

MVCCA Resolution ED 2019-2 In Support of Full Funding of School Transfer Request in FY2020

WHEREAS the Fairfax County School Board FY2019 Advertised Budget (“School Budget”), adopted February 7, 2019, requires an increase in direct support of \$84.4M or (“School Transfer”) from Fairfax County for full funding; and

WHEREAS the School Transfer and the County budget continues to be negatively impacted by the failure of the United States and the Commonwealth of Virginia to provide fair and equitable funding of school mandates so Fairfax County must devote a high percentage of its revenue to maintaining a quality school system despite these failures; and

WHEREAS the Fairfax County FY2019 Advertised Budget , published February 19, 2019, (“County Advertised Budget”) proposes to fully fund the School Transfer and also provided certain enhancements such as increasing school bond sales limits by \$4.6M, and some additional funds to support County services such as early childhood readiness, school health and expansion of opportunity neighborhoods 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 \$4.6M 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 recommends no change to the FY2019 property tax rate of \$1.15/\$100 assessed valuation since increases in assessed value are considered adequate to generate revenue to fund the School Transfer and other County needs as set forth in the County Budget; and

WHEREAS the recommended FY2020 tax rate does not change the relative tax burden position of Fairfax (the average homeowner will pay an estimated additional \$148 per year or about \$12.30 per month) compared to surrounding jurisdictions and to other large semi-urban counties, and is necessary to protect quality of schools now and promote a positive future even as efforts should continue to obtain fair funding from Virginia and the U.S.; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations (“MVCCA”) urges the Board of Supervisors to adopt \$1.15/\$100 assessed valuation as the actual property tax rate for FY2020 and to fully fund the School Transfer increase and other school assistance suggested in the County Advertised Budget.

Adopted by the MVCCA General Council on March 27, 2019