

Budget Comments Received before the City Manager's Proposed Budget

New Comments on Top

February 16, 2021

I would like the budget to address my following concerns:

1. Energy and Climate Change Task Force (EAP 1.1.1, \$150,000 for consultant minus \$110,000 allocated FY2021, additional staff support time) – We request that the FY 2022 budget include funds to support the work of the Energy and Climate Change Task Force that will be fully operational in FY 2022.
2. Green Building New Staff Person (EAP 3.1.7, \$120,000 per year) – We request that you include funding for one full time green building staff person in the Department of Planning and Zoning as set forth under Section 3.1.7 of the EAP.
3. City Electric Vehicle Program funding (EAP 2.2.2, \$150,000 per year) – Implement recommendations of the new Alternative Fleet Fuel Policy and pilot programs for DASH, Alexandria City Public Schools, and the City vehicle fleet.
4. Tree Canopy Program and Guidelines (EAP 4.1.1, est. \$30-40,000 per year) – We request that funding to support achieving the tree canopy preservation goals be continued. This green infrastructure is critical for adapting to higher temperatures and rainfall events.

February 15, 2021

- (1) Energy and Climate Change Task Force (EAP 1.1.1 - \$150,000 for consultant minus \$110,000 allocated FY2021, additional staff support time) – Please include funds in the FY 2022 budget to support the work of the Energy and Climate Change Task Force that will be fully operational in FY 2022.
- (2) Green Building New Staff Person (EAP 3.1.7 - \$120,000 per year) – Please include funding for one full time green building staff person in the Department of Planning and Zoning as set forth under Section 3.1.7 of the EAP.
- (3) City Electric Vehicle Program funding (EAP 2.2.2 - \$150,000 per year) – Implement recommendations of the new Alternative Fleet Fuel Policy and pilot programs for DASH, the Public Schools bus feet, and the City vehicle fleet.
- (4) Tree Canopy Program and Guidelines (EAP 4.1.1 - est. \$30,000 - \$40,000 per year) – Please continue funding to support achieving the tree canopy preservation goals. Green infrastructure is critical for adapting to higher temperatures and rainfall events.

February 15, 2021

I am writing this email to urge you to include in the FY 2022 Alexandria City budget the \$120,000 per year for a new green building staff person that is envisioned in Section 3.1.7 of the City's Environmental Action Plan 2040. I also trust that the \$110,000 allocated in FY 2021 for a consultant for the Energy and Climate Change Task Force will be used for that purpose in the current fiscal year.

February 10, 2021

Alexandria students have clearly expressed that many are uncomfortable with police in schools. Despite an official policy that SROs have no role in discipline, the presence of SROs is associated with school suspensions that disproportionately impact black and brown students. Because police in ACPS (schools) are funded through the APD (police dept) budget, the School Board is not free to re-allocate these funds more effectively. It is up to City Council to re-allocate this funding.

February 2, 2021

I have contacted you and the School Board previously on this issue of great importance to me. I discovered that while it was a decision left to the School Board--who voted to extend the MOU with the Alexandria Police Department keeping SROs in our schools, you have some discretion in terms of the budget reallocation process and can act to remove the funding. Alexandria students have clearly expressed that many are uncomfortable with police in schools. Despite an official policy that SROs have no role in discipline, the presence of SROs is associated with school suspensions that disproportionately impact black and brown students. I fervently hope you will act in the best interests of our students and community and re-allocate these funds to education programs that will contribute to greater equity not undermine it.

January 31, 2021

Please include adequate budget resources for these important programs identified in the City's Environmental Action Plan as needing funding in FY22. These support the Manager's stated FY22 budget priority "Building Community Resilience to Climate Change":

Energy and Climate Change Task Force (EAP 1.1.1)

Green Building New Staff Person (EAP 3.1.7)

Development of Policies and Guidelines for Estimating GHG Emissions in City Budget (EAP 1.1.2)

City Electric Vehicle Program funding (EAP 2.2.2)

Tree Canopy Program and Guidelines (EAP 4.1.1)

These actions will help put the City on a path for a sustainable and equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn while working to mitigate climate change and its impacts to City residents.

January 28, 2021

Alexandria students have clearly expressed that many are uncomfortable with police in schools. Despite an official policy that SROs have no role in discipline, the presence of SROs is associated with school suspensions that disproportionately impact black and brown students. Because police in ACPS (schools) are funded through the APD (police dept) budget, the School Board is not free to re-allocate these funds more effectively. It is up to City Council to re-allocate this funding.

January 22, 2021

I appreciate the difficult trade-offs that this budget year makes necessary and the hard decisions you will need to make. Please include adequate budget resources for these important programs identified in the City's Environmental Action Plan as needing funding in FY22. These support the Manager's stated FY22 budget priority "Building Community Resilience to Climate Change": 1. Energy and Climate Change Task Force (EAP 1.1.1); 2. Green Building New Staff Person (EAP 3.1.7); 3. Development of Policies and Guidelines for Estimating GHG Emissions in City Budget (EAP 1.1.2); 4. City Electric Vehicle Program funding (EAP 2.2.2); and 5. Tree Canopy Program and Guidelines (EAP 4.1.1). These actions will help put the City on a path for a sustainable and equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn while working to mitigate climate change and its impacts to City residents. Unfortunately, there is no vaccine for the climate crisis, so we can't postpone these types of actions.

December 1, 2020

City employees need their merit raises to offset the many issues of COVID-19.

November 16, 2020

Hi- I'm writing to encourage the City to expand its compost collection in the West End. With the West End Farmers Market ending for the season, there is now no compost collection sites convenient to this area of the city. It would be great to have more sites, possibly near the current purple bins around the city. Thanks.