

## Membership Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2015

**FINAL**

Approved April 16,  
2015

The March Membership meeting of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations (FCFCA) was called to order by President Tim Thompson at 7:40 p.m. on March 19, 2015, at Braddock Hall, 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke, VA.

### **Present:**

Officers: Tim Thompson (President/Colvin's Glen-Colvin's Forest Citizens Association), Ed Wyse (First Vice President/Springfield/Membership/ Civic Association of West Springfield), Bill Barfield (Second Vice President/Legislation), Matthew Bell (Treasurer/Legislation), Curtis Anderson (Recording Secretary/Budget), Fred Costello (Corresponding Secretary/Land Use/Fox Mill Estates Homes Association).

District Council Representatives: Art Wells (Braddock/Truro Homes Association), Katherine Ward (Mt. Vernon), Flint Webb (Providence/Environment).

Committee Chairs: Charles Dane (Resolutions/ Stone Haven Civic Association), Ed Saperstein (Education/Glen Haven Farms Homeowners Association), Morgan Jameson (Human Services), Kathy Kaplan (Library/ Woodside at Holly Oak), Daniela Cockayne (Public Safety/Sleepy Hollow Citizens Association), Nancy Trainer (Nominating/Education/ Potomac Hills Citizens Association).

Members: Peggy Daley (Holmes Run Acres Civic Association), Skip Chaples (North Springfield Civic Association), Mike Perel (Oak Hill Citizens Association), John Hanley (Reston Citizens Association), John Cockayne (Sleepy Hollow Citizens Association).

Others: Joe Mondoro, Kirsten Michael, Carey Campbell, Corazon Foley

### **Membership Program:** Resolution on the Fairfax County Advertised Fiscal Year 2016 Budget.

- Presentation by Deputy Director, Department of Management & Budget, Joe Mondoro. A presentation was passed out.
- Presentation by Assistant Superintendent, Financial Services, Kirsten Michael. A presentation was passed out.
- The panelists responded to several questions from the Federation membership.
- The membership then discussed the Proposed Resolution on the Fairfax County Advertised Fiscal Year 2016 Budget and adopted the attached Final Resolution. A summary of the actions taken is attached (attachment 4). The membership adopted the Final Resolution on the Fairfax County Advertised Fiscal Year 2016 Budget (attachment 5) by a vote of 25-0-0.

**Administrative and Organizational Topics:** Tonia Hossain submitted the following report:

- Citizen of the Year Award and Banquet. For information see <http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/coy1.htm>, to be held on May 3, 2015 at the Crowne Plaza at Tyson's Corner. Tania Hossain is in charge. This year's recipients have been selected:
  - 2014 Fairfax Citizen of the Year: Michael O'Reilly
  - Citation of Merit Award Honorees: Connie Hartke and Bruce Wright
  - Special Gratitude Award Honorees: Michael "Mike" Frey and Gerald "Gerry" Hyland
  - Special Gratitude Award - Lifetime Achievement: Mary Agee

**Federation Appointments:** None.

**Bulletin/Newsletter:** Fred Costello needs articles the Saturday following the board meeting; this month the deadline is March 28, 2015.

**Meeting Minutes:** Curtis Anderson presented the minutes of February 19, 2015 Membership Meeting to be approved. Daniela Cockayne moved, seconded by Bill Barfield to approve. Approved unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Matt Bell prepared the Treasurer's report (attachment 1) showing cash and equity of \$17,930.02 as of March 19, 2015. Net Income from July 1 through March 19, 2015 was \$307.10. Curtis Anderson moved, seconded by Bill Barfield to receive and file the Treasurer's Report. Approved unanimously.

**Unfinished Business:** No unfinished business presented.

**New Business:** No new business presented.

### **District Council Reports & Membership – Open Floor**

(Dranesville & Hunter Mill - N/A)

1. Braddock – Art Wells – Report attached (attachment 2).
2. Lee – Chris Soule – Submitted report attached (attachment 2).
3. Mason – John Birch – No report.
4. Mt. Vernon – Katherine Ward – No report.
5. Providence – Flint Webb – Report attached (attachment 2).
6. Springfield – Ed Wyse - No report.
7. Sully – Jeff Parnes – Submitted report attached (attachment 2).
8. Membership – Open Floor – No items presented.

### **Board & Committee Reports**

1. Budget – Curtis Anderson – See above
2. Citizens Association Services – Don Hinman – No report.
3. Education – Ed Saperstein & Nancy Trainer – No report.

4. Environment - Flint Webb – No report.
5. Human Services – Cherie Tripp Lejeune & Morgan Jameson – No report.
6. Land Use - Fred Costello & Jack Dobbyn – No report.
7. Library - Kathy Kaplan – No report.
8. Legislation - Bill Barfield & Matt Bell – No report.
9. Membership – Ed Wyse – No report.
10. Public Safety – Daniela Cockayne– No report.
11. Resolutions – Charles Dane – No report.
12. Transportation – Jeff Parnes & Karen Campblin – Submitted report attached (attachment 3).
13. Website – Jeff Parnes, Fred Costello & Brian Graham – Submitted report attached (attachment 3).

**Adjournment:** 9:58 pm

**Next Meetings:**

- Board Meeting, April 23, 2015, 7:30 p.m., Dunn Loring Center, Room 108 (Entrance 2), 2334 Gallows Rd, Dunn Loring, VA 22027.
- Membership Meeting: "Future Land Use in Fairfax County," April 16, 2015, 7:30 p.m., Braddock Hall, 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke.

Minutes prepared by Curtis M. Anderson, Recording Secretary

Attachment 1

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations

**Balance Sheet**  
 As of March 19, 2015

	<b>Mar. 19, 15</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Checking/Savings</b>	
BB&T Act # 5234331304 (Checking)	17,930.02
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	17,930.02
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	17,930.02
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>17,930.02</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Equity</b>	
1110 – Retained Earnings	15,917.94
3000 – Opening Bal Equity	1,704.98
Net Income	307.10
<b>Total Equity</b>	17,930.02
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>17,930.02</b>

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations

**Income Statement**  
 July 1 through March 19, 2015

	<b>Jul 1,2014 – Mar 19, 2015</b>
<b>Income</b>	
4080 – Interest	1.10
4090 – Membership Dues	940.00
4170 – Program Fees	
4180 – Banquet	0.00
<b>Total 4170 – Program Fees</b>	0.00
4190 – Reimbursed Expenses	-448.00
<b>Total Income</b>	493.10
<b>Expense</b>	
6160- Dues and Subscriptions	72.00
6230 – Licenses and Permits	25.00
6290 – Rent	89.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	186.00
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>307.10</b>

Attachment 2

**Braddock District Council Report – Art Wells, Braddock District Council Representative:**

The Braddock District Council (BDC) met on March 11<sup>th</sup> at Braddock Hall. The BDC and Supervisor Cook jointly sponsored a Budget Town meeting which was well attended. Presenters were Christina Jackson and Laura Laxo from the Department of Management and Budget. Megan McLaughlin, the district's representative on the County School Board also participated.

A second Budget Town Meeting was held on March 17<sup>th</sup> at the Frost Middle School. The featured presenter was Ed Long, the County Executive.

The next BDC meeting will be on April 8<sup>th</sup>. The featured topic will be a legislative update of the actions of the General Assembly during its recent session.

The BDC's special committee on "aging in Place" met March 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. The featured topic was the "Independent Living Project."

**Lee District update – Submitted by Chris Soule, Lee District Council Representative:**

LDACO will be co-hosting the budget town hall meeting with Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay on Wed. March 25th.

**Providence District Council Report – Flint Webb, Providence District Council Representative:**

1. Meeting about budget with County and FCPS Staff.
2. Meeting about public safety on 3/18/2015.
3. Special meeting on 3/25/2015 about the I-66 widening and impacts on the District.

**Sully District Council Report – Submitted by Jeff Parnes, Sully District Council Representative:**

March's meeting is a budget town hall meeting cosponsored with Sully Supervisor Frey and Sully School Board member Kathy Smith.

April's meeting will cover Impacts of Recently Passed HOA legislation presented by Michelle L. Thompson, Consumer Specialist, Fairfax County Consumer Affairs Branch. More information is available in the March meeting agenda ([http://www.sullydistrict.org/sdc/sdcm\\_201503Agenda.html](http://www.sullydistrict.org/sdc/sdcm_201503Agenda.html)).

## Attachment 3

### **Transportation – Submitted by Jeff Parnes:**

Upcoming transportation hearing/meetings (more information can be found at the transportation committee page

(<http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/transportation1.htm#UpcomingMeetings>)

The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTa) Open House on FY2015-16 Two Year Program 25 March 25 2015

The Planning Commission Environment Committee will meet to discuss the electric vehicle charging infrastructure 25 March 25 2015

I-66 & Our Neighborhoods Public Forum 25 March 25 2015

League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area Presents Crossing Boundaries Transportation Forum 28 March 25 2015

Artifacts from the March meetings of the MWCOG Transportation Planning Board, the Fairfax County Board Transportation Committee and the Fairfax County Transportation Advisory Commission are also posted there

(<http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/transportation1.htm#20150318TPB>)

### **Website – Submitted by Jeff Parnes:**

COY attendees can use the RSVP page

(<http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/COY/COYrsvp.htm>) to make reservations and pay for their meals via PayPal. More information about the honorees will be posted on the COY page (<http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/coy1.htm>) as it is made available.

Attachment 4

**Summary of Actions Taken Concerning the Proposed Resolution on the Fairfax County Advertised Fiscal Year 2016 Budget**

1. Motion made and seconded to adopt II.A. Education/FCPS Transfer as written. Approved 23-0-3 (For-Against-Abstain).
2. Motion made and seconded to amend the title of II.B resolution by striking “FUNDING FOR” and inserting between “POSITIONS” and “TO” the words “AND THEIR ASSOCIATED FUNDING” and to change the resolve statement accordingly. Approved 29-0-0.
3. Motion made and seconded to adopt II.B. Restoration of 24(13.5 FTE) Library Circulation Aide Positions and Their Associated Funding to FY2016 Budget as amended. Approved 26-4-0.
4. Motion made and seconded to strike clause (1) from the Introduction. Failed 4-23-0.
5. Motion made and seconded to approve the Introduction section as submitted. Approved 24-5-0.
6. Motion made and seconded to amend Resolve statement number 2 to read “**Resolved**, that the county can only use Economic Development Authority IRB bonds when the underlying project will produce a revenue stream or is ineligible for general obligation bonds.” Approved 15-10-0.
7. Motion made and seconded to strike the last Whereas statement in Section II.C. Approved 15-10-0.
8. Motion made and seconded to adopt II.C. Debt Management as amended. Approved 25-4-0.
9. Motion made and seconded to strike the Ninth Whereas statement in Section II.D. Approved 22-3-0.
10. Motion made and seconded to strike the Tenth Whereas statement in Section II.D. Approved 25-3-0.
11. Motion made and seconded to adopt II.D. Compensation as amended. Approved 27-0-0.
12. Motion made and seconded to strike Resolve number 3 in Section III. Approved 22-0-3.
13. Motion made by Charlie Dane and seconded to amend Section III by adding 5 Whereas clauses, changing one number in the first Whereas clause, and adding a new Resolve statement 1 preceding the existing Resolve statement 1. Failed 13-11-0 because it required a 2/3 vote to pass this amendment.

14. Motion made and seconded to Adopt III. Revenues as amended. Approved 17-2-2.
15. Motion made and seconded to strike the first 4 Whereas statements in Section IV. Approved 22-2-0.
16. Motion made and seconded to strike the sixth Whereas statement in Section IV. Approved 14-10-0.
17. Motion made and seconded to adopt Section IV. Budget Process as amended. Approved 24-2-0.
18. Motion made and seconded to consider Section II, by adding a new Section II.E. Enforcement of Grass Height Restrictions which had been submitted by the North Springfield Civic Association. Approved 21-6-0, obtaining more than the 2/3 vote required.
19. Motion made and seconded to adopt Section II.E. Enforcement of Grass Height Restrictions as submitted. Approved 24-2-0, obtaining more than the 2/3 vote required.
20. Motion made and seconded to adopt the entire Resolution on the Fairfax County Advertised Fiscal Year 2016 Budget as amended. Approved 25-0-0.



Attachment 5

**Resolution on the  
Fairfax County Advertised Fiscal Year 2016 Budget  
(Adopted by Membership March 19, 2015)**

The following resolutions were adopted by the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations (Federation) Membership on March 19, 2015. This package of resolutions will be submitted to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

Tim Thompson, President  
Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations

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### **I. INTRODUCTION**

The Federation applauds the County for putting forward a budget which (a) contemplates some remaining funds available at the end of the fiscal year, (b) which does not contemplate an increase in the real property tax rate, and (c) which continues to maintain a relatively safe and secure community; however, we remain concerned about (1) the effect of an overall out-of-pocket increase in property taxes on the middle class taxpayers in the County and what this means for the future growth of the tax base, (2) the long term expenses built into the budget through underfunded and expensive pension plans, (3) unfunded repayments to the Commonwealth, and (4) the high cost of employee payroll benefit expenses during this period of low cost of inflation while Fairfax County taxpayers received much lower increases in their incomes.

## II. SPECIFIC RESOLUTIONS

### A. EDUCATION/FCPS TRANSFER

**WHEREAS**, over the last several years FCPS teacher salaries have become uncompetitive with surrounding jurisdictions, with our maximum teacher salary now ranked 9<sup>th</sup> out of 10 Washington area school districts—10 being lowest; and

**WHEREAS**, salaries are one element of total compensation that helps to attract and retain a strong workforce; and

**WHEREAS**, younger employees often have different preferences and needs regarding the composition of their compensation package, as compared to employees close to retirement; and

**WHEREAS**, between FY 2010 and FY 2015 the FCPS student population has increased between 2,000 and 3,000 students each year; and

**WHEREAS**, due to enrollment increases and aging facilities, FCPS would require \$242 million annually to both build and to renovate schools at the industry standard schedule of 25 years, and is only provided with \$155 million annually to support the Capital Improvement Program; and

**WHEREAS**, both the Board of Supervisors and the School Board approved the recommendations of the Joint Infrastructure Financing Committee (IFC) to add \$13.1 million to FCPS' Capital Improvement Program in FY 2016, but the County Executive has proposed delaying this payment until FY 2017;

**WHEREAS**, the County Executive's proposed budget and the Board of Supervisors' guidelines both include a 3.20% increase in the School operating transfer, in recognition of significant cost increases;

### THEREFORE BE IT

1. **Resolved**, the Federation recommends that both FCPS and the County adopt more flexible compensation packages for their employees, permitting employees more choice in allocating their total compensation.
2. **Resolved**, the Federation recommends that the School Board and the Board of Supervisors establish a joint committee to study how fringe benefits compare among various categories of workers in the two organizations.
3. **Resolved**, the Federation requests the Board of Supervisors fulfill its commitment to add \$13.1 million to FCPS' Capital Improvement Program in FY

2016.

4. **Resolved**, that the Schools operating transfer increase by no less than the recommendation of 3.20%.

## **B. LIBRARIES - RESTORATION OF 14 (13.5 FTE) LIBRARY CIRCULATION AIDE POSITIONS AND THEIR ASSOCIATED FUNDING TO FY2016 BUDGET**

**WHEREAS** the Department of Management and Budget has requested the elimination of 14 (13.5 FTE) circulation aide positions in the FY2016 Advertised Budget as part of a 3% overall library reduction; and

**WHEREAS** the Library Board of Trustees budget subcommittee and Library Board of Trustees reluctantly voted in October 2014 to eliminate 14 (13.5 FTE) circulation aide positions as part of FY16 Budget reductions directed by the Fairfax County Executive; and

**WHEREAS** the Fairfax County Executive included the elimination of 14 (13.5 FTE) circulation aide positions in the FY2016 Advertised Budget as part of a 3% overall library reduction; and

**WHEREAS** circulation aides provide necessary services in the library branches including supervising volunteers, assisting patrons with technology, processing holds/deliveries/transfers, mending books, processing periodicals, overseeing handouts, dealing with lost/damaged items, processing library card applications and entering patron data, sweeping, straightening, marking items that are used in house, helping investigate and clearing up items on patron accounts, ordering supplies, putting up signs for holidays and closings, clearing the book drop, giving directions, helping with surveys, handling book bag sales, assisting with programs, organizing monthly exhibits of the patron's display cases, advising patrons on specific selections of books, providing translation assistance for patrons who speak languages other than English,<sup>1</sup> searching for items on various lists including "missing," "claims returned" and holds; and

**WHEREAS** circulation aides allow required staffing levels to keep branches open for their posted hours; and

**WHEREAS** eliminated staff positions can almost never be recovered; and

**WHEREAS** the next Library Director will very likely have a much stronger vision for using all our library staff more productively and by eliminating the 14 (13.5 FTE) positions, we are robbing the current Library Director's successor of that opportunity; and

**WHEREAS** the community library survey being drafted by the Library Board has not yet been conducted to provide community input as to what the citizens of Fairfax County want in a 21<sup>st</sup> Century library; and

**WHEREAS** funding allotments for the 14 (13.5 FTE) vacant circulation positions provide 30% of the total funding for overtime; and

**WHEREAS** overtime is now required in 90% of library branches to maintain hours of service, in part because of the vacant circulation aide positions; and

**WHEREAS** much of the library staff is nearing retirement age and cannot be expected to provide extensive overtime hours; and

**WHEREAS** the 14 (13.5 FTE) circulation aide vacancies have not been filled due to Department of Management and Budget policy rather than because of lack of need within the branches; and

**WHEREAS** the 14 (13.5 FTE) circulation aid positions represent a wholly inequitable share of 31% of net positions cut from all county agencies in the FY2016 Advertised Budget; and

**WHEREAS** the \$355,000 cut representing “efficiencies” in addition to the \$500,000 cut for circulation aide positions in the FY2016 Advertised Budget, in of and by itself, represents more than an adequate and proportional cut to the library after multiple years of declining budget and failure to fill library staff vacancies since 2013;

**THEREFORE BE IT**

- 1. Resolved**, that the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations requests that the Board of Supervisors completely restore the 14 (13.5 FTE) circulation aide positions and their associated funding in the FY2016 Adopted Budget.

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1 Available for translation assistance from all FCPL branches are staff, including many circulation aides, proficient in the following languages: Amharic, Arabic, Bengali, Bulgarian, Chinese - Mandarin, Farsi, French, German, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Macedonian, Marathi, Punjabi, Polish, Russian, Telugu, Urdu, Vietnamese.

### **C. DEBT MANAGEMENT**

**WHEREAS**, Fairfax County has maintained a Aaa rating from Moody's Investors Service since 1975, a AAA rating from Standard & Poor's since 1978 and a AAA rating from Fitch Ratings since 1997; and

**WHEREAS**, as of January 2015, Fairfax County is only one of nine states, 39 counties, and 33 cities to hold a Triple-A rating from all three rating agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, Fairfax County has been able to maintain its triple-A bond rating throughout many economic downturns and Federal Government budget reductions over the past 36 years by following sound financial management practices; and

**WHEREAS**, interest payments on the debt amount to over \$100M per year; and

**WHEREAS**, the county issues bonds annually at an average amount of \$100M, less than 3% of the annual operating revenue; and

### **THEREFORE BE IT**

- 1. Resolved**, that the Federation recommends that the county continue to adhere to sound financial management policies and practices, including matching recurring requirements with sustainable and recurring sources of revenue, and if necessary defer or eliminate any new debt issuance that might place the county's strong debt rating and healthy financial condition at risk.
- 2. Resolved**, that the county can only use Economic Development Authority IRB bonds *when the underlying project will produce* ~~there is~~ a revenue stream or is ineligible for general obligation bonds.

## D. COMPENSATION<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS**, people live much longer than they did when the county retirement system was instituted (life expectancy is now 83, as compared to 70 not many years ago); and

**WHEREAS**, police and uniformed employees of the County are eligible for retirement at a much earlier age than taxpayers in the private sector; and

**WHEREAS**, we are concerned about the long-term liability of the pension fund, and

**WHEREAS**, raising the age at which retirement benefits are first paid to county employees (not including uniformed services or FCPS) to age 66, we estimate would save the County \$150M per year when fully implemented in year ten, and

**WHEREAS**, the DROP program was introduced during the housing bubble, when the County had abundant income, but now, after the bubble burst, \$33M per year is required to fund the DROP program; and

**WHEREAS**, the DROP program gives employees a lumped-sum payment averaging \$250,000 upon retirement, over and above their pension plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the annual cost-of-living increase in the pension payments is 4% although the cost of living has increased recently only 1.65%, the difference adding \$4M to the current county expenditures; and

**WHEREAS**, the salaries of county employees are nearly the same as those in the private sector, although the fringe benefits that these employees receive amounts equal to 51-53% of their salaries, as compared to at most 30% in the private sector; and

### THEREFORE BE IT

1. **Resolved**, that the cost-of-living increase in the pension funds be that of the current cost of living rather than having a minimum cost-of-living increase of 4%.
2. **Resolved**, that the county gradually implement the following resolutions over a 10-year period:
  - a. **Resolved**, that the county raise the age at which retirement benefits first are paid to the age of 66, and
  - b. **Resolved**, that the DROP program be terminated.

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<sup>1</sup> Dollar values in this section are the Federation's best estimate, as presented in Report 147 on the Federation's website budget page. The Federation would welcome the County's estimate and the supporting documentation.



3. **Resolved**, that the County and FCPS make every effort to pay a living wage to low salary employees.

## **E. ENFORCEMENT OF GRASS HEIGHT RESTRICTIONS**

**WHEREAS**, Fairfax County Code §119-3-1 states It shall be unlawful for any owner of any occupied or vacant developed residential lot or parcel or undeveloped residential lot or parcel located within a subdivision where 90% of the lots have been developed—all of the prior being less than ½ acre—and any owner of vacant developed commercial/industrial property to permit the growth of any grass or lawn area to reach more than twelve (12) inches in height/length; and

**WHEREAS**, Fairfax County Code §119-3-2 states, “Any person aggrieved by the presence of grass or lawn area growth in violation of Section 119-3-1 may report such growth to the Code Enforcement Branch of Land Development Services of the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services;” and

**WHEREAS**, the current policy is to inspect complaints, attempt to convince violators to comply, and, in the case of continued non-compliance, to have contractors cut the grass at the violator’s expense, but the proposed policy would be only to send the violator an advisory letter; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Management and Budget publicly states that “discontinuing the enforcement of the grass and lawn provisions of the Fairfax County Code has the potential to have a significant impact on communities since uncut grass is an early indicator of potentially larger health and safety issues;” and

**WHEREAS**, ending this type of enforcement would reduce the budget only \$120,000; therefore a decision to completely cease enforcement appears “penny-wise and pound-foolish;” and

**WHEREAS**, neighborhoods with homeowner associations may still be able to enforce appearance standards, neighborhoods with civic associations and neighborhoods without associations would be disproportionately impacted because for them the only enforcement mechanism is county-level enforcement; and

**WHEREAS**, code enforcement is one of the more visible services that residents and visitors use to gauge the county’s commitment to quality of life issues such as clean, safe neighborhoods; and

**WHEREAS**, a lack of enforcement threatens property values which are important to property owners and which affect property tax revenue; and

**WHEREAS**, the situation of code that is unenforceable encourages violations and makes a mockery of Fairfax County Code;

**THEREFORE BE IT**

1. **Resolved**, that the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations opposes the discontinuance of funding the enforcement of Fairfax County Code §119-3 as detailed in the FY 2016 Advertised Budget Plan, Volume 1, page 264.

### III. REVENUES

**WHEREAS**, real estate values have increased on average 3.39% during the recent equalization process, meaning that maintaining the property tax rate of \$1.09 per \$100 would still generate about \$2.4B in revenue and increase the cost for the average homeowner of roughly \$190 per year; and

**WHEREAS**, tax payments are paid from income rather than home value; and

**WHEREAS**, county residents' income has increased only 1.6%; and

**WHEREAS**, the effects of the comprehensive State Transportation Act contains significant tax increases on sales, wholesale gasoline/diesel, property transfers, and other taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, the rising additional fees that directly affect homeowners (such as storm water fees and waste disposal fees) further increases the "tax burden" on homeowners; and

**WHEREAS**, the County has raised the SACC fees and other fees on County taxpayers; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors has the authority to adopt a zoning ordinance to assess and impose transportation impact fees on by-right commercial or mixed-use development, and to require that the collected impact fees 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 transportation congestion within the county;

### THEREFORE BE IT

1. **Resolved**, the Federation recommends the Board of Supervisors implement additional sources of revenue including but not limited to: (A) implementing a Meals Tax, (B) increasing fees for BPOL, residential permitting, and SACC, and (C) implementing a plastic bag usage fee.
2. **Resolved**, the Federation recommends that the Board of Supervisors adopt a zoning ordinance to assess and impose transportation impact fees on by-right commercial or mixed-use development; the collected impact fees are to be used to pay all or part of the costs of reasonable road improvement, and that new transportation revenues collected from fuel taxes be used to alleviate transportation congestion within the county.

#### **IV. BUDGET PROCESS**

**WHEREAS**, the Advertised Property Tax Rate for FY2016 had to be set for March 3, just two weeks after the County Executive released his FY2016 Advertised Budget; and

**WHEREAS**, the Advertised Budget was released on February 17, 2015, and the public hearings on the budget are scheduled to begin 49 days later, on April 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the County and FCPS already develop a 5 year staffing plan and budget outlooks; and

**WHEREAS**, while the “performance” of most departments and agencies, while reported in the county’s proposed budget under the heading of Performance Measurement Results, include many activities, such as attending meetings and preparing reports, that are activities rather than real accomplishments/results; and

**WHEREAS**, both the county government and FCPS provide many non-mandated programs that should be reviewed for need and effectiveness, especially during economic downturns; and

**WHEREAS**, Fairfax County has an obligation to ensure the most efficient use of tax dollars at a time of continuing shortfalls, to minimize damage to essential county and schools programs, and to limit the burden on county taxpayers;

#### **THEREFORE BE IT**

- 1. Resolved**, the Federation praises the county’s extensive series of public meetings to solicit community input on spending priorities, and urges that such meetings be continued in future years.
- 2. Resolved**, the Federation continues to strongly urge that the processes/calendar for county residents' informed input to the budget decision-making process allow at least 60 days between release of the Advertised Budget and the public testimony on the budget.
- 3. Resolved**, the Federation urges the County to publish 5-year budget goals.
- 4. Resolved**, the Federation urges the County to publish a 5 year capital projects plan which includes projects for both the County and FCPS.