



The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations, Inc.

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

<http://www.mvcca.org>

January 10, 2015

Supervisor Gerald Hyland
Mount Vernon District
2511 Parkers Lane
Alexandria, VA 22306

Dear Supervisor Hyland,

Attached for your information and action is
MVCCA Resolution 2014 J-01 EDU/HHS
Building Blocks for School Readiness in FY16 and Beyond

This Resolution was approved unanimously in the General Council meeting of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations (MVCCA), on December 17, 2014.

We request you to present our Resolution to Chairman Sharon Bulova for distribution to the Board of Supervisors and to support our recommendations for actions in the Fairfax County budget plan for FY 2016-FY 2017 that continue to invest in programs, in a variety of settings, that contribute to the stability of working families and provide equal opportunity for early childhood education and School Readiness, in Fairfax County and in public school pyramids that provide services for young children in and near Mount Vernon District.

Respectfully,

David Dale Judith Harbeck Patrick Rea
Co-Chairs, Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations

Cc: Brett Kenney, Chief Aide to Supervisor Hyland
MVCCA Secretary Elizabeth Martin

The following Resolution was approved, unanimously, in the General Council of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations on December 17, 2014.

**MVCCA Resolution 2014 J-01 EDU/HHS
BUILDING BLOCKS FOR SCHOOL READINESS IN FY 2016 AND BEYOND**

1. WHEREAS The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations (MVCCA) continues to recognize that equal opportunity for early childhood education in combination with safe quality care is essential for the School Readiness, well being and success of all our children and for the stability of working families; and
2. WHEREAS MVCCA has recommended strategic actions and investments for FY 2015 and beyond, to sustain and grow effective programs that support School Readiness for all children now eligible, from birth to kindergarten age, including those on waiting lists for Early Head Start and Head Start (see Joint Resolution 2013 EDU/HHS-J-01 "Re Early Childhood Education and Care," unanimously approved by the MVCCA in September 2013); and
3. WHEREAS MVCCA acknowledges extensive collaborative work taking place among Fairfax County and Public Schools (FCPS) services (a) to provide training and curricular support for parents and caregivers in the spectrum of early childhood settings—from family day care to child care centers—and (b) to expand capacity in such programs as Early Head Start, Head Start, pre-K classrooms, and the summer Bridge to Kindergarten program in elementary schools, as described in Office for Children reports to MVCCA (see *MVCCA Record*, Nov. and Dec. 2014 Health and Human Services Reports); and
4. WHEREAS the Board of Supervisors (BOS) included \$750 thousand in the County's FY 2015 Budget Plan to increase investment in programs that support School Readiness, so that this year both County human services and public schools are allocating funds to strengthen and expand effective programs in a variety of settings while the County awaits a decision on two federal grant applications, one a County proposal to serve 56 additional babies and toddlers in Early Head Start programs, the other part of a Virginia proposal for Preschool Development funds:

A. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations urges the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to continue to invest in effective programs that contribute to the stability of working families and provide opportunity for early education in a range of settings, thereby contributing to School Readiness; and the MVCCA urges the BOS to prevent cuts in the budget plan for FY 2016 and beyond that would undermine equal opportunity for early childhood education and School Readiness.
