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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
COUNTY OF FAIRFAX

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JEFFREY C. MCKAY
LEE DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

Board Matter

January 11, 2011

Madam Chairman—during our 2008 budget deliberations for the FY2009 budget, I asked about the feasibility of the County implementing a vehicle tax exemption for 100 percent disabled veterans. The response was that while we did not have enabling authority to adopt a vehicle tax exemption for disabled veterans, we could adopt a separate and lower tax rate for one vehicle per disabled veteran as defined in Va. Code, Section 58.1-3506(A)(19). The response further stated that while we do not have any data on the number of registered vehicle owners who are disabled veterans, since the enabling legislation for the special tax rate could only apply to a maximum of one vehicle per applicant, the revenue impact was not expected to be significant. There is precedent for such an adjustment as the County already has a special one cent tax rate for one vehicle owned by persons with permanent and total disabilities.

It is now 2011 and with the ongoing deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, the number of veterans who have sacrificed so much for Virginia and our nation continues to grow. We need to weigh our responsibility to those who have served against the potential impact to our still fragile budget.

Therefore, I ask that staff research the following questions and respond in time for us to make this change, if possible, for the fiscal year 2012 budget that begins on July 1.

- How many 100 percent disabled veterans have cars registered in Fairfax County?
- What would be the financial impact of creating a one cent tax rate for one vehicle per 100 percent veteran? In actual practice, this would mean that 100 percent disabled veterans would not pay car tax as the County does not mail a tax bill for amounts under \$5.00.
- What other jurisdictions in Virginia have such tax relief for 100 percent disabled veterans?
- Are there other forms of tax relief that we have the authority to implement for 100 percent disabled veterans?

I further ask that the Board's Legislative Committee be directed to monitor General Assembly actions for legislation regarding 100 percent disabled veterans, especially as concerns tax rates.