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LEE DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

Board Matter

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Madam Chairman—for the fifth consecutive year, my citizen budget advisory committee has studied the proposed County budget. Almost all the members of the original group have chosen to continue, giving the budget advisory committee the advantage of continuity and knowledge. In its report to me, the group emphasized its respect for the work of County staff and commended the County Executive and his staff for their hard work.

Their goal was two-fold: to provide recommendations specific to the FY2014 budget and to provide recommendations for 2014 and beyond. The nine members of the group chaired by Suzette Kern constitute an impressive array of talent with expertise in government finance, consulting, law, human services, IT, the private sector, and the Fairfax County school system. Some members of the group are retired; others are working and have children in the FCPS school system. This group reflects the citizens of Lee District and the larger county.

- The budget must provide for good government—a government that is effective, efficient, sustainable, affordable, measurable and responsive to the needs of its residents.
- The “new normal” for our sustainable County government means, generally, no expansion of existing programs, no creation of new programs and no restoration of previous reductions or eliminations.

- As the Fairfax County Public School (FCPS) system accounts for more than 52 percent of the County expenditures, it must be subject to the same good government principles and practices as the County. There must be more accountability and transparency in the FCPS budget so that County residents can understand the true cost of the school system and the impact of the decisions made by FCPS and the School Board in using County funds.
- Budget balancing reductions must take into account the value of the County's workforce in bringing the County to the position it enjoys as a top rated place to live and do business.
- All avenues of revenue enhancements must be rigorously explored and pursued.

The group's report is lengthy; the full report will be posted on my website, at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/lee/.

I commend the Lee District Budget Advisory Group for its hard work and its recognition that we need a budget that can withstand the economic storms that will be with us for some time to come.

Madame Chairman—without objection I move that this report be forwarded to the County Executive, FCPS Superintendent, and School Board members for review.