

To : Fairfax County Board of Supervisors  
From : Dan Storck, Supervisor  
Mount Vernon District  
Subject: BOARD MATTERS for February 6, 2018

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For your consideration, I submit the following Board Matters accompanied by a brief explanation. Your support will be appreciated.

**1. Mount Vernon 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Town Meeting**

## **1. Thank you to Fairfax County Staff for Participating in the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Mount Vernon Town Meeting**

### ***Background***

On February 3, 2018, I hosted the 31st Annual Mount Vernon Town Meeting at Mount Vernon High School. At 7:45 AM, the doors opened to the exhibit hall where 75 Fairfax County agencies, non-profits organizations, and other groups were able to connect with and answer questions from Mount Vernon District residents. This year, the town meeting theme was “Community Engagement – Resolve to Get Involved”, and the focus was on how we can better connect our residents to each other, to available services and current events in Mount Vernon, and also helping constituents understand the importance of community engagement.

I would like to thank all the agencies that were able to attend and who continue to make this tradition so successful. I would also like to thank Chairman Bulova, County Executive Bryan Hill, Mount Vernon District School Board Member Karen Corbett Sanders, Congressman Gerry Connolly, and School Superintendent Dr. Scott Brabrand for their willingness to join me on Super Bowl Saturday and for providing residents updates on key issues affecting the Mount Vernon District, the County, and our nation.

And finally, special thanks to the Fairfax County Communications Productions (Cox Cable Channel 16 & Cox HD Channel 1016). With their assistance and through social media, we reached the largest amount of residents ever! Thank you to Communications Productions Director Donna Monacci, Producer Sara Mingo, Chief Engineer Greg Smalfelt, Patrick Balsamo, John Graham, Josh Bass, Albee Sinayoko, Steve Adams, Ali Al Taweel, Douglas Zambrano, Larry Aronson, Scott Coco, Bob DeMarco, and Sean Metzger; our tremendous DIT team, Joey Taguding and Mark Leonard; and Matt Miller from GIS. Matt worked with my staff to help us fine tune the virtual flying tour of the district by utilizing the same technology that is available to residents at Virtual Fairfax on the county’s website.

The town meeting will air play on Cox cable channel 16 at 8:00 pm on the following dates: February 11, February 17, and February 26. It is also available on the Channel 16 website and on my Facebook Page. DVD copies are also available at Mount Vernon District libraries.

On the Channel 16 Web site:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cableconsumer/channel-16/fairfax-county-government-television>



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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
**COUNTY OF FAIRFAX**

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**JOHN W. FOUST**  
**DRANESVILLE DISTRICT SUPERVISOR**

**Joint Board Matter**  
**Chairman Sharon Bulova and Supervisor John W. Foust,**  
**February 6, 2018**

**Economic Development Support Fund**  
**Turning Point Suffragist Memorial**

**BACKGROUND:** The Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association (“Association”) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, led by volunteers, committed to raising funds to build a national memorial (the “Memorial”) to honor the five million suffragists who fought for and won a woman’s right to vote. That right was granted by the Nineteenth Amendment on August 26, 1920. No such memorial exists in our country today, and only 8% of all memorials in the U.S. honor women. The mission of the Association is to educate, inspire and empower present and future generations to remain vigilant in the quest for equal rights.

School history books rarely mention that the suffragist movement lasted 72 years, beginning in 1848 at Seneca Falls, N.Y., or include the story of the scores of suffragists who were incarcerated in the now historic prison grounds in Lorton in 1917 for picketing the White House, demanding the right to vote. These women, aged 19-73, were arrested, tried, convicted and imprisoned for up to seven months, ostensibly for blocking traffic on the sidewalk. The reports of inhumane conditions, beatings and forced feedings electrified the county and became a major “turning point” in the struggle for voting rights for women and led to getting President Wilson to ask Congress to consider a Constitutional Amendment.

In the words of Eleanor Clift, author of Founding Sisters and the Nineteenth Amendment, “The suffragists engineered the greatest expansion of democracy on a single day the world

had ever seen, and yet...the leaders built no monuments to themselves, and too many of their names have been lost to history.”

The national Memorial will be located in the Occoquan Regional Park in Lorton, home to the Jean Packard Center and near to the Workhouse Arts Center. Architect Robert Beach, a member of the Fairfax County History Commission, donated his design services for the memorial. Upon completion, operation and maintenance of the Memorial will be provided by NOVA Parks. The Association’s goal is to have the Memorial operational by 2020, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment.

The Association also intends to establish the Turning Point Institute for middle and high school students, designed to serve to empower the scholars with confidence they need to become successful leaders and advocates for social justice. Groups such as George Mason University, The League of Women Voters and numerous businesses have already expressed interest in the institute once the memorial is constructed.

The Association also intends to develop a Constitutional Trail in collaboration with numerous historical sites germane to our Constitution, including the National Archives, Mount Vernon, Gunston Hall and Montpelier.

The Turning Point Suffragist Memorial will be located directly across the street from River View at the Jean R. Packard Center. River View is a multi-million dollar events venue with beautiful views of the Occoquan River. Upon completion this year, the center will be home to a large wedding and events area, include interpretive signs and displays on the area’s history and environment, as well as a small riverfront cafe with outdoor seating.

The Association is actively soliciting funding for the \$2 million project. To date, it has received over a half million dollars of in-kind donations and has raised \$250,000. The Association has requested the County provide construction cost funding of \$200,000.

It is anticipated that the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial will have a positive impact on the County’s tourism and hospitality industries. National organizations representing millions of

women have endorsed the Memorial. While the Memorial will be a stand-alone tourist attraction in its own right, its location near other sites such as River View, the Workhouse Arts Center, and the Constitution Trail (including the Memorial, Gunston Hall, Mount Vernon and Montpelier) will only enhance the interest among residents and tourists to visit this important historical and cultural area of Fairfax County. It is anticipated that Occoquan Regional Park will become a destination site for guests, tourists, scholars, students and historians.

**MOTION:** Therefore, we move that the Board of Supervisors:

- Direct the County Executive to prepare an Initial Project Evaluation to review this project under the guidelines adopted for the Economic Development Support Fund.
- Direct the County Executive to evaluate the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial's impact to furthering the goals of the Economic Success Strategic Plan and make recommendations for the Board to consider regarding allocating Economic Development Support Funds to this capital project.
- Direct the County Executive that no investment from the Economic Development Support Fund will be made in the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial unless and until the Board has approved the use of the funds for that purpose.