



The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations, Inc.

P.O. Box 203, Mount Vernon, VA 22121-9998

<http://www.mvcca.org>

Supervisor Storck
2511 Parkers Lane
Alexandria, VA 22306

Jan 29 , 2017

Subject: MVCCA (Board) Resolution 2017-02: FY 2018 Maximum Tax Rate.

This letter and the attached resolution is forwarded for your action and support.

Katherine

Katherine Ward
CoChair
MVCCA

Enclosed: MVCCA (Board) Resolution 2017-02- Maximum Tax Rate FY2018 Process

MVCCA (Board) Resolution 2017-02-- Meaningful Citizen Participation in the FY2018 Budget Process

WHEREAS Fairfax County's Fiscal Year 2018 Advertised Budget Plan ("FY2018 County Advertised Budget") will be publicly released on February 14, 2017, and will include expectations, presumptions and recommendations with respect to revenue sources ("Revenue"), funding levels for County services ("County Funding Levels"), and the proposed amount of support to be provided to Fairfax County Public Schools ("School Transfer"); and

WHEREAS, on February 28, 2017, the Board of Supervisors ("BOS") will advertise the maximum residential and commercial real property tax rate ("Maximum Rate") which the BOS may legally and actually adopt in May 2017 for application in FY2018 ("Actual Rate"); and

WHEREAS it is anticipated that Revenue will not be adequate, using FY2017 tax rates, to support County Funding Levels and/or provide a School Transfer which would fully fund the FY2018 School Board Advertised Budget, to be adopted on February 9, 2017, requiring further cuts and/or an increase in Actual Rate over FY2017 levels or other revenue enhancement; and

WHEREAS the Actual Rate, Funding Levels, School Transfer and related matters in the FY2018 County Advertised Budget will be the subject of citizen comment and testimony at hearings on April 4-6, 2017 ("Public Hearings"); and

WHEREAS homeowners and citizens consistently give high priority to maintenance of quality of life, infrastructure and particularly the continued high quality of Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) both as an educational institution and as a prime asset and driver of the County's economy; and

WHEREAS meaningful citizen participation in the budget process input and testimony at the Public Hearings should not be unnecessarily chilled and circumscribed by the arbitrary ceiling of the Maximum Rate (which will be set without any public hearing); and the BOS should retain flexibility to respond to citizen input and County needs; and

WHEREAS meaningful citizen input at the Public Hearings and BOS ability to respond specifically requires that the Maximum Rate be advertised at a level which would fully fund FCPS and County needs in order to promote positive discussion and meaningful public participation on the proper balance of taxes and services;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations ("MVCCA"), in order to promote meaningful citizen participation in the FY2018 Fairfax County Budget process, enhance public discourse on budgetary priorities and the proper balance of public services and tax burden, and to provide flexibility in responding to citizens' priorities respectfully requests the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to advertise a Maximum Tax Rate which would at a minimum theoretically fully fund both the County and School Board S FY2018 Advertised Budgets; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MVCCA expresses no opinion at this time as to Actual Tax Rate, Funding Levels or School Transfer appropriate for implementation in FY2018.

Passed by the MVCCA General Council Jan 25, 2017