



Mount Vernon
Council
of Citizens'
Associations

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Record

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NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, March 22, 2006, 8pm

Walt Whitman School Jack Knowles Lecture Hall

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

Approval of Secretary's Minutes

Approval of Treasurer's Report

Committee Reports

Co-Chairmen's Report on Board Actions

PUBLISHED ITEMS and RESOLUTIONS

NEW BUSINESS

Member Association Representatives' Time

MV Supervisor's Time

Other Elected Reps and Public Time

ADJOURNMENT

Co-Chairmen	Al Bornmann	703.360.5964
	Robert Reynolds	703.772.8708
	Mack Rhoades	703.329.9120
Treasurer	Phyllis Evans	703.960.2140
Secretary	Susie Ellicott	703.329.2934
Editor	Dave Bolte	703.765.0129
BUDG	George Bauer	703.768.1774
COAF	Queenie Cox	703.360.2414
EDUC	Judy Harbeck	703.780.1883
ENVR	Jim Davis	703.799.3278
H/HS	Louise Cleveland	703.780.9151
PL/Z	David Dale	703.765.8247
PSAF	Dallas Shawkey	703.360.2185
TRANS	Frank Cohn	703.780.5698
FCFCA	Judy Harbeck	703.780.1883
SCAWH	Jerry Ireland	703.768.6923

PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, February 22, 2006, 8pm

Walt Whitman School Media Center/Library

MINUTES

Associations Represented: Belle Haven Terrace, Collingwood on the Potomac, Collingwood Springs, Crosspointe, Gum Springs, Hollin Hall Village, Hollin Hills, Hollin Glen, Huntington, Marlan Forest, Montebello, Mount Vernon Civic, Mount Vernon Manor, Mount Vernon Mobile Home Residents Association, Mount Vernon on the Potomac, Mount Zephyr, Newington, Newington Forest, Pinewood Lake, Potomac Valley – Riverbend, River Towers, Riverside Estates, Riverside Gardens, Southwood, Spring Bank, Stratford Landing, Sulgrave Manor, United Voce of Kings Crossing, Wellington, Wellington Heights, Wessynton, Williamsburg Manor, Williamsburg Manor North

Opening Remarks: The meeting was called to order, Co-Chair Bob Reynolds presiding. The minutes were approved as printed in the last *Record* (hereinafter, the *Record*). The Treasurer's report was approved as printed. The printed agenda was revised to allow Supervisor Gerry Hyland to speak first.

ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE'S TIME

Supervisor Hyland touched on a number of issues.

The *proposed Mount Vernon Hospital improvements* will be sent to the Board of Supervisors for review/approval.

The *proposed Kings Crossing development* has been resubmitted with a Costco store included.

King's Crossing community residents have experienced two rent increases in 14 months. The Supervisor thinks the owners might be

MVCCA GALA 2006 SATURDAY, APRIL 29TH 2006, 6:00 PM FORT BELVOIR GOLF CLUB ON BEULAH ROAD

Please join Mount Vernon Citizens in this civic gathering honoring the Citizen of the Year and Organization of the Year. Invitations are being mailed at this time. A reservation form is on the website, www.mvcca.org <<http://www.mvcca.org>> , for those not receiving an invitation. All are welcome! See you there!

THE COUNCIL minutes

trying to force out residents in advance of a redevelopment, and he will not tolerate this.

The *proposed Riverside Park expansion* was not approved by the Area Plan Review Task Force.

The *Fort Hunt Road trail* will not go across Richmond Highway because VDOT scrapped that connection. Gerry notified VDOT of his objection. VDOT came back with idea of a pedestrian flyover for which they would need to find funding.

Discussion took place on the *proposed elimination of the property tax decal*. Gerry asked that the Council Budget Committee look at the issue, possible cost savings, etc.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget & Finance. The Committee minutes are as printed in the *Record*.

Consumer Affairs. The Committee minutes are as printed in the *Record*. The March meeting will be a “stay at home” gathering.

Education. Chair Judy Harbeck referenced the minutes as printed in the *Record*. The Committee held a joint meeting with the Budget Committee on February 21st. The next meeting with the Budget Committee, the County Executive, and Supervisor Hyland will be March 1st. The February 28th meeting with Supervisor Hyland was cancelled and rolled into the March 1st meeting.

Environment. Chair Jim Davis referenced the minutes printed in the *Record* and said he will present one resolution. The Alice Ferguson Potomac River Watershed clean-up will be April 8th.

Health and Human Services (HHS). Chair Louise Cleveland referenced the minutes as printed in the *Record*. The Committee will meet on February 28th to discuss needs and resources for the County budget.

Public Safety. Chair Dallas Shawkey referenced the minutes published in the *Record*.

Transportation. Chair Frank Cohn referenced the minutes published in the *Record*. One resolution will be presented.

Special Committee on Affordable Housing (SCAWH). Committee Chair Jerry Ireland referenced the minutes as printed in the *Record*. The Committee will meet on February 23rd at the Mount Vernon Government Center with the HHS Committee. They will review the County budget, the one-cent set-aside for affordable housing, and related issues.

Planning & Zoning (P&Z). Chair David Dale referenced the minutes published in the *Record*. Several resolutions will be presented.

Fairfax Federation. Representative Judy Harbeck said the Federation will be looking at infill development and the so-called “monster house” issue.

RESOLUTIONS

Two resolutions were considered re a matter scheduled to come before the Area Plan Review Task Force. A citizen has proposed to amend the current language in the County’s Comprehensive Plan describing the use of “North Hill” as “planned for a park.” The two resolutions are:

MVCCA-2006-PL/Z-12: North Hill Comprehensive Plan Language
MVCCA-2006-SCAWH-19: APR Nomination for Development of North Hill

The PL/Z resolution (to keep the “park” description unchanged) was approved: 18-10-2.

The SCAWH resolution (to recommend a change to permit development of the land partly as park and partly as affordable housing) was not approved: 11-18-2.

[Note from the Editor: Six other resolutions were acted upon. These results and other additions to the February minutes will be available at the March 22 General Council.]

RESOLUTIONS IN THIS MARCH RECORD

MVCCA-2006-PL/Z-21: Fairfax County Public Schools
Telecommunications Leasing Master Agreement

MVCCA-2006-BUDG-22: MVCCA Resolution on the Fairfax
County FY2007 Budget, as Advertised

MVCCA-2006-EDUC-23: Resolution of the MVCCA Education
Committee Re FY2007 Advertised Budget Plan

MVCCA-2006- TRANS-24: Maintenance Resolution

MVCCA-2006- H/HS-25: Health and Human Services Planning for
FY2007

MVCCA-2006-SCAWH-26: Public Support for Two Pennies Now
for Affordable Housing in Fairfax County

BUDGET AND FINANCE

The Budget & Finance Committee has met four times in order to prepare our resolution on the Fairfax County FY 2007 Advertised Budget. Our first meeting on the Budget was held jointly with the Education Committee in the Walt Whitman Middle School library on February 21st and featured Mario Schiavo, FCPS Director of Budget Services. County Executive Tony Griffin and Mt. Vernon District Supervisor Gerry Hyland were our guests on March 1st also in the library at Walt Whitman Middle School. On Friday, March 3rd, the Committee met with the invitation going out to all MVCCA Committee Chairs to attend with the intention of soliciting their input into our resolution. This meeting was scheduled to take place in the principal's conference room at Walt Whitman Middle School, but was held in the Mt. Vernon District Supervisor's board room as the Principal of Walt Whitman Middle School cancelled all meetings at the school due to what appeared to be a night of student activities throughout the school. Chairs from Education, Public Safety, Health and Human Services and the Special Committee on Affordable Housing provided their input on the Budget at this meeting.

We produced our resolution at our fourth meeting, which was held on Tuesday, March 7th, in the principal's conference room at Walt Whitman Middle School. In attendance were representatives from Hollin Hills, Hollin Hall, Williamsburg Manor North, Potomac Valley/Riverbend, and Wessington Homes. Additionally, Judy Harbeck, Education Chair, also attended. Our resolution focuses primarily on two expenditure areas of the Budget. First, even through the expansion rate of enrollment in the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) is leveling off, its matrix continues to shift. The population of students for whom English is a second language continues to increase. These students are significantly more expensive to educate. Also, special education needs are increasing. We attribute this to an increasing knowledge base in this area. Demands in the area of standards referred to as the SOLs and the "No Child Left Behind" program are also increasing the costs to run FCPS. Judy Harbeck points out that a number of schools that now pass current credential standards will not pass in the future if their scores do not increase. Judy also tells us that FCPS needs to make advances in the area of providing computer skills and therefore needs to add significantly to the number of computers available to the students.

Affordable housing was our second area of focus. We are supporting the current one penny for the preservation of affordable housing and we are recommending an additional penny be dedicated to the creation of affordable housing units. The reason for this second penny is that the current "preserved" inventory stands at 866 units, which represents the culmination of preservation efforts that began in April of 2004. Affordable housing units are being taken off of the market by the process of condo conversion at a high rate. Jerry Ireland, Chair of the MVCCA Special Committee on Affordable Housing, indicates that a number approximating 4,000 units were taken out of the market in 2005 by this process. Given this competition for affordable housing, the County's inventory will disappear faster than it can be preserved. So, new units need to be created.

In our resolution, we also encourage the County to preserve programs that provide funds for effective strategies for prevention and early intervention with the goal of controlling the growth in major

public costs such as hospitalization, incarceration, and chronic dependency. By this, we mean to say that it is more cost effective to spend money now on prevention, rather than to spend much more in the future.

We are against removing the auto decal and the loss of the revenue produced by terminating the auto decal fee and we have included language to this effect.

Finally, we want real estate taxes to be reduced, but not in a way that hurts us in the long run. Therefore, we included language to limit the level of tax relief to two cents beyond the seven cents provided by the Advertised Budget. We do not currently know what the State will provide us for the FCPS. We are hearing that it will be a larger amount than in the budget. Should this turn out to be the case, we would be receptive to an increase in real estate tax relief.

Our next meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. April 5th in the principal's conference room at Walt Whitman Middle School.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Consumer Affairs had a Staty-at-Home meeting for March to review various consumer documents from Fairfax County Consumer Protection Division. The Committee has established a list of guest speakers who may speak on topics of interest to the general membership. The schedule is dependent on the Councils' agenda, to include number of resolutions to be discussed and voted on for the month. The first guest speaker on the list is tentatively scheduled for the May general membership meeting. The guest speaker will be a representative from the Fairfax County Consumer Protection Division who will provide an overview of services, including those at South County Government Center, available to Fairfax County residents.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 4th at 7:30 p.m. at Walt Whitman Middle School in the Principal's Conference.

EDUCATION

The Education Committee met on February 21, 2006, in joint session with the Budget and Finance Committee to hear a presentation on the FY2007 School Budget by Mario Schiavo, FCPS Director of Budget Services. Associations represented in the Education Committee were: Riverside Estates, Sulgrave Manor, Mount Vernon Civic, Stratford Landing, Waynewood, Wellington, Stratford on the Potomac IV and Williamsburg Manor North.

The Education Committee also attended the initial portion of the 7 pm, March 1, 2006, program of the Budget and Finance Committee where Supervisor Hyland and County Executive Griffin discussed the School Transfer Increase contained in the County's FY2007 Advertised Budget Plan, and thereafter held a separate meeting to consider the Committee's position on the County Budget as concerns the School Transfer Increase. Associations represented were: Wellington, Kings Crossing, Sulgrave Manor, Mount Vernon Civic, Waynewood, Stratford Landing, Riverside Estates, Stratford on the Potomac IV and Newington Forest. In addition, Williamsburg Manor, Williamsburg Manor North and Mt. Zephyr participated in the Resolution process.

THE COMMITTEE reports

At the March 1 meeting, the Committee considered a draft resolution on the school transfer increase, unanimously approved the position it reflected and directed the Chair to promote that position to the Budget and Finance Committee, the MVCCA Board and the MVCCA, and directed the Chair to make non-substantive revisions to the narrative portions of the draft and to circulate for final vote. After circulation, the Resolution was approved unanimously.

The deliberations, concerns and conclusions of the Committee are best expressed in its Resolution, printed elsewhere in this RECORD, which are consistent with the position of the Budget and Finance Committee with regard to the recommended School Transfer Increase of 7.4%, a \$20M increase over the amount contained in the County Budget, and sufficient to fund through Tier III.

The Committee's position did not call for full funding of the School Budget through Tier IV (which would have required an additional \$20M, or \$40M total for full funding of the school budget) in recognition of the County's other budget needs and real estate tax and assessment issues. The Committee recognized that the Tier IV items (see Resolution) are important, desirable and needed enhancements but decided, given the budgetary climate, that it wished to explore the issues in more detail. The Committee also discussed a number of needed additional resources which were not included in the School Budget, particularly those needed for technology improvement and replacement.

Next meeting: 8 pm, April 5, 2006, Whitman Middle School Library.

ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION

The Environment and Recreation Committee met on March 1, 7:30 PM Room E-114 Mt Vernon High School. Attending were: Collingwood on the Potomac, Spring Bank, Stratford Landing, Stratford on the Potomac Sec IV, Sulgrave Manor and Williamsburg Manor.

The Committee discussed the Gum Springs Historical Society and Museum request for inclusion into the historic crescent of Mt Vernon, Woodlawn Plantation, National Army Museum, Pohick Church, Gunston Hall and the Work House Arts Center. With MVCCA community support the Museum could more quickly gain a stop on a historic shuttle route to the historic and recreational sites. MV District Supervisor Hyland asked in the recent past, that a new occupancy tax on hotel rooms be earmarked for this shuttles creation. Currently there is a private tour company offering a tour from Alexandria (Old Town) to Mt Vernon, Woodlawn and Gunston Hall.

The Committee discussed recreational needs in our District. Homeowners and civic associations will be informed of any proposals or plans of facilities, furthering constructive physical activities in their areas. Among the immediate needs are large rectangular and girls softball fields. Other less popular activities will also be addressed.

The Committee was informed of the approval and E and R endorsed North Hill Resolution to retain the current Comprehensive Plan language by the MVCCA General Session and the Area Plan Review Task Force. It was pointed out that the residents along Richmond Highway are also entitled to the same quality amenities as the more expensive neighborhoods.

The Alice Ferguson Potomac River Watershed Cleanup is scheduled for April 8. Fairfax County is striving to have 100 cleanup sites on April 8. Civic Associations along the Potomac River are very much encouraged to participate toward the Potomac River goal becoming trash free by 2013. The Civic Organizations, Associations and individuals can contact www.potomaccleanup.org or Krystal Kearns (Krystal.Kearns@fairfaxcounty.gov) at Department of Public Works, Fairfax County to participate in this region wide activity.

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 5, 7:30 PM, Room E-114, Mt Vernon High School

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HHS Committee met twice, Feb. 28 and March 7, with a total of 14 member associations represented: Collingwood on Potomac, Hollindale, Hollin Glen, Hollin Hills, Mount Vernon, Mount Zephyr, Stratford Landing, Stratford on Potomac*, Stratford on Potomac-Sec.4, Sulgrave Manor, United Voice at King's Crossing, Wellington, Wessynton, and Williamsburg Manor. *The total of 17 voting representatives who reviewed and approved two resolutions* includes 13 of those named plus 4 participating by e-mail: Belle Haven Terrace, Hollin Hall Village, New Gum Springs, and Potomac Valley/River Bend.

Annually, in February and March, HHS Committee brings together results of our work throughout the year on emerging health and human services needs in our area, in order to consider how well the county's Advertised Budget Plan proposes to match needs with resources in the coming fiscal year (starting July 1). The committee also requests updates from representatives to citizen groups such as the advisory committee for the Mount Vernon Community Mental Health Center, the Southeast Health Planning Task Force, and the countywide Human Services Council. The goal is to make an evaluation and recommendation, in the form of a Resolution, concerning the County's planning.

This year, the Special Committee on Affordable and Workforce Housing (SCAWH), at their Feb. 23 meeting, asked HHS Committee to draft a second Resolution, for review in *both* committees, to recommend two "Pennies" of funding for affordable housing in FY2007: one Penny for continuing the preservation effort begun in FY2006 and one Penny for stimulating new development. (This the strategy that HHS recommended, and the Council approved, in FY2006.)

On February 28, 10 HHS representatives met with Dept. of Human Services Systems' Region 1 Director Ken Disselkoen, a long-time Mount Vernon resident well-known for his knowledge of needs and services, both locally and countywide. He guided the group through the County's Advertised Budget Plan for FY2007, highlighting items related to health and human services, explaining the process for citizen review, and answering questions about services and programs. The Committee then considered rough drafts for the two resolutions described below, identified items (including need and funding for affordable housing) for special attention, and held a "straw" vote on key issues. On March 7, 9 HHS reps met to review revised drafts, made further improvements, and voted to approve both Resolutions. Those unable to participate on March 7 were offered opportunity to vote on each by e-mail.

THE COMMITTEE reports

The result: HHS Committee has approved, by unanimous vote (17-0-0), two Resolutions related to County planning for FY2007, for consideration of the General Council on March 22. HHS forwards the Resolution, "Health and Human Services Planning for FY2007"; SCAWH forwards the Resolution (jointly supported by HHS), "Public Support for Two Pennies Now for Affordable Housing in Fairfax County." A comment on each, from an HHS perspective, follows.

(HHS) "Health and Human Services Planning for FY2007":

This year, continuing a trend in the past five years, the HHS Committee sees evidence of great strain on the "safety net" of services that must coordinate with each other and respond to emerging needs in our communities. In Mount Vernon (and the larger Region I area for service delivery), the changes that we are observing locally resemble changes taking place throughout the county.

Mount Vernon does have an especially strong tradition of developing local nonprofit organizations and agencies that build effective programs in response to changing needs. Some are able to attract both outstanding volunteers and generous charitable contributions into their efforts, earning wide recognition and serving as models for others that develop elsewhere. The County meanwhile provides many services directly and supports others through contracts with private agencies (such as these nonprofits), as well as through the Consolidated Community Funding Pool. County resources are supplemented by state and federal dollars that support particular programs; whenever these public funds decline, the county makes difficult choices among programs. Too often, in past years, even effective prevention and early intervention efforts were reduced at the very times they needed to be expanded. As citizens concerned with maintaining quality and cost-effectiveness of services, MVCCA has advocated effective crisis prevention and early intervention as among our best and least costly strategies. This is crucial when we consider the much greater public costs of "alternatives" such as prolonged hospitalization, incarceration, or chronic dependency.

This HHS Resolution identifies "vulnerable, growing groups" in Mount Vernon/Region I who must be our priority for special attention from health and human services. MVCCA has advocated solutions that go beyond emergency response, and this public support for prevention and early intervention strategies has helped bring about some real progress during this fiscal year (2006). The Resolution names four examples of important programs funded in the Plan for FY2007, including expanded supervised after-school programs, but also calls for adding a second Penny for affordable housing in FY2007, to fund development. (The urgent need and strategy are explained in the SCAWH Resolution on affordable housing.)

The Budget Plan represents a careful balance overall. Since many effective programs that serve a growing population are held to very lean levels of staff and funding capacity, HHS Committee recommends special attention to County set-aside of funds that can expand capacity in response to emergent issues. In general, this HHS Resolution complements the Budget Committee's Resolution, we believe, and does not conflict with it.

The Resolution encourages the Supervisors to take actions and make "adjustments" to the proposed Budget Plan that will enhance and strengthen the County's ability to respond to emergent crises: (1) adding a second "Penny" for FY2007 to the County's Affordable Housing Initiative, to stimulate new development; (2) targeting money available for property tax relief especially to those least able to pay increased tax on their homes; (3) maintaining a set-aside or "reserve" of funds for responding (especially through programs and services for prevention and early intervention) to all-but-predictable crises and emergencies that may arise during the fiscal year 2007; and (4) avoiding actions that may reduce revenues so far as to weaken essential county services of every kind.

(SCAWH) "Public Support for Two Pennies Now for Affordable Housing in Fairfax County"

The County's Advertised Budget Plan proposes to continue to dedicate one "Penny" (under a formula based on the mil rate for residential property taxes that the BOS approved last year), toward *preservation* of affordable housing. This Resolution recommends adding a second "Penny," in FY2007, to stimulate new *development*.

Last year, MVCCA and many others proposed a strategy of "two cents" as common sense, and by now the advantages of acting sooner rather than later are clear. Even with successful acquisitions this year through the "One Penny Fund" for preservation, the supply of housing affordable to a broad range of households earning less than the county median income continues to shrink, as more "luxury" enclaves and condo conversions come to market. The need grows to stimulate other development choices, designed for a broader range of incomes and needs.

The call for housing affordable for working families began, several years ago, with dedicated human services professionals who witnessed "early warning" signs. Among new clients who worked long hours for low wages, displacement from rented housing and other signs of family destabilization were on the rise, along with requests for temporary aid for "eviction prevention." By 2005, the number of working families with children under 18 had increased in shelters, in transitional housing, and in the annual "count" of the homeless. By now, we know many families are forced to move far from their jobs (e.g. at Mount Vernon Hospital), burn expensive gas, and commute into Fairfax County daily on congested roads, until they find better choices. Others remain (some who drive school busses, for example) who pay more than half their income in rent and live one uninsured medical bill away from needing assistance. Debate over resources for "Workforce housing *versus* housing needs for the poor" is pointless when we do not identify resources that can stimulate developers to build more places for either. With this added "Penny," directed toward stimulating new development, the County can take a significant step ahead.

Community meetings—all open to the public

Wednesday, March 29, Route One Task Force for Human Services focuses on the proposed FY2007 Budget Plan (and Affordable Housing Committee and Human Services Council recommendations), 7 p.m., South County Center, Anne Andrews, Convener, 703/780-1773.

THE COMMITTEE reports

Monday, April 3-Wednesday April 5, BOS Hearings on the proposed FY2007 Budget Plan begin, 7 p.m., at the Fairfax County Government Center. Citizens advocating for Mount Vernon/Region I human services are among speakers scheduled.

Tuesday, April 4, MVCCA Health and Human Services Committee meets, topic t/b/a, 7:30 p.m., IMVH Conf. Room C. H/HS. Chair Louise Cleveland, 703/780-9151.

Wednesday, April 19, Southeast Health Planning Task Force meets, 6 p.m., at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital. Anne Andrews, Chair, 703/780-1773.

PLANNING AND ZONING

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM. In attendance were representatives from the following associations: Collingwood on the Potomac, Engleside, Hollin Hills, Huntington, Marlin Forest, Middle Valley, Montebello, Newington, Newington Forest, Potomac Valley-River Bend, Riverside Estates, Spring Bank, Stratford on the Potomac Section IV, United Voice of Kings Crossing, Wellington, Wessynton, Williamsburg Manor, Williamsburg Manor North and Wm H. Randall Estates. One community resolution was adopted, and multiple applications for antennas were discussed.

In 2002, the School Board entered into a contract with Milestone Communications to propose and manage requests for cell towers on school property. That contract requires community support before filing a 2232 application and before a lease could be signed. Recently, the provision for community review has not been included, specifically, in regards to an antenna at Mount Vernon High School. Riverside Estates presented a resolution opposing this practice, which was passed by the Committee.

The Planning Commissioner advised the Committee of a proposal to install three radio antennas as part of a highway advisory system for emergencies. Seeing no opposition, he will permit the application to move forward as a "feature shown" rather than a full 2232 application.

The Planning Commissioner then presented three requests for cell phone antennas. The first (FS-V05-35) is for 12 flush mounted antennas on the penthouse of the office building at 5845 Richmond Highway (at Fort Hunt Road). The second (FS-V05-40) was for 9 antennas mounted on an existing high-voltage power line tower at 8268T Burning Forest Court. Seeing no opposition, these two applications will proceed as "feature shown" applications rather than full 2232 applications. The third antenna request was for placement on top of an existing utility pole at the corner of Fort Hunt Road and Paul Springs Road. Since neither Hollin Hills nor Marlan Forest had reviewed the application, the applicant was directed to obtain community support and return to the Committee.

Teresa Champion of Middle Valley Civic gave a quick update on the Ridge Road development. A new "option B" plan has been created and will be brought before the Committee soon.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm. The next Planning and Zoning meeting is Monday, April 3, 2006, 7:30 PM, in the Jack Knowles Lecture Hall of Whitman Middle School.

Visit the committee's web site www.mvcca-pz.org for additional information and supporting documents.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Associations represented: Collingwood on the Potomac, Mount Zephyr, Riverside Estates, Riverside Gardens, Southwood, Stratford on Potomac Sect IV, Sulgrave Manor, Waynewood, and Wellington.

The chair began the meeting with a review of the progress of some items of interest in the General Assembly session.

The Fairfax County Police School Resource Officer (SRO) Program was the main subject for the meeting. For this, we had three officers from the Mount Vernon Police Station who fill positions in the Mount Vernon District. They were MPO Bobbie Clift who is the School Education Officer (SEO) for the elementary schools, PFC Marvin Goodley who is the SRO for Carl Sandburg Middle School, and MPO Harvey Lyles who is the SRO for Bryant Alternative High School.

The SRO program began informally in 1992 when an officer was assigned part time to a high school or a middle school to act as a liaison in each of the seven districts. The SROs made informal contact with the school administrations and students to gain information about ongoing problems in the school and the community. As a result, information was gained that ultimately led to the investigation of unreported crimes. In October 1992, an altercation in a school lunchroom erupted into a large fight involving 40 to 50 Latino and African American students that spilled into the community. It was quickly recognized that these events required a coordinated response from both the police and the schools. A full time officer was assigned to the high school.

The SRO Program formally began in 1994. In 1995, the Police established eight fulltime SRO positions. Between 1999 and 2001 SRO positions were added so that every middle school, high school, and alternative school had a fulltime SRO – a total of 49. As the school system has grown, new SRO positions have been established. Currently, Liberty Middle School is sharing an SRO position with Mountain View Alternative School. There is a need for an SRO position at the new South County High School. The new positions will be established for these schools in the 2006/2007 school year. There will be a total of 52 fulltime SRO positions with one for every middle school and high school in the county.

The SROs are intended to provide law enforcement expertise and resources required to assist school staff in maintaining safety, order, and discipline within their assigned school. They remain under the control of the commander of the police station in which the school is located. However, they are considered to be an active member of the administrative team of his/her assigned school. The SRO's patrol area includes the assigned school building, grounds, and surrounding area. The SRO assumes primary responsibility for handling all calls for service and coordinating police or other resources response to the school.

THE COMMITTEE reports

To enhance their visibility in schools, SROs wear the police uniform, used marked police vehicles which are parked in conspicuous spots, and are given their own office space. While their primary role is safety and security, they are involved in teaching the children about their duties as citizens, driver education, and making healthy choices, etc. SROs monitor cultural and social influences and activities to identify emerging gangs or other problem groups. The critical element of the SRO program is an open relationship and strong communication between the school principal and the SRO. The two meet weekly to exchange information and discuss current crime trends, problem areas, cultural conflicts, or any other areas of concern that may cause disruption at the school, or within the community.

As a result of these efforts, the SRO has become part of the school environment and the community he/she serves.

MPO Clift reviewed the School Education Officer (SEO) program which the police have established for the elementary schools. He covers 16 elementary schools, including the St. Louis School. He conducts a total of about 495 classes per year. For grades kindergarten through three, he provides information about personal safety including responses to strangers. In second grade he covers pedestrian safety; third grade is seat belts and air bags; fourth grade is bicycle safety, fifth grade is gangs; and sixth grade is school incidents and safety in preparation for middle school. He also meets with each of the school's administration to address any issues of safety and security concern. In the summer he is involved with Safety Patrol Camp. This is a one week camp in Harrisonburg for selected fifth graders rising to sixth grade. It teaches them how to be sidewalk and street crossing patrols.

SROs Goodley and Lyles reviewed their experiences in their respective schools. They work closely with both the principal and vice principal for security. They assist in conducting table top drills and some practice drills. These include drills for responding to guns in school, mass evacuation, and lockdowns. They hold practice tornado drills and bus evacuation drills. They briefly reviewed the school year 2004-2005 incidents. Each school has a Student Rights and Responsibilities Manual for which all students are given instruction. Both they and their parents are required to sign that they have received, read it, and will comply. The SROs give anti-gang information – and how to stay out of gangs – and how to respond to bullying. The SROs provide information to teachers on safety and how to spot potential problems. SROs work to develop healthy relations with students. This has helped SROs to learn about problems existing among the students.

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be held in Community Rm. 3, Mount Vernon Governmental Center beginning at 7:30pm, Thursday, April 6, 2006.

TRANSPORTATION

The MVCCA Transportation Committee met at 8 PM on March 6, 2006 in the Walt Whitman Intermediate School Library. Attending were Mr. Earl Flanagan, Transportation Commissioner, representatives of 17 member organizations (Belle Haven Terrace, Berkshire, Hollin Hall, Huntington, Marlan Forest, Montebello,

Mount Vernon, Mount Zephyr, Potomac Valley-Riverbend, Riverside Estates, Southwood, Stratford on the Potomac Section IV, Sulgrave Manor, Tauxemont, Waynewood, Wessynton, Westgrove) and of 3 organizations whose memberships had expired (Gum Springs, Milway Meadows, Mount Vernon Manor).

The Committee reviewed the Planning and Zoning (P&Z) resolution entitled "Resolution on Walgreens Pharmacy" which was referred to the Transportation Committee by the MVCCA. The resolution was revised to highlight the potential traffic problem on Boswell Avenue. It was deemed appropriate to let Walgreens solve this problem before the project can receive approval by the MVCCA. The Revised Resolution which was adopted unanimously was hand-carried to the P&Z meeting in progress; however, the revised Resolution will not have to be disseminated since the ongoing action of the MVCCA has placed the matter on hold until the traffic situation is solved. This matter is returned to the P&Z Committee for follow-up.

The Committee next considered a Maintenance Resolution, in view of the rejection of all routine maintenance contracts in the Mount Vernon District, by the State, for the current calendar year. A new effort will be made to secure a guest speaker from VDOT on this subject at the next meeting. However, by unanimous vote, the Committee recommends the immediate adaptation of this resolution, which is printed elsewhere in the Record.

A letter to the Supervisor, recommending the expeditious elimination of the existing crosswalk at the non-signalized Groveton/Richmond Highway intersection, was reviewed and its dispatch approved. The Committee also discussed the VDOT position, publicized in the media, to eliminate provisions for a pedestrian crossing at the Fort Hunt/Richmond Highway intersection. Since the Supervisor is confronting VDOT regarding this decision, we will await its outcome. Also on hold is any action concerning the needed improvement of lane markings on Richmond Highway; this matter will be discussed with the VDOT Maintenance Chief at the next meeting.

Updates on a number of issues were considered. (1) The count-down traffic light resolution for the Huntington Ave/Richmond Highway intersection was adopted by the MVCCA at its last meeting with a unanimous vote. It is being forwarded to the Supervisor for action. (2) We have experienced a lack of complaints about aircraft noise in the past few months. A number of reasons maybe involved. The cold weather forces windows to be closed, but also, more modern aircraft are making less noise. The worst noise appears to come from increased helicopter traffic. If military helicopters are observed along Route #1, instead of over the Potomac River, a report should be forwarded to the Chair who will apprise the Fort Belvoir PIO. (3) The Chair and Earl Flanagan were able to advise BRAC and Army Museum planners and commercial interests that they must stress the need for traffic alleviation actions, primary the need for rail along the Route #1 corridor. This message was well received. (4) Our initiated resolution for a 3-way stop at the Lukens Lane/Old Mill Road intersection, which was passed by the MVCCA and forwarded to the Supervisor, should receive action soon. The Supervisor opted to survey the views of residents in the vicinity who did not have any Citizen Association to represent them. The suspense for the replies is mid March. A decision on disposition of the resolution will then be

made. (5) The Supervisor requested a cost estimate for the installation of a sidewalk at the newly constructed property at the McNair/Old Mill Road intersection. At that location a deep culvert exists, forcing pedestrians into the street; a sidewalk would preclude this need. The cost, excluding acquisition costs, was estimated at \$65,000 across one standard lot. This highlights the need for proffers to be raised significantly when the construction of sidewalks is waived; the Mount Vernon Golf Club was only asked to proffer \$50,000 and to sponsor golf tournaments over a 5 year period to raise another \$50,000 by forgoing a sidewalk requirement all along their property line adjacent to Old Mill Road. Additionally it highlights the possible need for legislation to require property owners or developers to provide sidewalks when major renovations or new construction is undertaken. This matter will require follow up by the Committee. (6) A complaint by Bob Brubaker of Safe Crossing, to examine the fencing which precludes pedestrian passage on Woodlawn Trail, cutting off a pedestrian connection between Hollin Hill and Hybla Valley, was discussed. Apparently property owners on both sides of the fence have opted for this closure and the fence is constructed on private property. No action was taken on this matter. (7) The utilization figures of the REX and #11Y bus routes were presented by Frank Cihak. It appears that occupancy for these routes exceeds the average within Fairfax County and is the 3rd best in the country with a 57.5% recovery rate. (8) Earl Flanagan will present our Parking Restriction Resolution with slight modifications, to the Federation for adoption at their meeting on March 7, 2006.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Monday, April 3, 2006, to be held in the Library of the Walt Whitman Middle School. Agenda to be announced.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AFFORDABLE AND WORKFORCE HOUSING

The monthly meeting was held Feb. 23, with 7 representatives participating: United Voice at Kings Crossing; Villa May; Riverside Estates; Collingwood on Potomac; Stratford Landing; Mason Hill; and Mount Zephyr.

Following discussion of the Council's decision (Feb. 22) against supporting a Comprehensive Plan amendment for North Hill, the Committee focused on activities that deserve full attention going forward. There is growing interest, if some confusion, about a number of issues around new development of housing affordable for a range of incomes. Everyone agreed on the need for better educational information to all our communities on many aspects of affordable and workforce housing. Members interested in the development model and manufactured homes at "Meadows of Chantilly" planned a field trip there on March 18, to start at the Mount Vernon Government Center at 9:30 a.m. Others are invited to join us. The committee discussed the limitations surrounding the ADU program. Though the committee is committed to fixing the many problems with this program, we are convinced it will never be more than a small piece in the larger picture of solutions needed, to fix the housing problems we are facing in the Mount Vernon area and the county.

Priorities for attention in March are: (1) the opportunity for MVCCA to support County funds for new development, during the citizen review of the FY2007 Advertised Budget Plan, and (2) Committee effort to draft a Position Paper that will assist the Executive Board and the MVCCA membership in understanding affordable and workforce housing issues, so that we can work together and support solutions.

Next SCAWH Monthly Meeting: March 30, 7 p.m., Mount Vernon Government Center Room 1.

Resolution: "Two Pennies Now"

Last spring, discussion centered at Budget Plan time on the top recommendation of the county Affordable Housing Preservation Action Committee, to set aside One Penny (from the mil rate for residential property tax) for a trust fund that could "save 1000 units by 2007." But, MVCCA urged that the County dedicate not one just one penny for preservation, but another for development. One year later, the "One Penny" for preservation fund has accomplished much, but it must focus on partnerships with projects already underway in order to obligate funds and "save" units within the year. Meanwhile the annual net loss of affordable units continues.

The committee voted unanimously to recommend that MVCCA support two Pennies for FY2007, with the second penny to stimulate new development, and with flexibility to hold money in a fund and make commitments up to three years later. Such a fund will stimulate new development and leverage more attractive new units in partnerships with carefully selected projects. The money might be invested in land or in a share of the new construction; there are a number of possible strategies recommended, and in use by other localities, that make long-term "affordability" a part of the contract.

The Committee voted to ask the Health and Human Services Committee to draft a Resolution, for review by both committees, along the lines of the Resolution MVCCA adopted last March; HHS agreed and incorporated the basic approach to development suggested by SCAWH. The resolution, approved by e-vote 8-1-0, has been forwarded from SCAWH for Council consideration. (Jointly approved by HHS, it is also described in that Committee Report.) The Resolution is titled, "Public Support for Two Pennies Now for Affordable Housing in Fairfax County."

Developing the Position Paper

The committee has reviewed several drafts of a position paper, begun in February with efforts to describe both "affordable" and "workforce" housing issues, which now incorporates suggestions from committee members and others; the committee has voted (by e-mail, 9-1-0) to present the Position Paper to the MVCCA Executive Board. The Board has recommended it be published here, as an attachment to this report, so that members may consider and discuss the views it states. A Resolution for MVCCA to adopt this position may be offered in the April General Council meeting (rather than in the busy March agenda).

From the MVCCA Special Committee on Affordable and Workforce Housing, for consideration of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations:

POSITION PAPER ON AFFORDABLE AND WORKFORCE HOUSING

March 2006

Background:

The Affordable and Workforce Housing Committee seeks to define purposes and initiatives to remedy the housing needs for a range of incomes, particularly adults in the workforce and households with incomes below 80% of the county median.

In the Mount Vernon District, residents have been displaced or are about to be displaced from three mobile home parks. Recent trends in infill development and residential redevelopment have favored the replacement of modest homes with much larger designs. The result is that Fairfax County is losing many workforce-affordable rental and for-purchase units, while being urged to add 10,000 units by 2010. Regional studies show that shortages of housing affordable to the workforce are forcing citizens to move further and further away from work centers and public transportation.

Median residential prices far exceed what median wage earners can pay for housing, and this "affordability gap" continues to get wider. Over the past five years, assessed property values have gone up each year by double digits, while average wages have increased in low single-digit percentages. Land prices are at an all-time high, with the result that developers tend to build higher end products to cover the higher costs of land acquisition and maintain acceptable profit margins. New speculative developments are replacing existing developments, and displacing long-time residents, renters and mobile home owners, without a clear long-term plan to replace or relocate lost units.

Most beginning to mid-career professionals are no longer able to enter the housing market. With increasing frequency, members of this group find that even rental properties are prohibitively expensive, consuming far more than the one-third of gross income ratio that has long been society's measuring stick. Employers in health care, public and private nonprofit service agencies, military organizations and other government agencies find it increasingly difficult to attract and retain a quality workforce due to affordable housing shortages. Our public safety personnel—firefighters and police—as well as our teachers and school administrators, our retail store and other service employees cannot afford to live near their workplace. The lack of nearby affordable housing is becoming a deterrent to businesses considering relocation to Fairfax County. Our District needs more commercial business, which in the long term will help reduce the tax burden on individual homeowners. As a greater percentage of land is rezoned from commercial to residential, the tax burden increases for our residents, instead of being shared by new or expanded commercial businesses.

While many forms of public assistance are available, these are not sufficient to help more than the lowest earners and do not assist many families earning between \$25,000 and \$75,000. By contrast, the "Affordable Dwelling Unit" (ADU) program that comes with

new construction of 50 units or more only benefits a small percentage at the high end of families with moderate incomes. In the fifteen years since the ADU program started, it has produced about 3000 units. Given the current zoning ordinance exemptions for high-rise developments and also for smaller developments under 50 units, a significant increase in the number of ADUs being produced in the current environment is unlikely.

Position of the Special Committee:

The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations can help local government and developers plan for the renovation, revitalization and development of housing for all levels of household incomes countywide. Included are persons on pensions who are elderly and/or persons with disabilities, with household incomes less than 80% of the Fairfax County median. We need to help create a more incentive-based housing market for developers by working with private developers to create an environment where developers are encouraged to build affordable and workforce housing. Nonprofits should also be considered as partners in providing more affordable and workforce housing units, especially where affordable parcels of land can be found.

Affordable and workforce housing should be developed equitably countywide and close to major employment centers such as Tysons Corner, Reston and Bailey's Crossroads. The Mount Vernon Planning District has a disproportionate share of poorly maintained and poorly managed multifamily housing for low-income families. Any efforts to create additional "affordable" homes in our area should focus on moderate-income families. We strongly discourage additional large apartment public housing projects, but encourage innovative small or mixed-income projects that serve employed lower-income singles and families.

Redevelopment plans should include provisions to replace as many as possible of the affordable units lost to redevelopment, but that replacement need not necessarily be built in the same development. These units could be relocated to other developments within the same district to allow for a better mixture of housing countywide. Replacement units must remain affordable to low-to-moderate households. Tax abatements, density bonuses, and other initiatives should be considered to reduce the cost of these kinds of units to the developer. Affordable units must be deeded as such for a specific time period. Traditionally, for financing, a 30-year clock is standard. There should be a restart to the 30-year clock upon the sale or transfer of the property, if it were to occur prior to the completion of the 30 years. Replacement units should be ownership as well as rental, with home ownership the ultimate goal.

The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations stands ready to help local community associations become educated on the problem our county is facing in the loss and preservation of our affordable and workforce housing. The Council can help our communities collect suggestions, answer questions by way of an open public forum, and enable community associations to learn how this problem impacts their own community directly. The Council further advocates that Fairfax County adopt the positions stated above as a set of guiding principles for establishment and implementation of a long-term action plan to favorably resolve the issues of affordable and workforce housing as a high priority objective for the benefit of the target workforce and the entire county.

FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS TELECOMMUNICATIONS LEASING MASTER AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, The School Board of the Fairfax County Public Schools by an Agreement hired Smartpole/Milestone in 2002 after public notice and hearing, to propose and manage requests for monopolies on school properties, and

WHEREAS, the Agreement states in paragraph 5.2c: *At such time as the Site Plan is approved by the School Board Project manager, local school management, school PTSA, Athletic Booster Club, and adjacent homeowner associations (which approval may be given or withheld in such parties sole and absolute discretion), Manager shall submit the proposed Site Lease to School Board for approval...*, and

WHEREAS, the process stated above is not being followed by Smartpole/Milestone working with Omnipoint Communications, and

WHEREAS, the Agreement quoted above in particular requires notice to and approval of adjacent homeowner associations and local school management, among others, before executing a school site lease, and

WHEREAS, the Purchasing Agent Director for Fairfax County on May 18, 2005 deleted the above requirement by a mutual agreement between the Director and Smartpole/Milestone, and

WHEREAS, the homeowner associations that actively participated in the original 2002 Agreement were not notified or asked to concur in the above modification,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations requests that all monopolies not under construction on school sites be cancelled by the School Board of the Fairfax County Public Schools until the School Board takes action to reinstate the Agreement text deleted on May 18, 2005, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, THAT the Council request that Smartpole/Milestone and those working with them in the future be required to demonstrate that the processes required in the original Agreement of 2002 with the School Board have been followed.

MVCCA RESOLUTION ON THE FAIRFAX COUNTY FY 2007 BUDGET, AS ADVERTISED

WHEREAS, the Fairfax County Executive has presented the FY 2007 Advertised Budget Plan for Fairfax County, which complies with the Board of Supervisors (BOS) budget guidance; and

WHEREAS, the Revised FY 2006 Revised Budget Plan fully funds the Revenue Stabilization Fund; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2007 Advertised Budget funds effective strategies for prevention and early intervention, in order to control the growth in such major public costs as hospitalization, incarceration, and chronic dependency; and

WHEREAS, the overall economy of Fairfax County is improving this year as job growth remains strong, demand for housing and county services continues to climb; and

WHEREAS, while the overall FCPS student population at this point in time remains stable, the percentage of students who cost significantly more to educate (from economically disadvantaged households, with limited English skills, and with other special needs) continues to increase; and

WHEREAS, increased funding is needed to meet the rising performance benchmarks required by the federally unfunded mandate "No Child Left

Behind" and by the State Standards of Learning; and

WHEREAS, teacher compensation must be maintained at appropriate, competitive levels for the region; and

WHEREAS, the auto decal fee serves to provide a diversified source of revenue equivalent to one penny of real estate tax; and

WHEREAS, the robust real estate market is causing the inventory of affordable housing to be reduced, and one penny currently dedicated to affordable housing will not be adequate to preserve 10,000 units by the year 2010 as recommended by the County's Task Force on Affordable Housing;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the increase in transfer to the School Operating Fund should be 7.4% instead of 6% as published in the Advertised FY 2007 Budget and the 8.81% requested in the FCPS Budget

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT MVCCA does not support the elimination of the auto decal fee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MVCCA supports the continuation of dedicating one penny to the preservation of affordable housing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MVCCA urges the BOS to dedicate an additional penny to fund the creation of new affordable housing units as described in the County's Strategic Plan for Affordable Housing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT MVCCA urges that the BOS provide additional two pennies in real estate tax relief using the various reserves identified by the County Executive for their consideration; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, MVCCA supports the FY 2007 Advertised Budget with the exception of additional funds for the school transfer as set forth above and the real estate tax rate reduction.

RESOLUTION OF THE MVCCA EDUCATION COMMITTEE RE FY2007 ADVERTISED BUDGET PLAN

WHEREAS, the Fairfax County School Board (School Board) has approved a School Budget for Fiscal Year 2007 (FY2007 School Budget) which, for full funding, and after reductions made by the School Board, requires a 8.81% increase in fund transfer (Requested Transfer Increase), and the Fairfax County FY 2007 Advertised Budget Plan (Advertised Budget), presented to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS) on February 27, 2006, proposes a fund transfer increase of 6% (Proposed Transfer Increase) which would underfund the School Budget by approximately \$40 million (FY2007 Budget Difference); and

WHEREAS, last year's budget process saw a welcome increase in cooperation and information exchange among the School Board, the BOS and Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) staff so that the variation in the school transfer increase requested and proposed in FY2006 was the smallest (9.2% requested compared to 8.24% proposed) experienced in a number of years, and, given competing county requirements and a need to reduce the property tax burden, the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations (MVCCA) recommended adoption of the 8.24% proposed by the County, which was seen as adequate to (1) meet necessary and mandated increases, (2) to provide appropriate teacher raises to attract and retain competent personnel and remain competitive with neighboring jurisdictions, and to (3) continue to improve school performance with, among other things, incremental staffing increases and continued phase-in of full day kindergarten, and

WHEREAS, for FY2007, despite continuation of the cooperative approach and interchange of information process, the provision of public information showing needs in relationship to four funding levels ("Tiers I, II, III and IV"), and the continued decline in the percentage School Increase Request to 8.81% in FY2007, the Proposed Transfer Increase of 6% in the Advertised Budget is not only the smallest by far in many years, particularly

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when compared with the stated percentage growth in County revenue of 8.83 % (after a recommended 7 cent reduction in property tax rate), but most importantly does not provide adequate funds to permit FCPS to continue to improve performance and maintain its value as one of the most important assets to financial growth and health of the County overall, and

WHEREAS, the Proposed School Increase of 6% is not adequate to cover even those School Budget increases (Tier I) which are largely outside the control of FCPS and which bear little relationship to changes in overall revenue, enrollment, the cost of living or inflation indices including (1) the continued growth in the percentage of students requiring additional staffing and services (especially non-English speaking and/or economically disadvantaged) where the cost to educate averages at least \$3000 to \$7000 more per capita than other students, (2) increased Virginia Retirement System and other contributions as mandated by the Commonwealth and (3) increased general insurance and health insurance costs as are being experienced nation-wide by both public and private employers, (4) fuel and utility increases and (5) maintenance and replacement costs to preserve buildings and assets, and to provide a reasonable (3%) cost of living or market scale adjustment (MSA) for teachers (Tier II), which would collectively (Tiers I and II) require a 6.34% increase in school transfer, and

WHEREAS, operating costs in FCPS are extremely labor intensive, with the result that compensation to employees (most of whom are school-based instructional personnel) represents about 85% of the School Budget; and

WHEREAS, the percentage compensation increases for current employees proposed in the School Budget (Tier II), which also reflect escalating retirement mandates and insurance costs discussed, are approximately the same as applied since 2001 and the proposed 3% MSA above compares favorably to the 4.25% MSA proposed by the County for eligible County employees, to the proposed 3.44% federal MSA, as well as to MSA increases and other salary adjustments proposed in competing jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the compensation increase proposed in Tier II would at best prevent further erosion of FCPS' midrange salary ranking among local school systems as reflected in the annual reporting of the Washington Area Boards of Education (WABE Report) and is essential to protecting FCPS' most important asset—a highly qualified, professional instructional staff; and

WHEREAS, funds requested in Tier III of the School Budget (totaling about \$15.4 million) are required to (1) continue phase-in of full day kindergarten, (2) continue phase-in of a unified staffing formula based on weighted demographics, (3) continue improvement of technology support and data based learning approaches and (4) continue programs designed to improve student performance and particularly to address the minority student achievement gap and would require a 7.4% School Transfer Increase, combined with Tiers I and II; and

WHEREAS, schools in the area represented by the MVCCA are among those most at risk and most heavily affected by the growth in population of students who require additional services and staffing consideration, have benefited from increased resources as demonstrated by significant progress in achieving mandated benchmarks, and will require continued additional targeted resources, particularly such as those contained in Tier III, if progress is to continue as mandated benchmarks rise; and

WHEREAS, Tier IV would add some resources to encourage leadership, to expand teacher training, to add a .25% MSA for teachers and some starting and Master' salary scale adjustments, to compensate in a professional manner teachers who take on extra responsibilities such as intra school leadership positions, after school and summer school programs, all of which have been shown to be factors in improving student performance, in attracting, retaining and encouraging highly qualified teachers and in reducing the educational and financial cost of teacher turnover, and would require for implementation the full 8.81% School Transfer Request, when coupled to Tiers I, II and III; and

WHEREAS, even at the level of the full School Transfer Request, the School Budget merely maintains the FCPS' per capita student cost in the mid-range of local jurisdictions (according to the WABE Report) despite significant increases in populations which have higher educational costs such as non-English speaking, learning disabled and economically disadvantaged students, and continues to reduce both the ratio of non-school-based to school-based personnel, and the already low percentage of administrative costs as compared locally in the WABE Report and nationally in other publications; and

WHEREAS, the School Budget and the taxpayers of Fairfax County continue to be affected by under funded mandates of the federal government [among them the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLBA), and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)] wherein the cost of implementation and compliance far exceeds the assistance provided, particularly in view of steadily rising performance expectations; and

WHEREAS, the School Budget and the taxpayers of Fairfax County continue to be affected by the failure of the Commonwealth of Virginia to provide and fairly distribute adequate funding of its own Standards of Quality (SOQ) mandates, with the result that FCPS receives state funding for only 19.5% of its needs (compared with a 41.3% statewide average) and County taxpayers provide about 76% of school funding (compared with a local funding average of about 51% statewide); and

WHEREAS, as the County becomes more urban and more diverse, the Supervisors must make difficult choices in weighing competing legitimate needs for funding in a climate of increasing pressure on limited revenue sources, as the impact on property taxes becomes more intense and the inequity in revenue authority and distribution from the Commonwealth becomes more obvious; and

WHEREAS, public education is a core mission of local government and the Supervisors have recognized that obligation in their historically strong support of the schools and have also recognized that the nationally-known quality of FCPS is a critical asset of taxpayers and a major contributor to the County's economic health and quality of life and to expectations for continued progress in the future; and

WHEREAS, funding at a level below the 7.4% required by Tiers I, II and III (Basic and mandatory increases, 3% MSA, NCLB and instructional initiatives) would seriously erode the ability of FCPS to maintain and improve educational performance in the face of constantly increasing standards and constantly changing demographics, as well as FCPS' ability to attract and retain the highly qualified professional teaching staff which is the linchpin of a successful educational system

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations, in consideration of all of the above, urges the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in adopting a Budget for FY 2007 to provide a transfer to Fairfax County Public Schools which is no less than a 7.4% increase over FY2006, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations respectfully requests that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors consider additional transfers to Fairfax County Public Schools, particularly for implementation of Tier IV teacher initiatives and for non-recurring expenses such as computer and bus purchases, should revenue growth and competing considerations permit during the course of FY2007.

MAINTENANCE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) maintains yearly maintenance schedules to assure that neighborhood streets remain properly surfaced;

WHEREAS, appropriated budgets limit the amount of maintenance which can be performed during each year, often forcing required maintenance into the following years;

WHEREAS, reportedly the bids for three major resurfacing contracts, designed to provide scheduled maintenance for calendar year 2006 to neighborhood streets in the Mount Vernon District, were deemed to be over budget and were rejected by State authorities;

WHEREAS, the rejected bids caused all resurfacing for neighborhood streets in the Mount Vernon District to be scrapped for the current calendar year;

WHEREAS, communities accepted for required maintenance, in view of their deteriorating streets, now need to wait at least another year before being advised if their streets will be resurfaced

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT VDOT be required to publish and disseminate annually a projected three-year maintenance schedule, to permit communities to review and, if appropriate, appeal their position or lack of position in the projected maintenance schedules,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT the elected Virginia officials assure that adequate yearly funding be budgeted to achieve catch up for required street resurfacing in the Mount Vernon District; or that maintenance contracts be opened to bids from Contractors outside of the State, to permit acceptance of bids within the established budget;

AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, THAT Senator Puller, Representatives Albo and Amundson ascertain the disposition of the current year's maintenance funds and assure that such residual funds be added to next year's allocation for the Mount Vernon District.

Health and Human Services Planning for FY2007

WHEREAS public planning and funding for community-based delivery of essential services are joined, each year, in the countywide effort to keep pace with complex demographic growth and with emerging needs among some particularly vulnerable groups;

WHEREAS, in the Mount Vernon/Human Services Region I area, these growing, vulnerable groups include:

- Children in low-income families with temporary emergency needs (food, shelter, health care);
- Working families with children under age 18 at risk of homelessness and caught in a gap between escalating housing costs and stagnant low wages in jobs without health benefits;
- At-risk youth, as well as adults, affected by domestic violence, substance abuse, and/or gang recruitment;
- Adults who are severely disturbed and awaiting treatment for mental illness for months;
- Frail elderly, as well as persons of all ages with severe physical and/or mental disability, who need long-term care choices that may prevent or delay nursing home residency;
- Persons, in all age groups, with health care needs that are uninsured and postponed (resulting in need for more acute care, with unreimbursed costs that strain the service network); and
- People, especially those too ill, disabled, or poor to drive, who need safe, affordable transportation choices to access other important services;

WHEREAS the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations supports the availability of high quality health and human services countywide, to be delivered in and near the communities and people most in need of services;

WHEREAS our community continues to match growing local needs with outstanding community contributions of volunteer time and financial resources, contributing to opportunities in Region I for building and sustaining successful, cost-effective programs for crisis response through prevention and early intervention as well as treatment;

WHEREAS local improvements in quality and cost-effectiveness of services for children and families are realized through interagency coordination and planning at South County Center; and elsewhere in our area county staff and nonprofit agency service providers coordinate efforts and work diligently to serve increasing numbers of persons among our at-risk, vulnerable residents;

WHEREAS the Council continues to recommend effective health and human services as among our best means to control the growth of other, major public costs (for example, for hospitalization, incarceration, and chronic dependency);

WHEREAS the Council has recommended crisis prevention and early intervention strategies, in particular, as among our most cost-effective programs; and the Council therefore supports worthwhile activities begun in FY2006, such as: (1) appointing a countywide Prevention Coordinator, (2) assessing effective ways to counter at-risk youth behavior as well as gang recruitment, (3) promoting healthy aging among seniors (our fastest growing segment of the population) through programs that stimulate wellness and community engagement, while preventing or delaying dependency; and (4) funding the Affordable Housing Initiative, as the "One Penny Fund."

WHEREAS, in the FY2007 Advertised Plan, the Council supports the funding of prevention and early intervention strategies such as (1) 5-day a week supervised after-school programs at middle schools, (2) "senior initiatives" that will stimulate development of community-based alternatives to costly nursing home care for seniors and their family caregivers, (3) actions that may strengthen public health services, and (4) continuing to commit one "penny" to the Affordable Housing fund;

WHEREAS the Council nevertheless urges again, as in March 2005, that *two pennies*, rather than the one penny now planned, be committed in FY2007 for speeded efforts to expand the diminishing supply of housing affordable to our workforce, with one cent dedicated to preserving at least 1000 units within the fiscal year and a second penny dedicated to stimulating new development under guidelines that permit funds to be obligated during a period of up to three years.

WHEREAS the County's Advertised Budget Plan for FY2007 represents a careful balance among essential needs and services, and (1) makes no service reductions this year that are classified as "damaging" by the countywide citizen advisory Human Services Council, (2) transfers an increased county share to funding for the Community Services Board (+5.86%); and (3) sustains essential health, human and other county services at a cost increase held to 3.88% overall;

WHEREAS the capacity of our well-coordinated, cost-effective network of local, community-based health and human services is essential, to prevent and respond to diverse crises and emergencies, and also to extend our local professional and voluntary resources to include new dimensions of community preparedness;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations supports the FY2007 planning for health and human services represented in the Fairfax County Advertised Budget, with the recommendation that the Board of Supervisors enhance and strengthen the County's ability to respond to emergent crises by making these adjustments:

First, dedicate one additional "penny" from the residential property tax rate, this year, to funds for Affordable Housing, by adding a second penny that can partner strategically with other resources to halt the rapid net loss of housing affordable to those who live and work in Fairfax County and to stimulate new development, under more flexible guidelines that permit funds to be obligated during a period of three years.

Second, consider carefully whether any "pennies" available for reduction in residential tax rate may be targeted to relieve those least able to pay increased tax on their home, especially disabled and elderly who are unable to participate in the workforce or to access large personal assets to pay taxes.

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Third, reserve funds (available mid-cycle) adequate to respond to emergent crises, so that the County may expand or initiate cost-effective human services for prevention and early intervention in a timely manner—for example, programs that may respond to increased threat of substance abuse or gang recruitment among at-risk youth in particular schools or neighborhoods, service disruptions that may result from state or federal de-funding of effective programs, needs and costs that arise when families are displaced from housing to be destroyed or sold for condo conversion or other redevelopment, and emergency needs from disasters as unforeseen as Hurricane Katrina in FY2006;

Finally, take no actions that may reduce the County's (projected) revenue below what may be required to respond to emerging community needs and to deliver quality services countywide.

Public Support for Two Pennies Now for Affordable Housing in Fairfax County

WHEREAS a healthy housing mix, affordable to those who live in our communities and those who work in a broad range of services and at a broad range of full time wages or salaries, is essential to the well-being of families and neighborhoods in Fairfax County, both economically and socially, as recognized in the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan;

WHEREAS multiple regional studies and local observation have confirmed the “extraordinary rate at which the County is losing its precious supply of affordable housing” (Affordable Housing Preservation Committee, 2005); and the County is urged to add 10,000 units by 2010;

WHEREAS a well-documented “affordability” gap between median household incomes and housing costs (for residential units of all kinds, whether for purchase or lease) has increased each year since 2001, *as regional and local housing prices continue to rise much more rapidly than wages or retirement incomes* (and many jobs also shed valuable health and retirement benefits);

WHEREAS the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority now reports that employers (government, private nonprofit, and commercial) who provide countless important goods and services as well as jobs that contribute to the Commonwealth's and the county's economy are encountering increased difficulties in retaining as well as recruiting qualified persons, even at *median income salaries*, because of a diminishing supply of housing affordable even to moderate-income households; and other studies are now showing that the housing that remains affordable to *the workforce earning median income and below* is getting farther and farther from transportation and workplaces;

WHEREAS awareness of this shortage of housing available to the regional workforce has stimulated a boom in “residential development” that is priced beyond the reach of much of the area's workforce and even contributes to the shortage: owner/developer speculation in the last vestiges of residentially zoned property with by-right “development” potential sets new price levels in the marketplace, replaces “affordable” units with higher priced ones, stimulates condo conversion that displaces long-time residents, encourages infill and “teardowns” that may be unsuited to the surrounding community, and diverts potentially commercial sites into “luxury” residential development;

WHEREAS the spiraling prices and County reliance on residential property tax revenue makes both home ownership and rental ever more costly, with some unintended effects that are harmful to our communities, both economically and socially;

WHEREAS, in response, the County began in FY2006 (July 1, 2005) a new Fund with a goal to “preserve 1000 units,” and (as of Feb. 6, 2006) has announced a total 846 units saved, of which 252 are short-term “saves” (e.g. affordable leases extended five years to prevent displacing of tenants) and 594 are units preserved long-term, throughout the county and in a variety of types and models serving needs of elderly and disabled as well as single adults and families with children;

WHEREAS the County's recent acquisition of a large property in the Mark Winkler Portfolio shows how the County Department of Housing and Community Development can combine resources from diverse funds, with different guidelines, into a strategy that can operate successfully; but even so a net loss of hundreds of workforce-affordable units also occurred with sale of this extensive Portfolio, illustrating why net losses will continue countywide until a long-term public share in the housing stock grows;

WHEREAS the County strategy should be to acquire equity in housing that assures its affordability long-term, especially wherever a County funding source (or other assistance such as providing land, granting tax credits, or negotiating a zoning bonus) reduces cost to the developer;

WHEREAS the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations recommends that the County adopt a goal to secure a share of housing (whether preserved, renovated, or newly developed) that will remain affordable long-term to working adults who live in households with a broad range of incomes under 80% of the County's median;

WHEREAS the Council recognizes that this large segment of the workforce includes the majority of people who seek entry-level professional jobs or who provide or support essential healthcare, public safety, education, and many other services and who benefit the community by residing near where they work;

WHEREAS appropriate affordable housing of diverse kinds should be made more accessible to include a range of needs as well as incomes, for singles and families with children, for persons elderly and/or with disability, and with opportunities for ownership as well as rental;

WHEREAS the County's housing partnerships with developers, for inclusion of a range of affordability, should also encourage integrated planning for present and future access to public transportation and workplaces, as well as planning in harmony with schools, environmental imperatives, neighborhood commercial activity, and policy considerations included in the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan;

WHEREAS the task—balancing development to include a healthier housing mix by expanding the share of housing affordable to working families with a broad range of incomes and needs—is one that requires new thinking, new models, and new public/private resources and partnerships, as well as improved county funding and policies that create incentives for healthy patterns of development countywide;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations urges the Board of Supervisors to dedicate now, for FY2007, a sum equivalent to *TWO PENNIES* of the residential real estate tax rate to the county's Affordable Housing Initiative—with one penny continuing toward *preservation* of 1,000 units within the year and one penny directed especially toward stimulating and leveraging inclusion of affordability in *new development*, under commitments that may extend up to three years beyond the fiscal year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Housing Fund “Pennies” be directed primarily to projects that secure a long-term public equity interest in attractive well-managed models of housing that are inclusive of a range of household needs, sizes, and incomes, and that these and all county housing programs be equitably distributed throughout the County.

MOUNT VERNON COUNCIL OF CITIZENS' ASSOCIATIONS Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report

For period from January 1, 2006 through March 9, 2006

	Budget 2006	Actual to Date	Budget to Actual (to date)
Balance Beginning Period		\$2,188.93	
RECEIPTS			
Dues	\$4,500.00	\$2,694.00	-\$1,806.00
Record Subscriptions	\$345.00	\$60.00	-\$285.00
Gala Income	\$2,645.00	\$0.00	-\$2,645.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$7,490.00	\$2,754.00	-\$4,736.00
DISBURSEMENTS			
Record Expenses	\$4,800.00	\$1,138.00	\$3,662.00
Administrative	\$625.00	\$85.56	\$539.44
Gala	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
Web Site	\$690.00	\$0.00	\$690.00
Postage	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$9,015.00	\$1,223.56	\$7,791.44
Balance Ending Period 3/9/06		\$3,719.37	

COMMITTEE CALENDAR FOR APRIL 2006

MVCCA Board-SUPV Thursday, April 13th, 7:30pm

Date/Day/Time	Comm.	Place	Chair	Phone
4/4 T 7:30	H/HS	IMVH-C	Louise Cleveland	703.780.9151
4/4 T 7:30	COAF	WWMSPCR	Queenie Cox	703.360.2414
4/5 W 7:30	BUDG	WWMS PC	George Bauer	703.768.1774
4/5 W 7:30	ENVR	MVHSE114	Jim Davis	703.799.3278
4/5 W 8:00	EDUC	WWMS L	Judy Harbeck	703.780.1883
4/6 Th 7:30	PSAF	MVGC	Dallas Shawkey	703.360.2185
4/3 M 8:00	TRANS	MVGC	Frank Cohn	703.780.5698
4/3 M 7:30	PL/Z	WWMS-LH	David Dale	703.765.8247
3/23 Th 7:00	SCAWH	MVGC-1	Jerry Ireland	703.768.6923

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