about the same bill as in FY 2009. At the maximum allowable rate, Advertised at \$1.05, the average homeowner would pay just one Rate Penny more, or \$25.50 a year. This one Rate Penny will yield \$20.5 million more in revenue to the General Fund, available for all restorations of services that citizens will support in the budget hearings.

### Public meetings on HHS matters:

**Monday, March 30-Wednesday, April 1, Board of Supervisor's Public Hearings on the FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan**, at the Fairfax County Governmental Center. Clerk's office, 703-324-3151

**Tuesday, April 7, 7:30 PM, MVCCA Health and Human Services Committee** meets at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Conf. Room C/D. Chair Louise Cleveland, 703 780-9151

**Thursday, April 16, 7 PM, Southeast Health Planning Task Force** meets at Mount Vernon Governmental Center Rms. 2&3, for a quarterly update on Inova Mount Vernon Hospital and the now-on-hold Lorton Healthplex. Chair Jeffrey McKay, 703 971-6262

**Thursday, April 29, 7 PM, Route One Task Force for Human Services** meets at Mount Vernon Governmental Center, Rooms 2&3, to consider outcomes of federal, State, and County decisions that will impact health and human services. Convener Anne Andrews, 703-780-1773

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## PLANNING AND ZONING

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The March 2, 2009 Planning and Zoning Committee meeting was cancelled because of snow, treacherous driving, the school was closed, the alternate location was not available, and all three

presenters requested coming in April instead. Surprisingly, there were no resolutions.

The next meeting will be Monday April 6 at 7:30pm in the Jack Knowles lecture hall of Whitman Middle School.

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## PUBLIC SAFETY

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

The chair began with a review of the meeting with Battalion Chief Roatch of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, representatives from CERT training in both Fairfax County and Alexandria, and four Public Safety Committee members to discuss the CERT training and certification of Mount Vernon District residents. The Fairfax County training is given in the western end of the County which makes travel time consuming and difficult for our residents to complete the course. It has also been difficult to get the training course scheduled for our area. In the last year we have been able to have our residents take the CERT course given by the Alexandria Fire Department just across the city limits off Route 1. There has been concern that Fairfax County has not been certifying those that complete their course. In any event, the Fairfax County CERT trainers agreed that the students who complete the Alexandria course will be certified in Fairfax County, the Fairfax County trainers will come to Mount Vernon to give the training whenever we can provide at least twelve students, and others may take the Alexandria course and be certified in Fairfax County when they complete it.

The chair continued with an update on the three bills to establish a six-member legislative subcommittee in the Virginia Assembly to study waterfowl hunting in urban and suburban areas. This is in response to the complaints of residents along the Potomac River south of Dyke Marsh to hunters shooting waterfowl near their homes. All three bills have been referred to the appropriate Committee on the Rules in each house as these Committees have responsibility for bills requesting studies. Senator Puller then learned that it might be more cost effective to ask that the Crime Commission be directed to do the study as this would not need new funding as a legislative subcommittee study would. Her bill passed the Senate in mid-February but died in the House.

The committee continued with a review of the Fairfax County Fiscal Year 2010 advertised Budget Plan presented by County Executive Tony Griffin to the Board of Supervisors on February 23, 2009. Copies of the Citizen's Guide to the Budget were given to the membership. A brief review of his presentation the night before to the MVCCA Budget Committee was made. As the committee has

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## Committee Reports

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been given most of this information at previous meetings and received a review of the Lines of Business (LOBs) reductions provided by each public safety agency, we proceeded to review the actual reductions selected by the County Executive for inclusion in his proposed budget. Tonight we began with the Police Department. We were joined by Capt. David Moyer, Commander, Mount Vernon Police Station, who provided what the impact of those reductions will be on our local police. Space precludes going over all the impacts, but the following provides the more important ones that will impact us. First, the operating funding will be deleted for the Neighborhood Watch Program. It will eliminate the Sexual Assault Free and Empowered Women (SAFE) program which provides self-defense and crime prevention training classes for women. Currently, this provides training to more the 700 women each year. The Deer and Geese Management Programs will be eliminated which is necessary to control the wildlife populations in the County. These efforts help in the reduction of deer-vehicle collisions as well as preventing the potential spread of Lyme disease.

A reduction in the allowed unscheduled overtime hours (by \$1,729,107) will have an adverse impact on the police in maintaining minimum staffing levels resulting in response delays in responding to calls for service. The detectives and officers assigned to the Criminal Investigations Bureau, Operations Support Bureau and the Criminal Investigation Sections of the Patrol Bureau often exceed their regular working hours due to extensive investigative needs/demands, and this reduction may cause a delay in the investigation of cases and their ultimate closure. Termination or reduction of popular community programs such as the Youth Driving School, DUI Checkpoints, Car Seat inspections, Alcohol Beverage Sting Operations, and Citizens Police Academy could also occur. Additionally, evening meetings, community-oriented, and career development training are likely to be curtailed.

The elimination of the Marine Unit will result in the residents having very little protection from illegal activity on the waterways in the County and have an adverse impact on boating safety. The response to water rescue operations will be delayed and the search and recovery of victims and property will be severely affected.

The elimination of the School Education Officer (SEO) Program will impact approximately 142 elementary schools. SEOs are the first line of defense in providing the education and intervention piece of the three-pronged approach to gang awareness/avoidance. The elimination of the annual Safety Patrol summer camp will have a tremendous negative impact on the safety of the school-aged youth in the County.

Another reduction which will affect Mount Vernon District is the reduction of the School Resource Officers (SRO) by half (28 positions). Two to the reductions will be applied to the SROs in our middle schools -- Carl Sandburg and Walt Whitman. SROs are an integral part of the school staff and have fostered safer schools by assisting in the investigation and removal of disruptive students.

The SROs regular contact with the students has developed trusting relationships and prevented students from becoming involved in gangs and criminal activity. These relationships have also aided in developing investigative leads and solving juvenile crimes.

Also, eliminated will be the Crime Solvers program, the Traffic Safety Program, and the Sexual Predator Enforcement and Detection (SPEAD) Team. The Victim Services Section will be reduced.

The Crime Prevention Officer (CPO) Program will be cut by half. Currently, we have two officers (MPO Cliff and SGT Davis) at out station. Among many other things, they provide our communities with support and coordination for Neighborhood and Business Watch programs, National Night Out, and the active Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC). They visit with local communities to provide safety information.

A major cut will be the elimination of the five Police Liaison Commanders (PLC) positions. The PLC and Staff Duty Officer positions are staffed 24 hours and day, seven days a week to ensure continuity of command within the Police Department. The elimination of these positions could result in the unnecessary commitment of valuable emergency resources due to the inability of the police to offer expertise to call takers regarding the classification of events and necessity of a police response. The ability to monitor major events in real time and keep duty officers up-to-date with vital information will also be adversely impacted. With the abolishment of the PLC program, the capacity of quickly respond coordinate police personnel, resources, and specialty units throughout the County could be severely delayed, especially during critical events, adversely impacting the Police collaborative relationship with multiple agencies. It should be noted that the comparable watch personnel in other agencies such as the Fire and Rescue Department and the Office of Emergency Management are also being cut, further adversely affecting the timely and effective response to emergencies in the County.

Another major cut will be the loss of the Motor Carrier Safety (MCS) Program. The loss of the four officers will adversely impact highway safety as the County will have to rely on the limited resources of the Virginia State Police to perform necessary truck inspections and removals. The State Police normally only work the interstate highways while ours work both the interstates and the other highways (including Richmond Hwy.). Three of our Police are certified to stop any truck at any time to inspect it for brakes, overweight or other infraction such as excessive driver time on the road.

The final major cut will be the loss of the six Shopping Center Officers at Tyson's Corner, Fair Oaks, and Springfield. The elimination of these positions will decrease police presence and is likely lead to an increased number of crimes committed in these malls. Police response times will increase sharply as patrol officers are called in from their normal patrols to handle a large volume of calls from the

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## Committee Reports

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malls. This is of concern in view of the recent shootings in malls and mall parking lots.

CAPT Moyer reports the station will retain the Bike Teams, Domestic Violence police, and the Cold Case Squad, as well as all the patrol officer positions. An additional concern is the impact of the requirement to reduce the number police in the Department by June 30 of this year. Normally, the Department experiences a turnover of about 80 personnel per year. They expect to normally lose 50 more by June 30. Unfortunately, they need to lose a total of about 120 officers for the year. This means they may have to let officers go.

The committee agreed that the most important officer programs to retain were the Police Liaison Commanders (PLC), Motor Carrier Safety Program, and the Shopping Center officers.

The next Public Safety Committee meeting will begin at 7:30pm Thursday, April 2 in the Mount Vernon Governmental Center in Community Rm. 3. We will continue reviewing the impact of the reductions by looking at the Fire and Rescue Department.

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### TRANSPORTATION

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The MVCCA Transportation Committee met on Monday, March 9, 2009 in the Library of the Walt Whitman Middle School. The meeting was chaired by Catherine M. Voorhees. Attending were Earl Flanagan, Mt. Vernon District Planning Commissioner; Kathy Ichter, Director, Department of Transportation for Fairfax County; Katherine Ward, MVCCA co-chair; and representatives of 17 member citizen associations (Engleside, The Fairfax/Huntington, Gum Springs; Hollin Hall Village, Montebello, Mount Vernon Manor, Mount Vernon on the Potomac, Riverside Gardens, Southwood, Stratford Landing, Sulgrave Manor, Tauxemont, Waynewood, Wellington, Wessynton, Woodland Park, Woodley Hills).

The February minutes of the Transportation Committee, as written in the Record, were approved.

Guest Speaker - Kathy Ichter, Director, Department of Transportation for Fairfax County ([kathy.ichter@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:kathy.ichter@fairfaxcounty.gov))

Kathy distributed various cross section options for U.S. 1 including four aerial photographs of various intersections along U.S. 1 from Route 235 (N) to Fort Belvoir with an overlay showing 176' and 150' footprints so the committee could visualize how property owners (businesses) would be affected.

The Right of Way (ROW) for a typical design for a 4-lane road is about 90 ft, 6-lane would be around 110-115 feet and an 8-lane about 140 feet. Generally, about each travel lane is 12 feet wide with a median to accommodate dedicated left-hand turn lanes and land for sidewalks and/or trails. The section of U.S. 1 that was

recently widened from just before Telegraph Road to Lorton is 120 feet. This cross section has a sidewalk on one side and a trail on the other side of the travel lanes.

The Current Comprehensive Plan cross section is 176' wide and would accommodate rail in the center median. Currently, all rezoned projects have to comply with the 176' ROW.

A discussion/argument followed concerning the timing of mass transit and if one lane of traffic could be removed at a later date for mass transit. Kathy Ichter explained that it would be very difficult to "take away" lanes of traffic that have been used by the public citing the history of the Dulles Access Road where the unfinished HOV lanes were "temporarily" used by regular travel and the County could not reclaimed the regular travel lanes when project was finished. Thus, the transportation committee agreed that 6 travel lanes (3 travel lanes in each direction should be built now and expansion for mass transit could occur later - increments of the improvement could with the width rather than only with the longitudinal length of the road).

The design speed for new road is typically 5 mph higher than posted. For example, U.S. 1 could be designed for up to 60 mph, but the speed would be posted at 55mph (or lower).

The question came up as to where mass transit stations could be located. If a monorail transit option was pursued in the future, the stations could be located in the new buildings. However, Kathy mentioned that the owners of the properties may not agree, a transportation committee member mentioned tax incentives could be used to persuade property users to provide the transit stations. The monorail transit station could fit into Metro at Huntington and/or Springfield).

Kathy responded to a question concerning finishing U.S. 1 in a 6-lane compact form and then adding width later as follows: Fairfax Department of Transportation can do a design prior to construction authorization provided local decisions/agreements on basic objectives are outlined.

For example, partial solution plans (6-lanes, no rail) can be started promptly.

Committee opinion: trying to include rail in middle of highway prevents decisions and prevents even starting on the desired 6 travel lane road as set forth in the comprehensive plan. Thus, the committee felt that mass transit should occur on one side of the road.

The cost estimate from 2002 for building the 6 travel lanes from just before Telegraph Road to Lorton was around \$600 million.

Comments: Today's economic climate now might enable easier acquisition of ROW than in boom times. For example, the apartment building at Backlick Road and U.S. 1 is up for sale.

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Service roads, various design changes and bus pullouts (re-access a problem for the bus) have been suggested in the past and have generated objections.

The transportation committee will draft a resolution agreeing to 6 travel lanes along U.S. 1 from the City of Alexandria to the Occoquan River with a footprint similar to that done at the Telegraph Rd to Lorton section, which will address possible expansion to include mass transit in the future. The committee will vote on the Resolution next month.

### Guest Speaker - Earl Flanagan, Mt. Vernon District Planning Commissioner

Commissioner Flanagan provided a history of the quest to widen U.S. 1 to 6 travel lanes from the Beltway to Fort Belvoir. A County Bond that was approved by Fairfax County voters in 1988 was directed to fund the widening of U.S. 1. Initially, the money was used to install grass/vegetation median plots instead of gravel. Then, the overhead wires were removed, and massive arms were installed for signals, etc. About \$800,000 remained from the bond and it would be necessary to update the old design plans. Since there was not money to build the widened infrastructure, Senator Puller said the bond money should be saved for other U.S. 1 related items.

A Richmond Highway Corridor study was conducted from Alexandria to Quantico. Project A (Southern portion), Project B (mid portion) and Project C (Northern Portion - Beltway to Fort Belvoir). The community complained about HOV lanes, so VDOT dropped those.

A center line study, whether to push Richmond Highway East or West was conducted. The study showed how highway expansion impacted 70 businesses: no frontage loss, some frontage loss, frontage and partial building loss, and total lot loss. There were a number of businesses in each category.

A transit study was requested by the Virginia Department of Rail and Transit for Richmond Highway. Perhaps, because of the narrow ROW between Woodlawn Stables and the Woodlawn Plantation. The Woodlawn Plantation is an historic district and they own the land on both sides of U.S. 1. Woodlawn Plantation has objected to given up real estate in the past. The Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan calls for mass transit from Alexandria to Fort Belvoir. Can this be achieved with a smaller foot print at Woodlawn Plantation?

Commissioner Flanagan showed a slide showing a 6 travel lane with a very small median. The northbound and southbound lanes would also be in different planes. Thus, the 6-lane travel highway can be built. And, with the opening of the Army Museum at Fort Belvoir, it would be possible to move mass transit (monorail) to the Army Museum.

Light Rail is limited to a maximum 4% grade. Thus, major cuts would be required to allow Light Rail to travel from Beacon Hill to Hybla Valley. But, monorail can handle up to 10% grades. The MVCCA has generated a recommendation: monorail along U.S. 1 (cost estimated at \$210 Million). The monorail could turn right onto Old Mill Road just before the Woodlawn Plantation and then follow Poole Rd into Ft Belvoir.

If mass transit were to be achieved via Metro rail, a tunnel underneath Beacon Hill from the end of the tunnel past Huntington Station would be required and would have cost \$480 Million to a proposed Beacon Hill station. It was estimated that Metro rail would cost \$900 Million to Fort Belvoir.

Frank Cihak of Southwood CA will draft a resolution from transportation committee recommending 6 lanes from Rt 235 (N) thru Fort Belvoir with a hint at design of monorail (for future mass transit on the Richmond Highway Corridor).

Old Business - VDOT Speed Study. VDOT will address the Transportation Committee at our April 6, 2009 Meeting.

New Business - Old Groveton School Site on Richmond Highway in the Lee District. This project is requesting a right in/right out access. County staff recommended denial for excellent Route 1 reasons. The planning staff, in reaction, recommended approval of a right-in access (proffer #3). After a discussion concerning the impact of congested traffic on Route 1 to the Mount Vernon District, the committee voted to concur with staff's denial of the right out amendment to the approved final plans. See the accompanying Resolution.

No volunteers stepped up for reviewing MVCCA nominations to the Comprehensive Plan.

Adjourn

VDOT will attend the April 6, 2009 Transportation Committee meeting to discuss the Richmond Highway Speed Study. We meet at the Walt Whitman Middle School Library @ 8pm.

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### SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING

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The Special Committee for Strategic Planning met at 7 PM on Monday, March 9, 2009 in Classroom B-43, Walt Whitman Intermediate School. Attending were: Co-Chairs David Dale, Pat Rea, Katherine Ward and Committee members John Byers, Kahan Dhillon, Sheldon Hoening, Don Martin, Eleanor Quigley and Frank Cohn (Chair).

The Assumptions published in the February 09 Record were reviewed for added comments/changes. The only comment received

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## Committee Reports

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indicated the omission of New Alexandria in Item #17. The wording of Item #17 was changed to read: "Low lying areas in the District will continue to flood". This should include all contingencies.

It was decided to proceed with referring the 20 Assumptions Items to applicable Committees for their consideration. The drafted document, to be given to respective Committee Chairs, indicates the agreed upon referrals.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled from 7-9 PM on Monday, April 13, 2009 to be held in Classroom B-43 in the Walt Whitman Middle School.

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### SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AFFORDABLE AND WORKFORCE HOUSING

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The Committee met for its regular monthly meeting on February 26, 2009. The following community organizations were represented: Engleside Assn., Hollin Hills Civic Assn., Mount Zephyr, Riverside Estates, Stratford on the Potomac Sec. IV, United Voice of Kings Crossing, Wessynton, Woodley Hills Civic Assn., and Woodley Hills Estates. Also present were a representative of the MVCCA Education Com., and Elisabeth Lardner FCRHA.

The committee reviewed and approved the minutes of the January 29 meeting. Initial discussion concerned the resolution introduced at the January 29 meeting by Spring Bank. A written summary of comments regarding the resolution was distributed to the members of the committee and was approved as written. A copy of the comments will be sent to Spring Bank since the association was not present at the meeting. A copy of the comments will be posted on the web site and also attached to these minutes. Several members stressed the importance of maintaining support of the May 23, 2007 resolution of the MVCCA on North Hill that the Spring Bank resolution seeks to counter. It was explained that the North Hill resolution was approved by the MVCCA because it was carefully crafted to include varying interests but most importantly to provide for needed affordable housing on land designated for that purpose. All members present were unanimous in their support for the May 23, 2007 MVCCA resolution and the North Hill development.

The chairman explained that the review of the Comprehensive Plan found the policy and guidance provided adequately for the development of affordable housing in the County. He proposed the committee should consider developing resolutions that suggest modification of existing ordinances allowing greater flexibility in providing additional living accommodations in existing structures. Committee volunteers will further explore suggested possibilities.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Thursday, March 26, 2009 at 7 pm, at the Sherwood Hall Library, Conference Rm. #2.

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## Committee Resolutions

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### BUDGET & FINANCE

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#### **BF-2009-01: MVCCA Recommendations on the Fairfax County FY 2010 Budget, As Advertised**

**1. WHEREAS**, the Fairfax County Executive has presented the FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan for Fairfax County, which complies with the Board of Supervisors (BOS) budget guidance; and,

**2. WHEREAS**, the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations (MVCCA) congratulates the Board of Supervisors and the County Executive on the level of outreach to the citizens of the county by holding community budget meetings and further for the transparency of the process of developing the FY 2010 Advertised Budget through the published lines of business review, however the proposed assessment tax rate may be inadequate to fund basic county services; and,

**3. WHEREAS**, the worldwide economic downturn has created unprecedented reductions in revenue in both the Commonwealth of Virginia and Fairfax county which has required careful consideration of county services and the elimination of many county personnel and programs; and,

**4. WHEREAS** the Fairfax County Advertised Budget Plan presented to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS) on February 23, 2009 proposes to address the significant reduction in revenue sources for FY 2010 by, among other proposals, increasing the property assessment tax rate to \$1.04 and by reducing, reengineering, reorganizing, redesigning and eliminating various County lines of business (LOB); and,

**5. WHEREAS**, the MVCCA fully supports the proposed stormwater tax district and the 1.5 cent funding thereof; and,

**6. WHEREAS**, the MVCCA is in agreement that the programs and personnel retained by the FY 2010 Advertised Budget are essential and should be maintained. The MVCCA further believes that the following additional programs and positions are also essential and \$61,226,331 in additional revenue is necessary to fund these additional programs and positions identified below; and,

**7. WHEREAS**, access to libraries for both adults and children is an essential service particularly in view of the fact that library use has increased during the present economic downturn and therefore the MVCCA supports adding \$5.133 million back to the budget to fund the libraries; and,

**8. WHEREAS**, Fairfax County has taken steps to preserve trees and increase tree cover, the MVCCA wants to protect this progress and avoid destruction of tree understory growth by recommending funding in the amount of \$126,959 be restored to the Fairfax County Police Department for deer management and no reduction in Urban Forestry Management; and

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**9. WHEREAS**, the FY 2010 advertised budget includes a group of proposed reductions that appears to have particularly severe and long-lasting impact on the health and human services network, and the MVCCA recommends full restoration of these critical services, and estimates that damage to these essential services may be mitigated through taxpayer support for further revenue enhancement totaling \$11,730,872; and,

**10. WHEREAS**, in FY2010 and the foreseeable near future, Fairfax County will continue to face the challenge of increasing public needs as well as mandates for many public services, coupled with continuing risk of falling revenues, and whereas County leadership and investments in the health and human services network now build upon and seek to improve the efficiency of prevention and interventional strategies that offer our best hope of effective response to emergent community crises; and,

**11. WHEREAS**, one of the funding sources in the proposed increases is 001-90-Revenue (Revenue Enhancement: Revise false alarm security alarm violation fee scale) which will not only provide additional revenue but increase the fees to better deter false alarm occurrences which engender waste of police patrol time and resources; and,

**12. WHEREAS**, the LOB Reduction Number 001-90-344 Eliminate Police Liaison Commanders (PLC) Program (at \$532,855) will eliminate five positions which are now staffed twenty four hours a day, seven days a week to ensure continuity of command within the Police Department eliminating the capacity to quickly coordinate police personnel, resources, and specialty units throughout the County with the result that these could be severely delayed, especially during critical events, adversely impacting the Department's collaborative relationships with multiple agencies; and,

**13. WHEREAS**, the LOB Reduction Number 001-90-350 Eliminate Motor Carrier Program (at \$316,948) will eliminate the Program by abolishing four Police officer positions at the Traffic Division of the Operations Support Bureau which will seriously impact highway safety as the County would have to rely solely on the Virginia State Police's limited resources to perform necessary truck inspections and removals on the interstate highways but who do not perform those functions at all on other highways such as Rtes. #1, #7, #29, #50, and #123; and it should be noted that three of the County officers are Federally certified and have the authority to stop any vehicle to ascertain its condition; and,

**14. WHEREAS**, the LOB Reduction Number 001-90-352 Eliminate Shopping Center Officers at Tyson's, Fair Oaks, and Springfield (at \$464,346) will decrease visible police presence and likely lead to an increased number of crimes committed in these areas as the current officers have developed expertise in handling the unique and complex types of crimes that occur in the malls such as check and credit card fraud, forgery, and serial shoplifting which will be

lost, the shopping center units also serve as a point of coordination for the proactive seasonal anti-theft teams that are effective each year at apprehending career criminals and recovering stolen property, and police response times will rise sharply as patrol officers will be called in from their normal duties to handle the large volume of calls in the shopping centers, all of this will adversely impact public safety within these malls with the result that customer usage and sales within these malls will suffer significantly; and,

**15. WHEREAS**, the LOB Reduction Number 001-91-355 Close the Satellite Intake Centers at the Mount Vernon District Station and the Mason District Station (\$599,800) will result in the elimination of six Deputy Sheriff II positions at the satellite prisoner intake centers run by the Sheriff's Office, and will require Police officers to transport prisoners to the Adult Detention Center rather than to their District Stations with the result that each transit will require an approximate three hour round trip during which these officers will be away from his/her District duties and where multiple same time period transits will significantly reduce Police presence and capabilities in the District(s) affected; and,

**16. WHEREAS**, the LOB Reduction Number 001-85-2009 Eliminate Magistrate Supplement (\$321,551) will eliminate the pay supplement provided to approximately 23 full time and two part time Magistrates to address their low pay which is below the entry level of Police officers, Deputy Sheriffs, and Intake and Probation Officers who make bond recommendations to those Magistrates, is anticipated to make it more difficult to attract and recruit Magistrates, and, it should also be noted that in accordance with revisions to the Virginia Code last year once the supplement is reduced or discontinued it may not be raised or reinstated (also there will be new processes and requirements established for hiring Magistrates who will have significantly higher salaries and neither need or be authorized to receive pay supplements); and,

**17. WHEREAS**, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) has taken extraordinary measures to reduce its FY2010 funding requirements including eliminating all staff compensation increases, increasing class size, reducing central administration by 10% (15% including FY2009 midyear reductions) and reducing school funding by 5%, for total cuts in excess of \$150 million and reduction in per capita spending of nearly \$1000; and,

**18. WHEREAS**, notwithstanding such serious cuts and service reductions, in order to cover the cost of projected enrollment growth (at least 5000 in FY2010, in addition to unanticipated growth of more than 4000 experienced in FY2008 and FY2009), costs associated with the opening of two new schools, and severe reductions in support from the Commonwealth of Virginia, the School Board Advertised Budget for FY2010 (School Budget) requests an increase in transfer from Fairfax County of 3.5% or approximately \$60 million (Requested Transfer); and,

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**19. WHEREAS**, the flat (zero increase) transfer suggested in the County Advertised Budget (Flat Transfer) would, in view of the significant cuts already made, require further actions (additional large class size increases and reduction/elimination of important services) which would be inconsistent with preserving quality education and the value of FCPS to the community, and would diminish FCPS' critical role in continued growth and renewed prosperity of Fairfax County and its taxpayers; and,

**20. WHEREAS**, schools in the area represented by the MVCCA are among those most at risk and most heavily affected by the growth in population of students who require additional services and staffing considerations, have benefited from increased resources as demonstrated by significant progress in achieving mandated benchmarks, and will require continued additional targeted resources if progress is to continue; and,

**21. WHEREAS**, FCPS and the taxpayers of Fairfax County continue to be adversely affected by under-funded mandates of the United States government and the Commonwealth of Virginia, as well as by the failure of the Commonwealth to fairly distribute that funding which is provided, and, while some additional federal funds may be made available through stimulus programs and/or improved funding of federal mandates, the timing, amounts, nature and conditions of such funding is sufficiently unclear at this time to be considered in funding of FCPS' extremely lean operational budget requests; and,

**A. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the MVCCA urges the Board of Supervisors to look at all available sources of revenue for providing the additional funding necessary to fund these essential programs. In addition to the Real Property Tax Assessment, other forms of revenue that should be considered by the Board of Supervisors should include using a portion of the one penny set aside for affordable housing, consideration of a referendum on a meals tax, reinstatement of the car sticker tax and increases in the BPOL tax rates; and,

**B. FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** the Transfer to FCPS suggested in the FY2010 Advertised Budget is inadequate to preserve the value of this critical, priority service and should be increased by a minimum of \$42 million to keep pace with enrollment growth and without consideration of any increased federal education or stimulus funding which may or may not become available during FY2010; and,

**C. FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that the MVCCA, in consideration of the above, urges the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in adopting the Budget for FY 2010 to approve the proposed false alarm security alarm fee scale increase and to provide funds of at least \$2.236 million for the above five proposed LOB Reductions that if implemented will significantly adversely affect public safety and security within Fairfax County; and,

**D. FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations recommends the Board of Supervisors act this year to adjust the Advertised Budget Plan to restore proposed reductions in funding in the amount of at least \$11.73 million to avoid severe and long-term damage to the health and human services network; and,

**E. FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that funding be restored for operation of Libraries within the county in the amount of \$5.133 million; and,

**F. FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations, in consideration of all of the above, urges the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in adopting a Budget for FY 2010 to include tax rates and revenue enhancements that take full advantage of the available revenue sources authorized by the Virginia General Assembly and will provide County revenue sufficient to avert unacceptable loss of essential public services including environmental quality, libraries, public safety, schools and the health and human services network.

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### EDUCATION

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#### **EDUC-2009-03:**

#### **Resolution re Fairfax County FY2010 Advertised Budget Plan**

**1. WHEREAS** the Fairfax County School Board (School Board) has approved a School Board's Advertised Budget for Fiscal Year 2010 ( FY2010 School Budget ) which requires a 3.5% increase in fund transfer from Fairfax County (Requested Transfer); and

**2. WHEREAS** the Fairfax County FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan (County Advertised Budget), presented to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS) on February 23, 2009, proposes no fund transfer increase (Proposed Flat Transfer) which would under fund the FY2010 School Budget by approximately \$60 million (Schools Shortfall); and

**3. WHEREAS** Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) for the second year in a row, and on top of those reductions already taken in FY2008 and 2009, has taken extraordinary measures to reduce its operational costs and Requested Transfer in light of County revenue projections and guidelines including, but not limited to:

- (1) Eliminating all teacher and staff step increases and market scale adjustments (MSA);
- (2) Cutting central administration by an additional 10% on top of 5% prior midyear reductions, for a total of 15% in cuts, reducing budget share to less than 1%, lowest in the region;
- (3) Cutting school accounts by 5%;
- (4) Increasing class size;
- (5) Eliminating summer school and reducing funding for programs aimed at diverse populations, including Young Scholars Project Excel and Focus Schools;

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(6) Reducing staffing of psychologists, counselors and social workers;

(7) Holding all baseline budgets to FY2007 levels, except for mandatory change; and

**4. WHEREAS** the FY2010 School Budget total is \$10 million less than the FY2009 Approved School Budget, even though it must provide for the opening of two new schools and an expected enrollment increase of at least 5000 students (on top of the unexpected and unbudgeted increases of 1400 students in FY2008 and 3000 in FY2009); and

**5. WHEREAS** the FY2010 School Budget actually reduces by about \$1000 the County's share of per capita student cost compared to FY2009 and is less than per capita cost in FY2008, which was already only in the mid-range of local jurisdictions according to the Washington Area Boards of Education FY2008 Report (WABE Report) and continues to reduce both the ratio of non-school to school-based personnel, and the already low percentage of administrative costs (less than 1%) as compared locally in the WABE Report and nationally in other publications; and

**6. WHEREAS** the Requested Transfer seeks only to compensate for the unavoidable costs of population growth (2.5% of the increase) and some of the reduction in funding expected from sources such as the Commonwealth of Virginia (1%); and

**7. WHEREAS** in recognition of the looming budget crisis, the County and FCPS in the fall of 2008 conducted a number of County-wide citizen dialogues (Dialogues) to provide input to FCPS and the BOS as to the expectations of citizens as to the budget priorities and the appropriate balance of services to property tax burden; and

**8. WHEREAS** the Dialogues as reported on school and county websites clearly indicated that maintaining the service levels and quality of schools was a top priority and that citizens recognized that tax rates and revenue would need to rise to preserve schools and other services; and

**9. WHEREAS** if school service levels were to be maintained at the FY2009 per capita level a transfer increase in excess of \$170,000,000 would be needed; and

**10. WHEREAS** with the Requested Transfer increase of \$60,000,000, FCPS will not be able to maintain service levels and provide students with the same quality of education as in the past, but will be able to assure an adequate educational experience in the short term and to recover within a few years; and

**11. WHEREAS** the Proposed Flat Transfer is functionally a substantial reduction in service level funding due to population growth, the cumulative effect of cuts already made in FY2008 and 2009, and loss of outside revenue, and would require actions which

would diminish the services and value of FCPS to the community for decades to come and limit the educational opportunities available to current and future students such as:

(1) Further class size increases which will likely cause not only very large classes at all levels but more "split grade" classes and the cancellation (or section reductions with limited availability) of specialized and high level middle and high school classes avoid accreditation issues based on excess class size;

(2) Cancellation/reduction of non-SOL curricula including general electives, band, music, art, high level or specialized courses, career-training and after school activities such as theatre, sports and clubs;

(3) Re-imposition of fees for IB and AP classes and new fees for extracurricular participation which will disproportionately affect and limit opportunity both for individual students and for all students in schools with highly diverse populations;

(4) Elimination/reduction of necessary maintenance and improvements of technology needed to prepare students to compete in the world; and

(5) Permanent rollback of efforts to address achievement gap, including full day kindergarten, instructional coaches and improved teacher training;

(6) Permanent erosion of efforts to attract and retain highly qualified individuals to the profession of teaching generally and to FCPS specifically; and

**12. WHEREAS** in addition to the cost of overall membership growth and loss of outside funding, the FY2010 School Budget must also provide for those year to year cost increases which are largely outside the control of FCPS including (1) the continued growth in the percentage of students requiring additional staffing and/or services mandated by state and federal programs (especially non-English speaking, Special Education and/or economically disadvantaged) where the cost to educate averages at least \$3000 to \$7000 more per capita than other students, (2) increased Virginia Retirement System and other contributions as mandated by the Commonwealth and changes in accounting practices, (3) increased general insurance and health insurance costs as are being experienced nation-wide by both public and private employers; and

**13. WHEREAS** in addition to failing to provide funds to maintain school services at even the levels in the Requested Transfer, let alone the levels supported by citizens in the Dialogues, the County Advertised Budget also effectively shifts a number of County functions to the schools, thus further impacting the ability of schools to maintain services including, for example, reducing clinic room aides, school resource and education officers, adolescent after school programs, Head Start classrooms and day care teachers; and

**14. WHEREAS** the FY2010 School Budget and the taxpayers of Fairfax County continue to be affected by under-funded mandates of the federal government [among them the No Child Left Behind

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Act (NCLBA), and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)] wherein the cost of implementation and compliance far exceeds the assistance provided, particularly in view of steadily rising performance expectations; and

**15. WHEREAS** the FY2010 School Budget and the taxpayers of Fairfax County continue to be affected by the failure of the Commonwealth of Virginia to provide and fairly distribute adequate funding of its own Standards of Quality (SOQ) mandates and to fairly distribute sales tax revenue intended to be dedicated to education on a per student basis, with the result that FCPS will receive state funding for only about 18% of its needs (compared with a 45% statewide average) leaving County taxpayers to provide about 76% of school funding (compared with a local funding average of about 49% statewide); and

**16. WHEREAS** FCPS may receive some relief from the United States through improved funding of its mandates under NCLB and IDEA and/or increased Title I funding, as well as through the Stimulus program, given that children's educational futures are at stake, it would not be prudent at this time to assume receipt of such funds for budgetary purposes, and some of such increased funding will be funneled through the Commonwealth and thus potentially subject to the continued inequities of Commonwealth funding formulae as well as possible restrictions on use; and

**17. WHEREAS** caution should also be taken so that any one-time increase in federal or state funding is not applied in such a way as to create an on-going expectation or obligation of the operating budget of either FCPS or the County; and

**18. WHEREAS** public education (along with public safety) is the priority core mission of local government, the BOS has recognized that obligation in its historically strong support of the schools and citizens have reiterated that primary core mission status in the strong support for schools voiced in the Dialogues; and

**19. WHEREAS** the BOS and Fairfax citizens in the Dialogues have also recognized that the nationally-known quality of FCPS is a critical asset of taxpayers and a major contributor to the County's economic health and quality of life and to expectations for continued progress in the future including job creation and any recovery from the current real property value downturn; and

**20. WHEREAS** schools in the area represented by the MVCCA are among those most at risk, most heavily affected by the growth in population of students who require additional services and staffing consideration, most likely to suffer from school service reductions and whose progress toward fulfilling community expectations in addressing achievement gap and meeting mandated benchmarks is most fragile;

**A. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations, in consideration of all of the

above, and recognizing that although FCPS has made extraordinary efforts to reduce operating costs to arrive at the 3.5% Transfer Request severe budgetary issues may make that amount unavailable in view of all County needs, urges the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in adopting a Budget for FY 2010 to:

(1) Provide a transfer to Fairfax County Public Schools which is no less than \$42million over the transfer suggested in the County's Advertised Budget, in order to at a minimum compensate for the cost of unavoidable growth, subject to subsequent modification, if any, by the FCPS Superintendent of Schools or the Fairfax County School Board in light of on-going budget development; and

(2) Provide such transfer without offset against operating needs of any potential but unrealized funding increase from federal or state sources, subject to ongoing examination of the timing, certainty, restricted uses and continuation of such increase as a funding stream; and

(3) Provide such transfer without offset against operating needs of any potential onetime so-called stimulus since such payments (on both school and County side) should be used for one-time or durable needs such as deferred major maintenance or equipment purchases, such as computers; and

(4) Restore funding to County agencies of those items which would likely otherwise become a charge against the school budget but are equally consistent with County public obligations including school resource and education officers, adolescent after school programs, day care and Head Start programs, and public health clinic aides; and

**B. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations urges that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, consistent with the expressed will of citizens in the budget dialogue process and with the stewardship obligations of the Board of Supervisors to maintain current quality of life, protect important County assets and preserve hope for the future, establish a tax rate for FY2010 which is adequate to accomplish these stewardship responsibilities, up to the maximum allowed by law, and to actively seek out and employ other revenue enhancement opportunities available by law.

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### TRANSPORTATION

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**TRANS 2009-01: PCA/FDPA 2004-LE-012, Support Staff's Denial of Right-out onto Richmond Highway**

**1. WHEREAS**, Redbrick Development Group LLC and MDP Groveton LLC has filed an application for a Proffered Condition Amendment (PCA) and a Final Development Plan Amendment to an approved plan. The approved plan permits a mixed-use development of the land between Memorial Street and Groveton Street; and

**2. WHEREAS**, a "right-in" access only from Richmond Highway was previously approved. Now the Applicants propose a right-in/

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# Committee Resolutions

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right-out operation for ingress and egress out of the development; and

**3. WHEREAS**, Richmond Highway (U.S. 1) is a Primary Highway according to Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the premier function of a Primary Highway is to move large volumes of traffic with the least disruption and turbulence; and

**4. WHEREAS**, the Fairfax County Department of Transportation recommended denial of this application because of:

- a. the proximity with the U.S. 1/Groveton intersection to this proposed "right-out" egress, would hinder the turning movements into Groveton Street from northbound U.S. 1,
- b. the proposed "right-out" egress would hinder traffic movement from Groveton Street to both northbound and southbound U.S. 1, and
- c. the high volume of traffic on U.S. 1 would create an unnecessary safety hazard for vehicles making the "right-out"; and

**5. WHEREAS**, Fairfax County staff further state that "it is inappropriate to add new private access points when existing public street connections can adequately serve the new use" and that "the previously approved "right-in" was reluctantly supported in view of the fact that U.S. 1 is a Primary Highway with the main purpose of accommodating through traffic"; and

**6. WHEREAS**, the September 19, 2007 VDOT Speed Study for Richmond Highway states :

- a. "many of the commercial entrances do not have auxiliary lanes to accommodate vehicles entering and exiting the highway" and
- b. the "safety of traffic is adversely impacted by the lack of control" due to interruption of the traffic flow caused by reduced speed of vehicles exiting and entering the highway; and

**A. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations concurs with Fairfax County staff's denial of the proposed "right-out" amendment and supports its development condition of only "right-in" access shall be permitted along the Richmond Highway frontage of PCA/FDPA 2004-LE-012.

**B. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations requests the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors deny this proposed application PCA/FDPA 2004-L-E-012 for a "right-out" egress onto Richmond Highway.

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## HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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### HHS-2009-02: FY 2010 HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PLANNING

**1. WHEREAS**, in planning for Fiscal Year 2010, the citizens of Fairfax County and their elected Board of Supervisors (BOS) are now facing an unprecedented decline in projected revenue, and difficult choices, in order to sustain the essential public services that we want provided locally;

**2. WHEREAS these services**, built with fervent public support countywide and significant County investments—particularly in public education and public safety, and in the public and private network of health and human services—are widely understood to be critical to our community's well-being and essential to our quality of life;

**3. WHEREAS citizens** in the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations (MVCCA) participate in the annual public review of the County Executive's *Advertised Budget Plan*, acknowledge the effort and dedication of County employees at every level who have worked to achieve a new standard of communication and transparency in this year's public planning process, and recognize particular value in the tools provided to make critical decisions:

*Key information compiled and communicated*, early in the planning process, in "Lines of Business" description of core mission and strategic choices that deliver essential services cost-effectively; *Transparency*, in required 15% "Reduction Options," that elicited opportunities for both revenue enhancement and cost-savings, but also revealed severe damage that some proposed reductions will inflict in core services, particularly in agencies that require highly trained personnel and are already lean and well-managed; *Careful fiscal balance*, through both revenue enhancements and cost-reductions, in an Advertised Plan that proposes (at a new rate of \$1.04 per \$100 valuation) to equalize the average home owner's tax bill with roughly the amount paid last year; and *Truth in Rate Advertising*, expressed in the *Citizen's Guide*, in which the County Executive itemized significant "reductions in services" proposed in order to level the tax rate at \$1.04 and recommended the Board of Supervisors advertise a maximum rate of \$1.07 (3 additional Rate Pennies), to provide "flexibility" for public review, so that citizens may voice their desire to mitigate the impact of extensive reductions in services;

**4. WHEREAS the MVCCA has examined the County Executive's choices** among service reductions across many agencies, finds a group of proposed reductions that appear to have particularly severe and long-lasting impact on the health and human services network, recommends full restoration of these critical services, and estimates that damage to these essential services may be mitigated through taxpayer support for further revenue enhancement totaling \$11.73 million, a sum roughly equivalent to half of one additional Rate Penny above the proposed \$1.04 Rate;

**5. WHEREAS the MVCCA, in preparing our itemized list of "FY 2010 Recommendations to Restore Critical Health and Human Services"** (an attachment to this Resolution), offers the

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## Committee Resolutions

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following considerations, concerning the County's role in sustaining this service network:

*Evolving community partnerships:* The health and human services network in Fairfax County has developed from earlier successful investments in public and private partnerships and thrives on integration of public and private resources to provide the continuum of high quality, effective services that enjoy strong public support countywide;

*County Initiatives:* In the past decade, complex demographic growth (including greater cultural diversity, aging, and growing numbers of those with disabilities) combined with a decline in non-County governmental resources to drive both public and private agencies toward innovative approaches to partnership, service integration, and "redesign"—strategies that are achieving success, year by year, in serving more people better and more cost-effectively. Meanwhile, other Initiatives—involving participation of numerous citizen task forces, boards and commissions as well as elected Supervisors—responded to emergent crises such as domestic violence and youth at risk for gang recruitment and substance abuse; and some provide the blueprint for more efficient and strategic responses, among them, The Affordable Housing Preservation Initiative (since 2004), the Fifty-Plus Action Plan that anticipates demographic aging (2007), The Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness in the Fairfax-Falls Church Community (2008), and The Josiah H. Beeman Commission Report (2008) that recommends transformation in the public mental health system.

*Strategic leadership capacity:* The County's indispensable role has become a complex of leadership responsibilities that support service integration and better use of available resources all across the system, by managing existing programs well, by supporting the research and analysis that opens a window on the multiple causes of community crises, and by supporting efforts to design evidence-based and more effective approaches to prevention and earlier intervention.

**6. WHEREAS the MVCCA recommends restoration of many proposed reductions in services** previously categorized as "Severe" in impact by the Fairfax County Human Services Council (Letter to the BOS, Dec. 18, 2008); and **whereas** MVCCA requests special consideration for these and additional reduced or eliminated programs that are resources of especially great value in a time of crisis and rising demand for services; **whereas** these services are well worth restoring because they prevent or break into a destructive and costly downward spiral and instead open paths to personal, social, and economic recovery for individuals, families, and neighborhoods:

*Early childhood education combined with safe childcare*, made affordable for 500 low-income working families through vouchers and sliding scale fees (MVCCA first expressed support in 2006, but each year the County reduces spending, despite the program's success—building skills in children, self-sufficiency in families, and progress in neighborhood schools);

*Effective prevention programs*, such as Leadership and Resilience Training in high schools, After School programs in middle schools, Gum Springs Headstart and Groveton Senior Center, the Annandale Adult Day Health Center, Lorton and other Senior Plus

health programs, and after school Computer Learning Center sites, all community resources that benefit vulnerable, at-risk groups;

*Crisis intervention programs*, such as the Supervised Visitation and Exchange program and all Family Counseling and services in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court;

*Mental health treatment*, restoring lives in the Residential Treatment Program for Women with co-occurring disorders and providing critical services in the Adult Detention Center for many young adults who are otherwise not even stabilized when they are released from jail;

*Strategic management and research capacity*, administering programs and partnerships well and also providing (for example, through Systems Management positions) support to the internet-based Human Services Resource Guide and to specialized research for service redesign and integration efforts underway, at a time when evidence-based model programs and cross-agency strategies are in demand throughout the public/private network;

**7. WHEREAS**, in FY2010 and the foreseeable near future, Fairfax County will continue to face the challenge of increasing public needs as well as mandates for many public services, coupled with continuing risk of falling revenues, and **whereas** County leadership and investments in the health and human services network now build upon and seek to improve the efficiency of prevention and interventional strategies that offer our best hope of effective response to emergent community crises,

**A. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations recommends the Board of Supervisors act this year, in two ways, in order to enhance revenues and sustain public services and resources needed throughout Fiscal Year 2010 and subsequent years:

First, after full consideration in public hearings, adjust the *Advertised Budget Plan* to restore proposed Reductions that threaten severe and long-term damage to essential services, including those listed (and hereby attached) as "MVCCA Recommendations to Restore Critical Health and Human Services."

Second, adopt new tax rates and revenue enhancements that will provide County revenue sufficient to avert unacceptable damage to essential public services, including those provided in the health and human services network, so that the County will retain and continue to strengthen its capacity to manage and respond effectively to emergent community crises.

**The Attachment to Resolution HHS-2009-02, "MVCCA Recommendations to Restore Critical Health and Human Services," is available on the MVCCA website ([www.mvcca.org](http://www.mvcca.org)) under March Record.**

*The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations*

*cordially invites you to participate in its*

*Twenty-first Annual Gala*

*and to honor the*

*2009 Mount Vernon District Citizen of the Year*

*Virginia Williams*

*and*

*2009 Organization of the Year*

*United Community Ministries*

*Dinner Buffet            \$40 per person            Cash Bar*

*Saturday, May 2, 2009                            6:00 - 9:00 p.m.*

*Mount Vernon Country Club*

*5111 Old Mill Road*

*RSVP by April 20, 2009 to*

*P.O. Box 203, Mount Vernon, VA 22121*

*for further information, contact Carol or Bob Coyle*

*703-780-7955    coylegroup@cox.net*

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Reservation for MVCCA Gala 2009

Names of attendees \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Civic

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Association: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to support this event and the work of the MVCCA. Please list me as a

\_\_\_ Friend (\$25) \_\_\_ Sponsor (\$65) \_\_\_ Patron (\$100) \_\_\_ Benefactor (\$200)

Number of attendees @ \$40: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution to support MVCCA: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, March 25, 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—April 9, 7:30 p.m., MVGC Comm. Rm 1**

Comm	Date	Time	Place	Chair
AWH	3/26	7:00	ShrwdHallLib/2	Jeszenszky/McCormick
BUDG	4/8	7:30	WWMS	D. Voorhees
COAF	4/7	7:30	WWMS	Cox
EDUC	4/1	8:00	WWMS-MC	Harbeck
E&R	4/1	7:00	SCGC-Rm219	Plummer
H/HS	4/7	7:30	IMVH-C/D	Cleveland
PL/Z	4/6	7:30	WWMS-LH	Dale, Acting Chair
PSAF	4/2	7:30	MVGC	Shawkey
SP	4/13	7:00	WWMS-B43	Cohn
TRAN	4/6	8:00	WWMS-Lib	C. Voorhees

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