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April 14, 2020



Dear Neighbors,

As we all continue to **adapt and change** in our response to the COVID-19 pandemic, **so does the Board of Supervisors**. For the first time in County history, the **Board met entirely electronically**, as was approved at the last BOS meeting in the event that it would be **unsafe or impractical to meet in-person**. The continuity of County government is **especially essential in times of crisis**, both to manage the crisis and its impacts, and to



deal with **County matters that must continue to move forward regardless of COVID-19**. Please know that as we enter this **new era of virtual meetings**, we do not take this lightly. **All public meeting rules and regulations will be observed for transparency and all public hearings will have ways for constituents to provide public testimony in writing, by phone or by video**. Read more about this process here.

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

- Authorized the Fairfax County Small Business COVID-19 Recovery Microloan Fund.
- Adopted an Emergency Uncodified Ordinance to extend the validity of certain development approvals to ensure continuity in Fairfax County Government during the COVID-19 emergency.
- Ensured continuity in the meetings of County boards, authorities, commissions and regional and interjurisdictional public bodies during the COVID-19 emergency. This ensures these organizations can hold electronic meetings and continue to perform their roles.
- Authorized FCDOT to apply for \$25 million in federal funding for the Richmond Highway Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project.
- Approved revisions to its adopted 2020 meeting schedule to add new April and May budget meetings.

You can read more about these items and the latest COVID-19 information below.

The Board's highest priority remains to **support our residents and local businesses in this challenging time**.

Respectfully yours in public service,

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

The following are **highlights from the Board of Supervisors April 14, 2020 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.

All presentations, recognitions and Board Matters were postponed.

To view the April 14, 2020 Board Package click here.

Administrative Items

Item 1: Approved the **Department of Neighborhood and Community Services** applying for and accepting **federal funding** supplemental grant funding for **Head Start, Early Head Start and Early Head Start Child Care Partnership and Expansion grants**. *The full item can be read on pages 6 - 20 of the Board Package.*

Item 2: Approved the **Department of Family Services** accepting funding from the Virginia Community College System for the **Rapid Response COVID-19 Business Support Initiative**. *The full item can be read on pages 21 - 30 of the Board Package.*

Action Items

Item 3: Authorized **Fairfax County Department of Transportation** (FCDOT) **to apply for \$25 million** in federal funding for the **Richmond Highway Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project**. *The full item can be read on pages 72 - 75 of the Board Package.*

Item 5: Approved modifying the criteria for using **funds from the Economic Opportunity Reserve** to more effectively consider programs to **support small businesses** impacted by COVID-19. *The full item can be read on pages 87 - 92 of the Board Package.*

Item 6: Authorized the Fairfax County Small Business COVID-19 Recovery Microloan Fund which small businesses can apply for loans of up to \$20,000 at 0% interest. Applications will be accepted starting April 28. Businesses that employ less than 50 people make up 94% of Fairfax County businesses. As a small business owner, myself, I strongly support this assistance and believe it is critical that we support our local businesses through this crisis. There is federal funding going to small businesses and these microloans will serve second to those federally granted by the Small Business Administration. It fills a gap for businesses that might not qualify, for example due to credit history and immigration status. Learn more here, download the flyer here and how you can apply here. The full item can be read on pages 93 - 106 of the Board Package.

Item 7: Approved **revisions to its adopted 2020 meeting schedule** by adding meeting dates on **April 28, 29 and 30**, dedicated to **FY 2021 Budget public hearings**, as well as on **May 12** for the **final vote on the proposed budget**. These meetings will all be conducted electronically. For information on **how you can testify on the** County Executive's Revised Proposed FY 2021 Budget **via submitted video, written testimony, or phone call**, click here. *The full item can be read on pages 107 - 109 of the Board Package.*

Item 8: Approved the extension of the **validity of all expiring Director-approved land development items until 60 days following** the Board mandated COVID-19 emergency ends. Our office and County staff have **received requests from homeowners and professional organizations** to extend the validity of plans and permits **already approved by the Department of Land Development Services** (LDS). LDS finds **many of these permits are set to expire**. While the LDS Director is able to extend approvalson **a case by case basis**, the Board streamlined this process by **extending all approveditems**. *The full item can be read on pages 110 - 117 of the Board Package*.

Item 9: Adopted an Emergency Uncodified Ordinance to **ensure continuity in the meetings** of **boards**, **authorities**, **commissions and regional and interjurisdictional public bodies** within Fairfax County Government during the COVID-19 emergency. *The full item can be read on pages 118 - 132 of the Board Package*.

Public Hearings

Adoption of an Uncodified Ordinance to Establish Methods to Assure

Continuity in Fairfax County Government and Conduct of Board of Supervisors Meetings During the Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) Emergency, and to Repeal the Emergency Ordinance Adopted on March 24, 2020, Which is Hereby Replaced

Approved an uncodified ordinance to **establish methods to ensure continuity** in the conduct of **Board of Supervisors' meetings during the COVID-19 emergency** and to repeal the emergency ordinance adopted on March 24. This allows the **Board to meet entirely electronically**, at times that it is **unsafe or impractical to meet in-person**. *The full item can be read on pages 143 - 152 of the Board Package*.

McDonald's Gunston Plaza Shopping Center in Lorton

Approved amended proffers and conditions to **renovate and modernize an existing restaurant** with a drive through on **Richmond Highway in Lorton**. McDonald's **opened in 1994** at the Gunston Plaza Shopping Center. This application allows the restaurant to **add additional square footage and reconfigure the drive-through**. This is a very busy shopping center and **adding one more drive** through allows for better stacking and flow through the parking lot. *The full item can be read on pages 164 - 165 of the Board Package.*

FY 2021 Effective Tax Rate Increase

Held the Public Hearing as planned and **heard from many of you on various options** to adjust the effective tax rate. The County Executive's Revised Proposed FY 2021 Budget **no longer includes an increase in the Real Estate Tax rate**, holding the effective rate at \$1.15 per \$100 of assessed value. The Board also **extended the comment period** on the FY 2021 effective tax rate **to May 5**. The **final decision** will be made at the **Board Budget meeting on May 12**. *The full item can be read on pages 184 - 186 of the Board Package.*

Proposed Amendments to Section 67.1-10-2 of the Fairfax County Code Relating to Sewer Service Charges, Base Charges, Availability Charges, Fixture Unit Charges, and Charges for Hauled Wastewater

Deferred Public Hearing to **April 28 at 4:00 p.m.** The full item can be read on pages 187 - 230 of the Board Package.

Consider Adopting an Ordinance to Establish an Admissions Tax

Held a Public Hearing to consider the **establishment of an Admissions Tax**. Following the hearing, the Board **voted to reject this tax**, eliminating it from the FY 2021 Budget. Due to the **impact of COVID-19** on our community members and businesses, **I agree with the Board's decision** that it is **not appropriate to implement this tax** at this time. However, **I do support the diversification a new tax** like this would provide to our limited tax base, at the appropriate time. *The full item can be read on pages 231 - 238 of the Board Package.*

County Executive's Proposed FY 2021 Advertised Budget Plan, the Advertised Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Years 2021-2025 (CIP) (With Future Fiscal Years to 2030) and the Current Appropriation in the FY 2020 Revised Budget Plan

Deferring Public Hearings on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2021 Advertised Budget Plan, the Advertised Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Years 2021-2025 (CIP) (With Future Fiscal Years to 2030) and the Current Appropriation in the FY 2020 Revised Budget Plan to **April 28, 29 and 30**. These meetings will all be conducted electronically. For information on **how you can testify on the** County Executive's Revised Proposed FY 2021 Budget **via submitted video, written testimony, or phone call**, click here. *The full item can be read on page 239 of the Board Package.*

Upcoming Land Use Cases

Planning Commission meeting will meet on **April 22**. The April 29 meeting is cancelled. **Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA)** meetings have been **cancelled through April 30**.

COVID-19 Updates

Coronavirus: Spread the Facts, Not the Virus

Fairfax Connector Passengers Urged to Wear Face Coverings on Buses

COVID-19 and Long-Term Care: How the Health Department is Helping and Responding

Fairfax County Announces Small Business Recovery MicroLoan Fund

Fairfax County COVID-19 Health Alert Toolkit Hits Mailboxes – Everyone Needs to Open and Read this Important Information

Audio: Closure of Park Amenities Due to Coronavirus Explained

Video Playlist Provides Coronavirus Information in American Sign Language

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Member Tests Positive for COVID-19

Video: Fairfax County Health Department Nurse Discusses Cloth Face Coverings

Coronavirus Safety Tips for Employees and Companies

Help Your Community, Take a Vacation and Learn Something New — All Without Leaving Your House

COVID-19: Resources for Wellness for You and Your Family

Connector Service Changes

Document Important Medical Information On Downloadable Form

Language Resources

Fairfax County launched a **Language Portal to highlight COVID-19 content** in Fairfax County's **most used non-English languages**.

Content includes:

- Spanish / Español
- Vietnamese / Tiếng Việt
- Korean / 🗆 🗆
- Chinese / □□
- Arabic / العربية
- اردو / Urdu •
- فارسی / Farsi •

The CDC also has an American Sign Language resource that features how those with **hearing impairments** can get help.

For Basic Needs Assistance

CALL 703-222-0880, TTY 711

Coordinated Services Planning is available Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., to help identify **emergency food, shelter, clothing, healthcare, employment, financial assistance and other essential needs** to fit your circumstances.

Our **multilingual staff can assist callers** in Amharic, Dari, Creole (English and French), Farsi, Hindi, Italian, Kannada, Korean, Pashto, Punjabi, Somali, Spanish, Swedish, Tamil, Tigrinya, and Urdu. Services are **also available in other languages** through the use of an interpreter. Please call for details.

Mapping Resources for Needs

The Geospatial Resources Platform highlights applications with **data relevant to the COVID-19 pandemic** in Fairfax County.

Some examples are:

- Food resources with food pantries, FCPS grab-n-go locations, and other nonprofit sites.
- Healthcare resources with hospital, urgent care, respiratory clinic, and pharmacy locations.
- **Grocery stores** that support seniors shopping during special hours.

May/June Elections

- Governor Northam has *requested* that the General Assembly move all special elections scheduled for May 5, 2020 to November 3, 2020.
- He has moved June primary elections from June 9, 2020 to June 23, 2020.
- Read more...

Trash and Recycling

- Fairfax County residents are **strongly discouraged** from taking their **yard waste to the I-66 Transfer Station or I-95 Landfill**.
- Glass recycling has been temporarily suspended. Consider keeping clean glass until the program is resumed, or put it in your trash. All trash in Fairfax County is burned at the Covanta Waste-to-Energy Facility.
- Some **best practices** for getting rid of trash:
 - **Reduce the waste** households generate so the system isn't overwhelmed. (Postpone spring cleaning.)
 - Wipe and disinfect cart handles and lids.
 - **Stop setting out yard waste** at the curb. Implement mulching or backyard composting. **Yard waste placed in trash carts** (your regular pick up container) **will be picked up**.
 - Seal sharp medical objects in a rigid plastic container with sturdy tape and label it "sharp."
 - **Bag all trash** to limit workers' exposure to harmful materials.
 - Read more...

Get Help, Give Help Updates

Artemis House Region 1 Domestic Violence Shelter

- Get Help
- Give Help
- Domestic & Sexual Violence Hotline 703-360-7273; TTY 711
- If You are in Danger, Call or Text 911

For more, visit our Get Help, Give Help webpage...

Resources

Fairfax County Health Department

- To view the **number of cases in Fairfax County** this page is updated at noon daily.
- Visit the County site on COVID-19, Health Department Website, and see their FAQs.
- Sign up for text message alerts: text FFXCOVID to 888777
- Call the Health Department from 9:30 am 9 pm weekdays and 9:30 am 5 pm on weekends: 703-267-3511
- Email: ffxcovid@fairfaxcounty.gov. This account will be staffed Monday through Friday, 8 am 8 pm.

Inova has a helpful FAQ.

2020 U.S. Census

The 2020 U.S. Census has begun! You have or will receive your invitation to respond any day now. **Please take the time to complete the census**. Future federal funding is determined by the census and it is very important everyone living in your home on April 1 is counted. For every person not counted, the County **could lose \$12,000 in potential funding** over the next 10 years. Learn more...





Download a copy of the Assistance from a Distance flyer: Arabic, Chinese, English, Farsi, Korean, Spanish, Vietnamese

Visit our Website

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

STAY CONNECTED

