

From: [Ahmed, Syed A](#) on behalf of [Omeish, Abrar \(School Board Member\)](#)
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2023 6:02 PM
To: [DHCD AHAC](#); [Jerry Poje](#); [Stroble, Malia](#); [Spain, Evelyn](#); [Veizaga Salazar, Diego](#)
Cc: [Fleetwood, Thomas E](#); [Barnett, Thomas M.](#); [Shapiro, Anna](#); [Van Dam, Meghan](#)
Subject: Re: Affordable Housing Advisory Council Meeting
Attachments: [Proclamation Highlighting Houselessness and Hunger.docx](#)

Dear colleagues,

It turns out I do indeed have four conflicts that Friday morning... what a crazy coincidence! It doesn't look like I'll be able to make it but I to share with you all the progress we've made on the resolution.

You will recall we plan to present this at a School Board meeting in November (for hunger and homelessness awareness week), and I will be eager to have your participation.

Please review the attached in advance if you can—I am eager to get your feedback on what we might emphasize/revise so that we can all get behind it in November!

Thank you for your feedback and understanding,

Abrar

Proclamation Highlighting Houselessness and Hunger

Whereas every child deserves a safe, stable, nurturing and nourishing environment to call home in which they can thrive and reach their full potential, houselessness and hunger among students is a pressing issue in our country, state, and most importantly, in our community due to factors of rising food costs, interest rates and rents, the rate of evictions have [doubled](#) and hunger has surged; houselessness and hunger affects the social and emotional well-being of students, deprives a sense of belonging, leads to learning loss, and has numerous cascading effects; and

Whereas [one in every eight](#) children in this country experiences food insecurity, the expiration of COVID-19 supports such as Child Tax Credits (CTC), universal meals, and reductions to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs (SNAP) have caused hunger to increase, and student hunger negatively affects the ability to learn and knowledge retention, often facing lower academic achievement and a higher likelihood of school

absenteeism; student hunger and homelessness disproportionately affects communities of color; and

Whereas houseless students face unique challenges, which are not limited to housing instability, a lack of access to basic necessities such as food, attendance and disruption to their education; moreover, these 2,300 students demonstrate remarkable resilience, strength, grit, and determination in the face of adversity, inspiring us all with their courage and tenacity; and

Whereas, educators, support staff, community organizations, and volunteers play a critical role in providing assistance, support, and resources to homeless students, helping them navigate the challenges they face; dedicated staff of Special Services has a long history of service of providing resources such as Weekend Food Backpack Program, Coats for Kids, Back-To-School Basics, and housing in partnership with community-based organizations to address the unique challenges faced; and

Whereas, addressing homelessness and hunger requires a comprehensive and compassionate approach that includes collaboration among government agencies, affordable housing developments, non-profit organizations, community leaders, and concerned citizens; let us promote empathy, understanding, and compassion for houseless students and families by working towards creating a society where no family is left without a home or food for their family by building affordable housing for all; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Fairfax County School Board recognizes Hunger and Homelessness Week which is observed annually during November 11 to 18 as a time to highlight the promoting compassion, solidarity, and sustainable solutions to combat hunger and homelessness in our community, and to encourage coordinated efforts to make a positive impact.

From: Ahmed, Syed A on behalf of Omeish, Abrar (School Board Member) <aomeish@fcps.edu>

Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 12:31 PM

To: DHCD AHAC <DHCDAHAC@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Jerry Poje <poje2530@verizon.net>; Stroble, Malia <Malia.Stroble@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Spain, Evelyn <Evelyn.Spain@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Veizaga Salazar, Diego <Diego.VeizagaSalazar@fairfaxcounty.gov>

Cc: Fleetwood, Thomas E <Thomas.Fleetwood@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Barnett, Thomas M. <Thomas.Barnett@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Shapiro, Anna <Anna.Shapiro@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Van Dam, Meghan <Meghan.VanDam@fairfaxcounty.gov>

Subject: Re: Affordable Housing Advisory Council Meeting

Dear Colleagues,

I am excited to see you all at next week's meeting. I happen to serve as the school system's foundation liaison as well this year and they will be having their first board meeting on the same Friday morning, which means it will be a challenge to attend this time (I'm bummed!!). I will be trying to attend and plan to be virtual to maximize time. I'll also be at least an hour late.

You'll recall I am eager to share with you all plans to collaborate on a hunger/homelessness awareness action in November. If I am not able to attend, I'll send some language that I'd be grateful if someone can go over for a few minutes and gather feedback. Otherwise, I'll look forward to discussing it with you all myself in the latter half of the meeting.

Please also be on the look out for a date in November when I'll be asking you all to sign up to speak! I'll update you more — likely through my staff aide— soon.

Thank you for your understanding,
Abrar

From: DHCD AHAC <DHCDAHAC@fairfaxcounty.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 11:28 AM

Subject: Affordable Housing Advisory Council Meeting

When: Friday, September 22, 2023 9:30 AM-11:30 AM.

Where: Fairfax County Government Office - 12000 Government Center Pkwy, Conference Room 9/10, Fairfax, VA 22035

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