

29- Correspondence Received by the Task Force.pdf

29.1 - Correspondence from MealsTax@fairfaxcounty.gov 5.28.14-6.10.14.pdf

Thomas, Mark C.

From: Walter Hadlock <jaybirder@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 05, 2014 3:16 PM
To: Meals Tax
Cc: Chairman Email; Dranesville BOS Email
Subject: Proposal for a Meals Tax in Fairfax County

Co-Chairs and Members of the Meals Tax Task Force:

I read thru the minutes of the May 21 task force meeting.

The first item under Pro reasons for a meals tax was: Remove some of the tax burden on residential property owners.

I'm not sure this reason is supported by the facts. My understanding is a Meals Tax, if approved, would be used to provide additional funds for county services. This would be over, and above, the monies taken in by the property tax as well as other tax and fee revenue. I'm not sure there would be a way to guarantee that Meals Tax revenue could offset two to three cents of the Real Estate Tax.

Also, how was a 4% Meals Tax rate, which I understand is the maximum permitted under state law, reached? If you select 4%, that would be on top of the current 6% sales tax. I live in the Town of Herndon, and we have a 2.5% Meals Tax. I might be more likely to support a rate in the 1.5-2.5% range. I would not vote for a rate higher than 2.5%.

I think it is a bit disingenuous to suggest libraries, schools and parks would be the primary (?) beneficiaries of Meals Tax revenues. I get this from ads being run in local papers. There are those of us, i.e--retirees, people with no children at home, singles, or people who do not need assistance from the myriad county social services programs, who don't get any direct benefits from the bulk of county services who would like to see adequate support for services such as libraries and parks paid for from the general fund.

Two administrative notes: 1) Is there any possibility the task force minutes could be published in a more timely manner? 2) Will there be a site to which the comments submitted to the task force will be posted and accessible by the general public?

Sincerely,
Walter Hadlock
Herndon, VA

Thomas, Mark C.

From: Therese & Bernard Martin <TBMartin4@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, June 06, 2014 7:47 PM
To: Meals Tax
Subject: I support a meals tax for Fairfax County

Fairfax County has tried, without success, to find sources other than the property tax to pay for schools, public safety and other services desired by its citizens. This is difficult to do in a state like Virginia, which controls so many of the purse-strings. Most tax revenue comes from its own citizens, except for some of the sales tax, which goes first to the state, which keeps some of it. Those opposing a meals tax don't seem to realize this or the fact that a significant part of a meals tax would be paid by non-county residents – those who now eat at restaurants in Fairfax County, not because they are trying to escape paying a meals tax but because they like the food, ambiance, and convenience. I bet that most do not realize that they are not already paying a meals tax, which would all come directly to Fairfax County. Or that if they cross the boundary and eat or drink in Vienna, Fairfax City, Herndon, Falls Church, Arlington or Alexandria, they will pay a meals tax. Have the crowds stayed away from Arlington restaurants, for example, because of its meals tax? Going by recent reports about the antics of the crowds they attract, obviously not. And I bet that the long lines of people waiting to get into restaurants at places like the Reston Town Center won't be tempted to get back in their cars and drive to Loudoun or Prince William County to save 4 cents on every dollar that they spend. I think that the restaurant industry is "crying wolf" if it thinks that patrons will stay away from their restaurants if they need to pay an additional \$1 on every \$25 that they spend. It seems that Fairfax County tax payers and patrons have more confidence in their local restaurants than the owners seem to have.

Therese Martin
Reston, VA

Thomas, Mark C.

From: Josh I <jeisrael@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 05, 2014 2:18 PM
To: Meals Tax
Subject: Input

I am a Fairfax County resident without no children, but I would be absolutely find with paying more to make sure that our county has even better schools, sufficient funds for infrastructure, and is able to offer more programs to make our county a better place for everyone to live.

While a meals tax is not the most progressive approach to revenue, realizing that our state legislature is unwilling to give local governments much room to make their own decisions, this may be the best option.

Vital programs cost money and I would be happy to contribute my fair share to make sure that our future is a bright one.

Josh Israel
3038 Ellenwood Drive
Fairfax, VA 22031

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