

MVCCA Resolution 2018-01 (Budget and Finance)
Recommendations on the Fairfax County FY 2019 Budget Plan

1. WHEREAS the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations (MVCCA) recognizes that Schools, Public Safety, Health and Human Services and Transportation are critical core services that must be adequately funded to maintain Fairfax County's status as a premier community in which to live and work; and
2. WHEREAS the Fairfax County Executive has presented the FY 2019 Advertised Budget Plan for Fairfax County and the Board of Supervisors (BOS) has established the maximum real estate tax rate by advertising a rate of \$1.155/\$100 assessed valuation which is a \$0.025 increase over the FY2018 rate; and
3. WHEREAS with no change to the Real Estate tax rate, Fairfax County would be unable to meet the Schools funding request, compensation would be partially funded, and limited funding would be available for priorities such as Diversion First, Gang Prevention, the Opioid Epidemic, and School Readiness initiatives; and
4. WHEREAS schools located in the Mount Vernon Magisterial District are among those most at risk and most heavily affected by the growth in population of students who require supplemental services and staffing, 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
5. WHEREAS the MVCCA recognizes that the Transfer to Fairfax County Public Schools proposed in the Fairfax County School Board's FY2019 Advertised Budget with no change to the real estate rate would mean the county transfer to FCPS would be reduced by more than \$28 million from the FY2019 proposed budget which is inadequate to maintain the funding necessary for schools in Fairfax County and the Mount Vernon District (as is detailed in the MVCCA Resolution EDU 2018-2); and
6. WHEREAS the MVCCA recognizes that the Commonwealth of Virginia uses an unfair formula (the Local Composite Index) to distribute school funds with the result that only 23% of FCPS's budget is funded compared with a statewide average of 45.3% and, moreover, that Fairfax County taxpayers receive back only about 22 cents on every tax dollar sent to Richmond; and
7. WHEREAS the County Advertised Budget recommends a \$25M increase in annual sales of taxpayer-approved bonds which will allow significant school capital needs to be addressed earlier, resulting in cost savings and speedier reduction of the significant backlog in renovation and construction requirements; and
8. WHEREAS the MVCCA promotes public safety funding including funding for staffing the new South County police station and supports the funding of Diversion First and Gang Prevention programs; and
9. WHEREAS the MVCCA supports adequate funding to Community Development and Transportation, including Metro, Fairfax Connector and VRE transfers and/or allocation amounts; and

10. supports adequate funding to Libraries and Parks and that the advertised budget of \$55.95M is the minimal amount to be funded to maintain the quality of life expected by residents of the Mount Vernon district; and

11. WHEREAS the MVCCA recognizes the need to fully fund the county's compensation plan, and notes the fact that the county's full compensation program has only been fully funded two out of the past nine years; and

12. WHEREAS the county's contribution to funding operations of the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation (SFDC) is inadequate to fund SFDC activities promoting effective economic development along the Richmond Highway Corridor; and

13. WHEREAS the MVCCA understands that the County has an ongoing review of the County's retirement system following investment impacts of the Great Recession and changes to comparator pension plans (Virginia Retirement System) with the goal strengthen the long-term vitality of the systems; and

14. WHEREAS the MVCCA recognizes the County is exploring possible adjustments to benefit levels, employee contributions, and eligibility requirements with an anticipated goal of the findings to be presented to the County Board's Personnel Committee this spring; and

15. WHEREAS the MVCCA understands that a study is ongoing to examine the rank, organizational and pay structure of the Fire and Rescue Departments; and

16. WHEREAS the MVCCA on December 17, 2014, passed a Resolution recommending that the County's insecticide spraying program for the native Fall Cankerworm be discontinued and that the County should use the direct budgetary savings from ending this program for the control of non-native, invasive forest pests and plants, but the proposed FY2019 budget does not eliminate the budget line items for this spray program; and

A. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the MVCCA urges the BOS to adopt the \$1.155 per \$100 assessed valuation residential real estate tax rate as recommended in the FY2019 Fairfax County advertised budget; and

B. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the MVCCA urges the BOS to provide a School Transfer at least to FCPS total \$2.26 billion, which is a \$95.10 million, increase over the current FY 2018 transfer amount to FCPS, and to authorize the suggested \$25M increase in school bond sales; and

C. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the MVCCA urges our BOS to step up their efforts to advocate the Virginia State Senators and Delegates to change the state school funding distribution formula to ensure that Fairfax County taxpayers and FCPS receive more than the current rate of 22 cents on every tax dollar that we sent to Richmond; and

D. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the MVCCA urges the BOS to redouble efforts to advocate changes to the Commonwealth's school funding formula to provide a fairer share of funding to FCPS (23% compared to 45.3% state wide) and to also advocate for a fairer share of state revenue for County purposes and return of taxpayer dollars (currently 22 cents for every \$1 of revenue generated in Fairfax); and

E. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the MVCCA supports the priorities funded of \$11.36M for Community Development, \$8.78M for Human Services; and \$7.48M for Public Safety as mentioned in the proposed FY2019 budget plan; and

F. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** supports the \$49.96M increase to county employee pay and fully funding the County's compensation plan, and urges the County to continue to work towards a sustainable pension programs; and

G. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the MVCCA requests that funding levels, organization and pay structure of our County Fire and Rescue Department will not be lowered nor negatively affect our outstanding County Fire and Rescue Department; and

H. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the MVCCA requests that the BOS should great a budget line item, allocate funds and pursue opportunities to bury utilities underground along the Richmond Highway corridor; and

I. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the MVCCA recommends that Fairfax County end the native Fall Cankerworm Insecticide Spraying Program, remove this program's line item from the county budget, create a new line item not under a name different than Fall Cankerworm Insecticide Spraying Program and reallocated designated funds from the older Fall Cankerworm Insecticide Spraying program to help control non-native invasive forest pests and plants; and

J. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the MVCCA, in consideration of all of the above, urges the Fairfax County BOS in adopting a Budget for FY 2019 to take full advantage of the revenue sources available to the County as authorized by the Virginia General Assembly and thereby provide for County additional revenue to avert unacceptable loss of essential public services including schools, public safety, transportation, environmental quality, libraries, and health and human services.

APPROVED BY THE MVCCA GENERAL COUNCIL ON MARCH 28, 2018