

MVCCA Resolution (ED) 2018-2 In Support of Full Funding of School Transfer Request in FY2019

WHEREAS the Fairfax County School Board FY2019 Advertised Budget (“School Budget”), adopted February 8, 2018, required an increase in support of 4.3% (“School Transfer”) from Fairfax County for full funding; and

WHEREAS the Fairfax County FY2019 Advertised Budget, published February 20, 2018, (“County Advertised Budget”) proposed to fully fund the School Transfer (assumed to be reduced to \$95.10M due to increased funds from other sources) and also provided for increasing annual bond sales for school construction by \$25M; and

WHEREAS full funding of the School Transfer creates an opportunity to begin to re-establish the preeminence of Fairfax County Public Schools (“FCPS”) as a valuable County asset, to bring teacher salaries to a competitive level and eventually to address class size increases and other cuts necessitated by a decade of underfunding of school needs; and

WHEREAS the suggested \$25M increase in sales of taxpayer-approved bonds will allow some significant school construction needs to be addressed earlier, resulting in cost savings and speedier reduction of the significant backlog in renovation and construction requirements; and

WHEREAS the County Advertised Budget recommended a property tax rate increase of 2.5 cents to \$1.155/\$100 assessed valuation (\$268 or \$22.33 per month for the “average homeowner”) which would generate revenue to fund the School Transfer and bond sale increase as well as other County needs as set forth in the County Budget; and

WHEREAS the recommended FY2019 tax increase follows several years of very modest increases, does not change the relative tax burden position of Fairfax compared to surrounding jurisdictions nor to other large semi-urban counties, and is necessary to protect quality of life now and promote a positive future even as efforts should continue to obtain fair funding from Virginia and the U.S.; and

WHEREAS on March 6, 2018, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (“BOS”) advertised a maximum FY2019 residential property tax rate of \$1.155, the same as the recommended rate in the County Advertised Budget,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations (“MVCCA”) urges the BOS to adopt the advertised maximum tax rate as the actual property tax rate for FY2019 and to fully fund the School Transfer increase (\$95.10M) and other school assistance suggested in the County Budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MVCCA further encourages the BOS to pursue all potential sources of revenue, and to continue and increase efforts to obtain fair educational funding from the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States.

APPROVED BY THE MVCCA GENERAL COUNCIL MARCH 28, 2018