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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
COUNTY OF FAIRFAX



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JEFFREY C. MCKAY
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Joint Board Matter

Supervisor Jeffrey C. McKay
Supervisor Gerry Hyland

August 3, 2009

Madam Chairman—on December 1, 2008, at Supervisor Hyland's and my request, EQAC held its yearly public meeting at two locations—at the customary location of the Fairfax County Government Center and also at the South County Government Center on Richmond Highway. This was the first time that a County entity held a public hearing that included a remote location for citizens to watch and participate. It is interesting to note that more citizens testified at the remote location than did at the main government center location.

This year's EQAC public hearing is scheduled for Monday, December 1 at 7:30 pm in the board auditorium of the main government center. In light of the success of last year's experiment, we should formalize the remote location option and implement our technology resources to make our County government more efficient and responsive to its citizens. The advantages are many and include:

- Making the County more senior friendly. Many of our citizens are retired and find it unsafe to drive at night.
- Supporting the Cool Counties initiative: Fewer cars on the road conserves gasoline, lowers our carbon footprint, and improves air quality.
- Increasing volunteerism and participation: In our fast-paced County, it's hard for people to find the time for work and family, much less volunteering and participating in government and community activities. Removing some of the impediments (like long commutes on our congested roads) will make volunteering and participating more attractive and more feasible to busy adults.

Therefore, we ask Board support to direct the Office of Cable and Communications and Channel 16 to facilitate EQAC's December 1 public hearing at both the Fairfax County Government Center and the South County Center and provide full remote capabilities.