



Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations, The Packard Center, 4022 Hummer Road, Annandale, VA 22003

April 7, 2010

Dear Chairman Bulova and Members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors:

My name is Jeffrey Parnes, and I serve as the president of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations. On behalf of the Federation, it is my honor and privilege to offer for your review and consideration our Resolution Package on the Fairfax County Fiscal Year 2011 Advertised Budget and Fiscal Years 2011 – 2015 Capital Improvement Plan.

This year, our package is divided into two sections. The first is an Executive Summary that lists each resolution subsection by topic.

<<http://www.fcfa.org/resolutions/ResolutionCountyBudgetFY11Approved20100325ExecutiveSummary.pdf>> The second is the entire package itself, and includes all background information supporting our recommendations.

<<http://www.fcfa.org/resolutions/ResolutionCountyBudgetFY11Approved20100325.pdf>> The Federation's Budget Committee attended the Community Dialogues and initially drew up a proposed budget resolution which was agreed to by the Federation's Board of Directors. The Federation membership debated and modified the proposed resolution and adopted this package on March 25, 2010.

As you know, our members represent decades of volunteer involvement in the county and bring considerable experience and compassion to our discussions. We, like you, know the budget is not just numbers but represents services to constituents, many of whom are our most vulnerable and dependent citizens.

We acknowledge the very difficult challenges before you this year and understand that no county agency will be spared from substantial reductions in services.

I want to specifically extend my thanks to Charlie Hall, Kosmo Tatalias, Charlie Dane, Flint Webb, Fred Costello, Carol Hawn, Tania Hossain and other Federation members for their efforts in producing this document.

Beyond our specific recommendations on individual budget items, let me provide some thoughts on the process. As indicated in this document we believe there is a need for an independent county agency similar to the Federal Government Accountability Office which would review county performance. We also believe that there should be a citizens' advisory board which would be constituted for the full year, not just at budget time. The scope of these organizations should cover both the county and its school system. We appreciate the county's transparency, but more is needed, specifically the ability to get in-depth information so as to enable the detailed review of county performance.

I ask that you take the time to review our full Resolution Package, including our stance on the Capital Improvement Program. I hope our recommendations will receive favorable consideration during your budget deliberations in the following weeks. If you have any questions, or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at fedpres2009@fairfaxfederation.org. On behalf of the Federation, I wish all of you the best as you again consider the extremely difficult budget requests from the residents of Fairfax County. Again, on behalf of the Federation, thank you.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey M. Parnes, President
Fairfax County Federation of Citizens
Associations