



**The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations, Inc.**

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

<http://www.mvcca.org>

Supervisor Dan Storck  
2511 Parkers Lane  
Alexandria, VA 22306

March 24, 2016

Dear Supervisor Storck

Ref: MVCCA Resolution 2017 County Advertised Budget Recommendations  
MVCCA Resolution 2017 Education Transfer Funding Recommendations

On behalf of the MVCCA I am transmitting the enclosed resolutions to you for your consideration and action. They will also be sent to the BOS secretariat.

MVCCA authorized Board Members will testify on behalf of the MVCCA at the budget hearings.

Sincerely,

*KATHERINE*

Katherine Ward  
Co-Chair  
MVCCA

Enclosed: MVCCA Resolution 2017 Advertised Budget  
MVCCA Resolution 2017 Education Transfer

**MVCCA Resolution 2016-01 (Budget and Finance)**  
**Recommendations on the Fairfax County FY 2017 Budget Plan, As Advertised**

1. WHEREAS the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations (MVCCA) recognizes that Schools, Public Safety, 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 Libraries and Parks must also be adequately funded to maintain the quality of life expected by residents of the county; and
3. WHEREAS the citizens of Fairfax County recognize their moral obligation to provide essential health and human services to help those in need; and
4. WHEREAS the MVCCA recognizes Fairfax County has consistently identified, but failed to fund, needed public services; and
5. WHEREAS the Fairfax County Executive has presented the FY 2017 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 \$1.13/\$100 assessed valuation; and
6. WHEREAS the Fairfax County BOS has failed to advertise a tax rate that provides sufficient revenue to adequately fund the services needed throughout the County, and especially in the Mount Vernon District; and
7. WHEREAS the BOS has not adopted a zoning ordinance to assess and impose transportation impact fees on any development needing a building permit, whereas the collected impact fees could be used to pay all or part of the costs of reasonable road improvements; and
8. WHEREAS the MVCCA recognizes that commercial establishments, including shopping malls, strip malls, rental housing, office complexes, and industrial business contribute to stormwater to a greater extent than the average homeowner, but such commercial establishments do not fund stormwater management and remediation at a rate that reflects such greater contribution to storm-water run-off; and
9. WHEREAS the County's contribution to funding operations of the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation's (SFDC) is inadequate to fund SFDC activities promoting effective economic development along the Route 1 corridor; and

10. WHEREAS Fairfax County has established a Transparency website that allows residents to search online for certain Fairfax County government expenditures, and the MVCCA supports this effort to make the budget expenditures more transparent, but such website has failed to provide detailed information to adequately identify and document county spending; and

11. WHEREAS Fairfax County has substantial investments in its libraries, but has limited use of such facilities by limiting access to libraries through reduced staffing and operating hours; and

12. WHEREAS Fairfax County has substantial investments in its parks and athletic fields, and these valuable resources must be adequately maintained and staffed; and

13. 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

14. WHEREAS the MVCCA recognizes that the Transfer to Fairfax County Public Schools proposed in the Fairfax County School Board's FY2017 Advertised Budget is inadequate to maintain the funding necessary for schools in the Mount Vernon District; and

15. WHEREAS the MVCCA recognizes that Fairfax County does not receive adequate funding from the Federal Government to operate federally mandated education programs, that the Commonwealth of Virginia uses an unfair formula for distributing state funding to Fairfax County Public Schools, and that Fairfax County Public Schools do not receive funding for educating students living on Fort Belvoir commensurate with the cost of providing their education; 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.

A. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the MVCCA urges the BOS to adopt the \$1.13 advertised maximum residential real estate tax rate; and

B. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the MVCCA supports a Meals Tax referendum, increased proffers from development, and immediate increase of the BPOL tax rates to more closely correspond to the tax rates in surrounding jurisdictions, in order to provide additional funding required to fund essential public programs; and

C. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the MVCCA supports the Fairfax County School Board's County request for transfer to the Fairfax County Public Schools, and the MVCCA recommends the transfer increase should at least include the amount of funding requested in the accompanying MVCCA Education Committee Resolution; and

D. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the MVCCA requests that the MVCCA be advised as to whether it is possible to obtain an increase in funding to Fairfax County Public Schools for the impact of educating students from Fort Belvoir, and whether it is possible to change the state funding distribution formula to obtain additional revenue from the Commonwealth, and the likelihood of obtaining additional funding from the Federal Government for complying with federally mandated education requirements; and

E. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the MVCCA again recommends that the BOS adopt a zoning ordinance to assess and impose transportation impact fees on any development needing a building permit, the collected impact fees to be used to pay all or part of the costs of reasonable road improvements, and that new transportation revenues collected from fuel taxes be used to alleviate congestion on the Route 1 corridor; and

F. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the MVCCA urges that the transparency website will become more robust and provide easier and more detailed searching of county expenditures; and

G. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the MVCCA requests that funding of SFDC be restored to the pre-2009 budget of \$243,000; and

H. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that funding for libraries and parks be increased to allow for extended use of these facilities; and

I. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the MVCCA supports pro-rating of stormwater taxes based on the volume of stormwater runoff and pollution resulting from individual commercial properties; and

J. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the MVCCA recommends that Fairfax County broaden the mission of the Forest Pest Management Program to include all aspects of forest health and redirect funds used for the native Fall Cankerworm Insecticide Spraying Program to the control of non-native invasive forest pests and plants, improving forest health and expanding the County's tree cover; and

K. 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 2017 to include a tax rate of \$1.13 and revenue enhancements that take full advantage of the revenue sources available to the County as authorized by the Virginia General Assembly and thereby provide for County revenue sufficient to avert unacceptable loss of essential public services including environmental quality, libraries and schools, public safety, transportation, and the health and human services network.

APPROVED BY THE MVCCA GENERAL COUNCIL 3.23.2016

## **MVCCA Resolution 2016-01 (Education)**

### **Urging Full Funding of School Transfer Request in FY2017**

- (1) WHEREAS the Fairfax County School Board FY2017 Advertised Budget (“School Budget”), adopted February 4, 2016, requires an increase in funding of \$122.7 million, or 6.7% (“School Transfer”) from Fairfax County for full funding; and
- (2) WHEREAS the Fairfax County FY2017 Advertised Budget, published February 12, 2016 (“County Budget”) proposes an increase in School Transfer of \$70.5 million, or 3.51%, which if adopted would result in a funding shortfall of almost \$68 million (“Shortfall”); and
- (3) WHEREAS over the past decade, County funding for schools has not kept pace with costs of increasing enrollment, required health care and retirement costs, and modest salary increases for employees, with the result that Fairfax County Public Schools (“FCPS”) has had to cut nearly \$500 million and 700 positions, increase class size three times, has been unable to provide competitive teacher compensation, and has deferred needed maintenance and capital purchases such as school buses; and
- (4) WHEREAS cuts already absorbed have threatened the quality of FCPS and its value as a critical County asset so that it is now essential to fully fund schools to begin the process of rebuilding; the School Budget is the first step in a multi-year effort to address the priorities of (1) reducing elementary class size to 30 or fewer, and (2) enhancing teacher salaries to restore FCPS’ ability to compete with surrounding jurisdictions, and retain the most experienced teachers; and
- (5) WHEREAS FCPS and the County have also been adversely affected by the underfunded mandates of both Virginia and the federal government so that the burden is increasingly on County taxpayers and homeowners to protect the asset value of FCPS to all citizens and the quality of education provided to our children; and
- (6) WHEREAS the County Budget is based on a property tax rate increase of \$0.04 (\$25 per month for the “average homeowner”), which would fund County enhancements and includes an unallocated 1 cent, but would not address the Shortfall; a \$0.07 increase (\$43 per month) would have been required to eliminate the Shortfall without affecting other County needs; and
- (7) WHEREAS on March 1, 2016, in a convoluted and unusual process, the Board of Supervisors (“BOS”) adopted a maximum tax rate increase for FY2017 of \$0.04, thus assuring that FCPS will again be grossly underfunded, in danger of erosion of educational quality, and unable to move on the priorities of reducing class size and stemming the loss of qualified teachers by providing competitive salaries; moreover, public debate will again be chilled and citizens will be unable to meaningfully discuss the appropriate balance of tax burden and essential services, particularly as related to schools that are allegedly the “highest priority” of the BOS; and
- (8) WHEREAS the potential FY2017 maximum 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 minimally protect quality of life now and promote a positive future even as efforts increase to obtain fair funding from Virginia and the U.S.; and

(A) 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 FY2017, to provide the 3.51% School Transfer increase (\$70.5 million) and to further provide additional funding of the School Transfer from the unallocated 1-cent increase (\$23 million), and

(B) BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the MVCCA further encourages the BOS to pursue all potential sources of revenue, included but not limited to a meals tax, and to continue and increase efforts to obtain fair educational funding from Virginia and the U.S.; and

(C) BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the MVCCA reaffirms its prior positions (most recently Resolution ED 2015-5 “Meaningful Citizen Input to the FY2017 Budget Process,” adopted December 16, 2015) that in order to promote transparency, establish priorities and provide meaningful public input on the proper balance of taxes and services, the advertised maximum tax rate should have been adopted at a level that would have at least fully funded the County’s FY2017 Advertised Budget Plan and the School Transfer as requested in FCPS’ FY2017 Advertised Budget Plan.

APPROVED BY THE MVCCA GENERAL COUNCIL 3.23.2016