



Mount Vernon Advisor BoS BRIEF

February 22, 2018

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The following are **highlights from the Board of Supervisors meeting held on February 20, 2018**. We have included items of particular interest to Mount Vernon residents. For additional information, please go to the County's [Board Agenda and Meeting Schedule section on the County's website](#). 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.](#)

A MESSAGE FROM SUPERVISOR STORCK

The highlight of today's **Board of Supervisor's (BOS) meeting** was the introduction of the **proposed FY 2019 Budget** by new County Executive Bryan Hill. CEX Hill has proposed a budget that **invests in County priorities** and our future by **fully funds our schools**, recognizing the **value of our County employees**, supporting important issues like **gang prevention** and the **opioid crisis**, and maintaining **strong community services and programs**. More information regarding the **proposed** budget and the budget process can be found below.



It was my privilege to present a **Board resolution congratulating the Saunders B. Moon Senior Citizens Club for its 52nd Anniversary of service, dedication and engagement**. Founded in 1965 to fight poverty and adversity, the Club **remains active**, playing a **vital role in the development of the Gum Springs community**. The Club has also been awarded the **Gum Springs Community Service Award** numerous times for its exemplary dedication and service to its residents. Gum Springs is an historical and historically close nit, connected, inter-generational community committed to serving each other.

Top 5 Things You Need to Know from the BOS Meeting:

1. Announced **FY 2019 proposed County Budget** with full school funding and investments in County priorities.
2. Recognized the **Saunders B. Moon Senior Citizens Club** for its 52nd Anniversary of service, dedication and engagement.
3. Approved a licensing agreement for the **Gums Springs Historical Society (GSHS)** to license space at the Gum Springs Community Center for the storage and display of museum artifacts.
4. Approved rezoning for **L & F Workhouse, LLC** property in Lorton.
5. Recognized the **Mount Vernon Voice** for its more than 16 years of commitment to our community.

I was also pleased to introduce the Board's **proclamation of March 2018 as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month**. My work with developmentally disabled youth and my support of **ServiceSource**, a non-profit providing developmental disability services in our community, have provided me with a special connection and awareness of the needs, as well as the contributions of those who advocate for inclusion in our society.



The Board also proclaimed:



February 2018 as Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month



March 2018 as TB Awareness Month

PROPOSED FY 2019 BUDGET



CEX Hill presented his **first proposed County Budget**, to include the recommendation of a **Real Estate tax rate increase of 2.5 cents** (from \$1.13 to \$1.155 per \$100 of assessed value). The **proposed** budget invests in our County's future by **meeting the school's full funding request** and providing promised **compensation increases** to County employees, including a 2.25% Market Rate Adjustment, Performance/Merit/Longevity increases. **Community service and program proposed spending priorities** include:

- Staffing for **South County Police Station (17 positions)**, **Diversion First Initiative**, **Gang Prevention Initiative**, SAFER grant funds for Fire and Rescue funding and increased contribution to Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association.
- **Opioid Task Force**, **Early Childhood Care slots**, expansion of Opportunity Neighborhoods and Nurse Family Partnership Program, **new School-Age Child Care rooms**, **nursing services** for medically fragile students and support for Area Agency on Aging Grants.
- **Metro, Fairfax First Initiative**, Fairfax Connector and Virginia Railway Express (VRE) requirements and increased support for **Parks**.

The **proposed FY 2019 Budget is \$8.42 billion**, with **\$2.26 billion going directly to funding our schools**. Over the coming months, the Board will announce the maximum tax rate, will hold many work sessions, **public information meetings** and **three days of public hearings** prior to making any changes and **adopting the final budget on May 1**. CEX Hill stressed the need to continue **strategic planning** into the coming years to find ways to maintain current levels of County investment and service **without future tax increases**.

I am pleased that CEX Hill's **proposed** budget helps to **increase per student education funding** above where it was 10 years ago, **honors compensation commitments** made to staff and helps us keep experienced teachers who have been leaving for higher pay in nearby districts. The proposed **17 new police officer positions** for the future South County Police Station are also critical.

The **proposed** tax rate increase is concerning and frustrating because it is **due to the State's under funding of education**. If the State provided per student education funding at **just** what it was 10 years ago, the proposed tax rate increase would be unnecessary! Because the **State returns to us only 23% of what Northern Virginia residents contribute in State taxes**, we end up paying more in local taxes.

I have much to examine and consider in this **proposed** budget and am **looking forward to listening to you** as well. A crucial part of this, for me, is that an **intensive line of business (LoB) review process** must be a follow-on to this budget. Identifying reductions, savings and efficiencies are essential to **no future rate increases** and part of my decades-long commitment to "**smart services, smart savings**". As a long time business owner, I understand the importance of **keeping costs low, while delivering strong results**.

Please join me on **Monday, March 19** for a **community budget discussion** with School Board Member Karen Corbett Sanders. More details to follow.

View the [Citizen's Guide to the Budget](#), including the FY 2019 Budget schedule. View the [CEX's Presentation of the FY 2019 Advertised Budget](#). [More information](#) can be found here.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

To view the **February 20, 2018 Board Package** [click here](#).

Admin 1: The Board authorized the advertisement of a **public hearing on March 20, 2018**, at 4:30 p.m., to **consider** an amendment to the County Code to provide a **real estate tax exemption for surviving spouses of certain persons killed in the line of duty**. In November 2016, **Virginia voters** approved a constitutional amendment giving the Virginia General Assembly authority to enact a law that would permit localities **to provide a real property tax exemption for the spouse of "any law enforcement officer, firefighter, search and rescue personnel, or emergency medical services personnel who was killed in the line of duty."**

The full item can be read on pages 31 - 42 of the Board Packet.

ACTION ITEMS

Action 1: The Board approved a **licensing agreement for the Gums Springs Historical Society (GSHS) to license space at the Gum Springs Community Center** for the storage and display of museum artifacts. This agreement allows the GSHS to continue to operate the **Museum and Cultural Center to display photos and artifacts** that are representative of the history of Gum Springs. This is an important change in the relationship between the GSHS and the Community Center, allowing for a formal agreement between the two. The Museum is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and on Saturdays from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The full item can be read on pages 70 - 81 of the Board Packet.



Action 2: The Board approved a **licensing agreement for the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation (SFDC) to lease office space in the South County Government Building**. SFDC is a non-profit whose mission is to develop, implement and support projects designed to **stimulate economic growth** in the Richmond Highway corridor by working closely with business owners, developers and local residents.

The full item can be read on pages 82 - 91 of the Board Packet.

Action 4: The Board authorized the **Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority (FCRHA) to make two loans totaling \$7,400,000 to the Wesley Housing Development Corporation (WHDC) to construct "The Arden"**, which will be comprised of two buildings with **126 units of affordable multifamily housing**. The current site at 2317 Huntington Avenue consists of two vacant duplexes and an occupied 12-unit apartment building on 1.04 acres. The duplexes and apartment building will be demolished in order to construct studio, one bedroom (BR), two-BR and three-BR units. In addition to the multifamily units, there will be approximately 3,534 sq. ft. of retail space.

The full item can be read on pages 95 - 106 of the Board Packet.

Action 7: The Board approved a **project agreement with the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) to perform transit-oriented development planning for the Richmond Highway Corridor**. This planning will support and enhance the **County's Embark Comprehensive Plan Amendment** work by better integrating planning for the **future Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system** with traditional land use planning activities, increasing access to transit, improving pedestrian and bicycle connections, and enabling high-quality mixed-use development around BRT station areas.

The full item can be read on pages 126 - 132 of the Board Packet.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Item 1: The Board received the annual update of "**The Strategic Plan to Facilitate the Economic Success of Fairfax County**" (Plan). The Plan envisions an economically strong and sustainable County and focuses on four fundamental themes: **People, Places, Employment and Governance**. The annual update includes a variety of stories and highlights that demonstrate the fundamental themes and strategies of the Plan in action. In addition, this year staff created an **Actions Tracker** (on page 37 of the report) which provides an update on all 125 actions detailed in the Plan, and provides a progress description for each.

[Click here](#) to read the full report.

[Click here](#) to read about the Economic Success Indicators and Performance Measures.

BOARD MATTERS

1. Joint Board Matter: Opportunity Zones and Economic Revitalization Zones

I joined Supervisors Herry and McKay in a joint Board Matter to advance efforts to create **Opportunity Zones** and **Economic Revitalization Zones** in the County. Economic Revitalization Zones allow the County to provide **zoning and regulatory relief, as well as tax relief**, in areas identified as revitalization zones. The Opportunity Zones program provides a **tax incentive for investors** to re-invest their unrealized capital gains into Opportunity Funds that are dedicated to investing into Opportunity Zones. The combined incentives of Opportunity Zones and Economic Revitalization Zones could make certain areas of the County **very attractive for economic revitalization**.

The County contains several eligible Opportunity Zone census tracts, with the **largest group located in the Route 1 corridor**. In addition, the business community is very interested in seeing Opportunity Zones set up in the County. Opportunity Zones will be **designated by the Governor by March 22, 2018** and the County Executive is in the process of identifying which tracts to submit to the Governor's office.

Action

- Provide the Board a brief review and discussion of Opportunity Zones at the February 23 Legislative Committee meeting.
- Include the impact of Opportunity Zones in the review and analysis of Economic Revitalization Zones that will be coming before the Board at the April 3 Economic Revitalization Committee meeting.

[Click here](#) to see the full joint Board Matter.

2. Joint Board Matter: Mount Vernon Voice

I joined Supervisor McKay in recognizing the **Mount Vernon Voice**, a **prominent local newspaper** in Mount Vernon and Lee Districts, for its **over sixteen plus years of service** to the community. Marlene Miller and Steve Hunt, the publishers and main contributors, made the decision last week to **end its circulation**, and the impact is already being felt in our community. Their work has made an indelible impact on the neighborhoods in Mount Vernon and Lee, bringing **voices to our residents** and **telling stories that are unique to the southeastern region of Fairfax**. If anything of note happened in our community, you could be sure that there would be a story about it in the next issue of the Mount Vernon Voice.



Action

Recognize Marlene Miller and Steve Hunt at a future Board meeting.

[Click here](#) to see the full joint Board Matter.

[View](#) the farewell edition of the Voice.

3. Joint Board Matter: Economic Development Support for Mount Vernon Lee Enterprises

I joined Supervisor McKay in requesting the Board consider providing **Economic Development Support Funds to Mount Vernon Lee Enterprises (MVLE)**. MVLE is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization that **works with residents with disabilities** across the County and Northern Virginia. MVLE has connected these residents with **job training and employment opportunities**, giving them an opportunity to be part of our workforce and growing our economy at the same time. Through MVLE, countless residents with disabilities have been able to provide for themselves and contribute to their communities.

MVLE is **seeking a capital investment of \$100,000 to develop a Culinary Arts and Training Program**, making use of their existing space alongside the creation of a commercial kitchen to create additional learning options and collaborative spaces. The program will be introduced through an upcoming event, **"Farm to Table-A Dining With Purpose Experience"** featuring local celebrity chefs creating homegrown dishes, with a **focus on how individuals with disabilities can join the culinary industry**.

Action

- Prepare an Initial Project Evaluation to review this project under the guidelines adopted for the Economic Development Support Fund.
- Evaluate the MVLE Culinary Arts and Training Program's impact to furthering the goals of the Economic Success Strategic Plan and make recommendations for the Board to consider allocating Economic Development Support Funds to this capital project.
- Make no investment from the Economic Development Support Fund into the MVLE Culinary Arts

and Training Program unless and until the Board has approved the use of funds for that purpose.

[Click here](#) to see the full joint Board Matter.

PUBLIC HEARINGS THAT IMPACT THE MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT

Public Hearing on FPRP Development Inc. PCA 2012-MV-008 to Amend the Proffers for RZ 2012-MV-008 Previously Approved for Mixed Use to Permit Modifications

The Board **approved an amendment to the proffers** for the Planned Development Commercial (PDC) portion of the Laurel Hill Adaptive Reuse development, now **Liberty**, that consists of 16.04 acres. This amendment **modifies the timing of the traffic signal warrant study and right-of-way vacation** of White Spruce Way. It also allows the issuance of Non-RUPs for new uses in the existing buildings (approximately 61,000 square feet) prior to installation of the traffic signals and vacation and improvements of right-of-way for White Spruce Way.

The full item can be read on pages 276 of the Board Packet.

Public Hearing on L & F Workhouse, LLC RZ 2016-MV-028 to Rezone from R-1 and WS to PDH-2 and WS to Permit Residential Development with an Overall Density of 1.99 Dwelling Units per Acre and Approval of the Conceptual Development Plan

The Board **approved the rezoning of approximately 18 acres near the Workhouse Arts Center** from R-1 (1 acre lots) to PDH-2, allowing for overall density of 2 dwelling units per acre. This rezoning request has been reviewed with the community, County staff and the Planning Commission.

The full item can be read on pages 278 of the Board Packet.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Public Meeting for Woodlawn Fire Station

Wednesday, March 7 at 7 p.m.

Learn about the planning and design of Woodlawn Fire Station located at 8701 Lukens Lane. Fairfax County staff will present the project and answer questions.

Know the Past Shape the Future

Friday, March 2 at 6 p.m.

Celebrate Black History Month with Lieutenant Governor Justin Fairfax at the County Government Center at 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. A reception will begin at 6 p.m., followed by the presentation at 7 p.m. [Click here](#) for more information.

