

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Fairfax Federation of Citizens Associations
Name: Marco Johnson, CERT 2005, Class #11
Email Address: Marco2plan4it@live.com

RELEASE DATE:

MARCH 10, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SAVE THE CERT: FAIRFAX COUNTY VOLUNTEER
COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM**

Federation members are asked to act to save CERT, a vital Fairfax County volunteer public safety program **eliminated** in the FY26 Fairfax County budget. Elimination of the Fairfax County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) would create a significant void in Fairfax County community preparedness and support.

This is an entirely volunteer organization empowering residents with essential knowledge and skills to navigate emergencies from natural disasters to everyday incidents. Last year alone (2024), over 500 CERT volunteers dedicated nearly 20,000 service hours, providing over \$1 million in value to County residents and first responders. The proposed budget for the coming year includes plans to **eliminate** the CERT program. An option is to reduce funding and **continue the operations of the CERT volunteer program.**

<https://fairfaxcountycert.org/save-cert/>

Time is of the essence! Public hearings are going on now. *CERT's future hangs in the balance.* The Board of Supervisors will make the decision on May 13, 2025.

For more information: https://fairfaxcountycert.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Fairfax-County-Board-of-Supervisors-Contact-Information-2_27_25.pdf

Tim Thompson,
President, Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations