May 7, 2019

I was pleased to support the FY 2020 Budget Plan. I want to thank County Executive Bryan Hill, Chief Financial Officer Joe Mondoro, and their staffs, for their **tireless work and hundreds of hour**s spent developing this budget.

MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT

The FY 2020 budget allows us to address many of the Board's priorities from **One Fairfax to affordable housing, new environmental initiatives to fully funding our schools**, all without increasing the real estate tax rate. This is a great

accomplishment and indicative of the **strength of our current economy**, business development and development in general. Even as things are going strong, the budget provides for additional growth and revitalization opportunities, including on the **Richmond Highway Corridor and in the Lorton area**.

One important addition to this Budget was raising the County employees **minimum** wage to \$15/hour and increasing the proposed County **employee Market Rate** Adjustment (MRA) to 2.1%. These elements are critical to attracting and retaining talent, while ensuring that those who live, work and play in our County can continue to do so. An added piece of this puzzle is the funding of a **new Workforce Attraction Program** through the Economic Development Authority (EDA). We have many unfulfilled job opportunities, which if not addressed, will dampen our vitality and reduce future job growth. Attracting the talent to fill these positions is **critical to our redevelopment and continued economic growth**.

Housing, frankly, is our Achilles heel and the County has been **slow to respond to this need**. With the 3rd quarter budget adjustments and new funding in the FY 2020 Budget, we have made great strides, but still must do more. We are suffering the consequences of a **regional lack of supportive housing** and a decrease of affordable housing in surrounding jurisdictions, which has **hurt current Mount Vernon District residents** by causing rents and home prices to increase. As our corridor redevelops, **I am committed to ensuring that no one gets left behind**. While this includes the neediest among us, it also includes our teachers, first responders, recent graduates and young families. If you live or work in our community now, you should have an **opportunity to continue to live here**, or to move here. We all, the County, private sector and I, must be working closely together <u>every single day</u> to **retain our quality existing housing and build new housing** along our highways.

As the grandson of an undocumented immigrant, I **supported the pilot funding for legal services for Fairfax County immigrant residents**. I have heard from many constituents both for and against this pilot funding which helps some immigrants who are facing deportation receive legal services. We face an **unprecedented challenge of children and families in our community** that need and should receive due legal process and proper representation.

One of my proudest moments on this Board came in February when I brought forward my **Fairfax Green Initiatives Board Matter** to more quickly, broadly and systematically address our growing environmental challenges. My colleagues on the Board joined me in unanimous support and **County staff has moved forward expeditiously**. The Budget now includes funding for a **new Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination** and two new positions to support development of a **Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP)**.

Last here, but first on my priorities, we are fully funding our schools for a second year in a row. We have funded needed teacher pay increases and additional support for

our students. Needs-based staffing makes a big difference with our lowest income students and those not excelling as quickly as they can. This funding is critical for **keeping Mount Vernon District students and schools competitive**.

While I worked hard for this year's budget outcomes, we still need to **work with our State legislators** to change the State funding formulas and **return more of the tax dollars generated in Fairfax County to Fairfax County**. Currently, the County only receives 2.3% of its funding from the State, with the State returning to us **only 23% of what Fairfax County residents contribute** in State taxes. (These taxes are principally contributed through the fairest and most progressive form—income taxes.) Even just returning a few percentages more of our income tax dollars could **significantly lower our real estate tax rate**. In addition, if the County had the same taxation options as the nearby cities of Alexandria, Falls Church or Fairfax, we could also lower our real estate tax rate by **diversifying our funding options**.

Top 3 Things You Need to Know from the BOS Meeting:

- 1. Adopted the **FY 2020 Budget Plan** that **maintains the current real state tax rate** of \$1.15 per \$100 of assessed value. The Budget includes funding for many of issues you, our constituents, brought to our attention in **your Budget testimony**, like funding for an **extra cycle of mowing along our roadways**.
- Supervisor Cook presented a Board Matter regarding American Disposal's failure to make trash pickups throughout the County. Read more below and know I will keep you updated.
- 3. Approved **Starbucks drive-thru at Saratoga Shopping Center** to move to the former bank location and **have a drive-thru**.

Respectfully yours in public service,

Dan Storck Supervisor, Mount Vernon District Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Please be sure to scroll to the end of this Brief to **see upcoming events and important information** in the District!

The following are **highlights from the Board of Supervisors May 7, 2019 meeting,** including items of particular interest to Mount Vernon residents. For additional information, please go to the County's Board Agenda and Meeting Schedule. You may listen to highlights from the Board meeting on your computer or listen directly on iTunes. Subscribe to the podcast, or choose a program and listen in.

The Board also recognized and designated:





Shark Tank Technology students for their achievements and contributions to our community

May 2019 Foster Care Awareness Month



May 2019 Older Americans and Adult Abuse Prevention Month



May 2, 2019 Holocaust Remembrance Day



May 9, 2019 Children's Mental Health Awareness Day



May 19-25, 2019 Public Works Week



May 5-11, 2019 Child Care Professional Week



May 7, 2019 Peace Officers Memorial Day and May 11-18, 2019 Police Week



May 14, 2019 Day of Decency



June 2019 Fatherhood Awareness Month

To view the May 7, 2019 Board Package click here.

Administrative Items

Admin 3: Approved adding a portion of **Cinder Bed Road** to the **Secondary System of State Highways** as part of the County's project to **realign the northern intersection** of Cinder Bed Road and Newington Road. *The full item can be read on pages 14 - 19 of the Board Package.*

Action Items

Action 2: Approved releasing the Park Authority from the requirement to construct a portion of Giles Run Road along the eastern portion of the Laurel Hill Golf Course. The

full item can be read on pages 44 - 48 of the Board Package.

Action 3: Approved an agreement for the County to pay its approximately **\$15 million annual contribution** to the Commonwealth's **Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Capital Fund**. *The full item can be read on pages 49 -53 of the Board Package.*

Action 4: Approved endorsing **two multi-modal transportation projects** for submission to the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission's **I-395/I-95 Commuter Choice Program** for FY 2020 funding. *The full item can be read on pages 58 - 63 of the Board Package.*

Board Matters

National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials Awards

(Joint with Supervisor Penny Gross and Chairman Bulova)

The National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials (NACPRO) will be **recognizing three Fairfax County residents, programs and organizations** at its annual awards banquet this June.

- The **Friends of Green Spring (FROGS)** will be honored as an Outstanding Support Organization.
- The Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) Resident Curator Program will be honored with a Historical/Cultural Facility Award.
- Laurel Hill Park trail maintenance **volunteer Michael Applegate** will be recognized in the Outstanding Volunteer category.

Action

Congratulated the Friends of Green Spring, the FCPA Resident Curator Program, and Lorton resident Mr. Applegate for receiving these national awards.

Clean the Bay Day (Joint with Supervisors Penny Gross and Jeff McKay)

Each year, on the first Saturday of June, **volunteers across the Commonwealth** gather to **remove litter and debris** from the rivers, streams, and beaches of the **Chesapeake Bay watershed**. Thirty-one years strong, **Clean the Bay Day is a true Virginia tradition** and an annual opportunity for families, military installations, businesses, clubs, civic or church groups to **give back to their local waterways**.

Since 1989, Clean the Bay Day has engaged over **158,200 volunteers**, who have removed approximately **6.64 million pounds of debris** from nearly 7,750 miles of shoreline in Virginia. This year, Clean the Bay Day will be held on **Saturday, June 1**, **2019, from 9 a.m. to noon**, with hundreds of locations across the state. Two clean-up events will be held in Fairfax County: **Huntley Meadows Park and Mason Neck State Park**.

Action

Directed the County Executive to promote this event to the public.

Proclaiming May 14, 2019 as Day of Decency in Fairfax County (Supervisor John Foust)

About two weeks ago, **Thomas Siegel, a 13-year old student** who lives in Herndon, contacted my office. He and his parents asked that Fairfax County proclaim May 14, 2019 as a Day of Decency to coincide with **National Decency Day** and that we wear the **Decency button**.

A fundamental tenet of civil discourse, whether on a local, state or national level, is the **understanding of and respect for the differences** that should exist in a democracy. The Decency button was designed as a simple reminder of the **basic standard of civility** that every American deserves, regardless of their personal, religious or political views. Read more...

Action

Proclaimed May 14, 2019 as a Day of Decency in Fairfax County and that **we encourage wearing the DECENCY button**. In addition, I ask that a copy of the proclamation be sent to Thomas Siegel.

American Disposal Services (Supervisor John Cook)

Our county faces a **significant health, safety, and community enjoyment problem** arising out of the current **failures of American Disposal Services**, which is the primary private trash service company serving County residents. For the last several weeks, American has **failed to make many trash pick-ups** in the County. Trash is left on street corners, or in overflowing HOA dumpsters. This open trash attracts rats and other vermin, it smells, and is ugly. **The people of Fairfax County deserve better**. Read more...

Action

Directed the County Attorney to prepare for the Board a **closed session briefing**, to be held during our **Board Meeting of May 21**. This briefing should include an analysis of all applicable **consumer protection statutes, potential claims of fraud, or other legal issues** potentially arising out of American's failure to meet its commitments to our residents, and any options for the county to seek legal remedies. Fairfax County should continue to assist American in providing its promised services, but must also make clear that this is American's problem, and we expect the company to **solve it in the next two weeks**, or else the County will be prepared to take whatever legal action may be available.

Public Hearings

Permit Starbucks Coffee Company with Drive-Through

Approved **Starbucks Coffee** to move to the former bank location in Saratoga Shopping Center **with a drive-through**.

District Information & Upcoming Events

Secure Document Shredding

The Fairfax County Solid Waste Management Program will be sponsoring a secure document shredding event at the I-95 Landfill Complex on **Saturday, May 11 from 7 a.m. - 11 a.m**.

Mount Vernon Car Seat Inspection & Installation

Installing **car seats for babies and children** can be difficult, but we all want our children to travel safely. That's why the Mount Vernon District Station is having a **free Car Seat Safety and Installation Event**.

WHEN: Saturday, May 25, 2019 from 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

WHERE: Mount Vernon Police Station, Front Parking Lot 2511 Parkers Lane Alexandria

Call the Mount Vernon District Station to **reserve your time slot** at 703-360-8400. There are **8 time slots available** per event. Technicians spend about **30 minutes** checking each seat and answering questions.

Questions? Contact Community Liaison Officer Katie Treichel by email or 703-277-2185.

Fairfax County & Franconia-Springfield Parkways Alternatives Analysis and Long Term Planning Study - Extended to May 20

Fairfax County Department of Transportation has launched a **second online survey** to discuss the long-term study on **future improvements for the Fairfax County and Franconia-Springfield parkways**. The study, in collaboration with the Virginia Department of Transportation, will determine what improvements should be incorporated into the **County's Transportation Plan** and what improvements are put into place along the corridor through 2040 and beyond.

Public input plays a key role at every stage of the study. Last November, more than 200 people attended meetings to learn about the study and provide feedback on their ideas for the future of the Parkways. **Over 15,000 people responded to an online survey**, and as a result, **one future strategy – tolling on the parkways – was eliminated** from consideration because of the overwhelming response against tolls. Take the survey...

Community Resiliency and Emergency Preparedness Network

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the Office of Emergency Management

(OEM) have initiated the **Community Resiliency Group** (CRG) program, a coordinated effort to network county resources, **community volunteer organizations**, and business groups to improve **preparedness and resilience** throughout the County. OEM is seeking interested citizen groups and organizations to help **expand the network**. Read more...

OEM will be hosting **workshops and information seminars** in June to provide additional information and answer questions from interested organizations. **To sign up for the seminar**, go to the OEM-CRG website. You can also reach out to one of the local CRG representatives (listed in the read more link above).

REGION 1 CRG Seminar (Mount Vernon and Lee Districts) **Monday June 3, 7 p.m.** Location: **Sherwood Hall Regional Library**, 2501 Sherwood Hall Ln, Alexandria,

TEAM MVD is Looking for Summer Interns!

Are you, or do you know a **college student**, looking for a summer internship in **local government**? Join our dynamic TEAM MVD **working for the residents** of the Mount Vernon District. Get an **up-close look** at how local government works, learn about constituent issues and how to resolve them, all while gaining **valuable real-world work experience**. If you would like to be considered, please **send your resume** and a **cover letter** outlining your interests to mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov by May 30.

Events:

- May Library Events
- May Arts Events
- Farmers Markets
- Apr 16-June 14: Solarize Fairfax Program
- May 10: Kingstowne Library Book Sale 12 p.m.
- May 11: Secure Document Shredding 7 a.m.
- May 11: Kingstowne Library Book Sale 10 a.m.
- May 11: Annual Eagle Festival at Mason Neck State Park 10 a.m.
- May 11: Second Saturday Art Walk 6 p.m.
- May 14: South County Federation Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- May 15: Fairfax Area Commission on Aging Monthly Meeting 1 p.m.
- May 15: Sea Level Rise and its Local Impacts 7 p.m.
- May 17: Bike to Work Day
- May 18: Trap, Neuter & Return Community Cat Training 10 a.m.
- May 22: Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations Meeting 8 p.m.
- May 23: DMV2Go at Sherwood Library 10 a.m.
- May 28: DMV2Go at Hollin Hall Senior Center 9 a.m.
- May 29: Faith Community Summit on Dementia Resources 9 a.m.
- June 1: 31st Annual Clean the Bay Day 9 a.m.
- June 1: South County Office of Elections Satellite Service 10 a.m.
- June 1: Piano Lab Community Concert 11 a.m.

Visit our Website

Mount Vernon District Office | 703-780-7518 MTVernon@fairfaxcounty.gov | FairfaxCounty.gov/MountVernon

STAY CONNECTED