



UPDATE FROM SUPERVISOR

JEFFREY C. MCKAY

Vantage Homes Association

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ILLEGAL ROAD SIGNS

My initiative expanded the County's collection of illegal road signs in our areas such as Springfield and Richmond Highway. In 2019 alone, over 7,500 illegal signs have been removed so far and a total of more than \$126,000 in fines has been collected through this initiative.

See any in these areas?
Call 703-324-SIGN (7446) to report a sign or get more information here:
<https://bit.ly/2P3KOoa>

Did You Know?

In FY2018, more than 23,900 residents used Fairfax Falls Church Community Services Board resources to treat mental health, substance abuse, and/or developmental disability needs, and more than 6,100 used CSB emergency services.

Budget: On May 1, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted 9-1 in favor of the FY20 Budget, which holds the line of the real estate tax rate, maintaining the existing rate of \$1.15 per \$100 of assessed value.

As our Board's Chairman of the Budget Committee, I was glad to present a budget that invests in our strong schools, vital human service needs, our County workforce, and other programs.

The County increased its transfer to its top priority, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS), by \$86 million (or 3.82%), adding to the over \$2 billion in funds allocated to our school system. This is the second consecutive year FCPS has been fully funded. This transfer allows the schools to increase teacher pay on average by 6.23% on top of last year's increase of an average of 6.38%.

Changes to the County Executive's proposed FY2020 budget included an additional position for affordable housing, two positions for energy and climate planning, and an increase in the Market Rate Adjustment (MRA) for County employees from the proposed 1% to 2.1%. The increased MRA also sets the living wage for County employees at \$15.14.

Additionally, the Board approved language to continue to make progress this year on affordable housing, police body-worn cameras, and early childhood education.

I'm very proud to have brought forward a budget that speaks strongly to our priorities. It funds our critical human services programming such as our Diversion First Program that diverts low-level offenders with mental health to treatment rather than incarceration. It also funds other programs that work to protect our environment, bolsters our affordable housing, rewards our world-class employees, and continues the positive momentum we've established here in South County by investing in our community. Putting together budgets is never an easy process but this is a solid one I was pleased to put together.

Development: Quite a few projects are taking place all across Lee District. I'm excited to say that the grocery store chain, Lidl, is coming to central Springfield and is expected to open in 2020. Additionally, we will soon begin seeing the construction of the Springfield Commuter Parking Garage, expected to open in Spring of 2022. Progress on the Transportation Security Administration continues and expected to open next year as well. The Springfield Branding Project is well underway and now has several design ideas up for public comment. Though just one step in the revitalization process, it's a major one.

Metro Improvements: I'm happy to say that after an extensive platform reconstruction project, both the Franconia-Springfield and Huntington Metro Stations have re-opened! Improvements include new platform shelters with charging outlets, new digital display screens, LED lighting, and new platform speakers. While all heavy construction activity has been completed, please be aware that work will continue for several more weeks without impacting service.

Transportation: In 2018, \$402 million in state funding from the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) was awarded to help fund the Richmond Highway bus rapid transit (BRT) project, the ongoing Richmond Highway widening and pedestrian improvement project, and the extension of Frontier Drive. Recently, the Board was awarded \$3 million in funding for an intersection transportation improvement project. Hopefully, we will have more detailed plans soon but the project should help ease some congestion at the intersection of Hayfield and Telegraph Roads and will be designed to take no land and minimize impacts on schools and homes in the area. Additionally, many bus stop sites along Route One have been substantially completed as part of The Richmond Highway Bus Stop Improvement project! These improvements include the installation of bus shelters, benches, bike racks, and sidewalks! These projects don't stop there! The Median Refuge Project at Franconia and Westchester Drive has been completed recently as well. This project will now provide refuge for pedestrian crossing at this location. To further our progress on Embark, the Board officially endorsed the design plans for the widening of Richmond Highway from Mt Vernon Memorial Highway / Jeff Todd Way to Sherwood Hall Lane.

Public Safety: We've taken major steps to improve our already-world class public safety system. In addition to adopting policies recommended by the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, we conducted a police body-camera pilot program in the Mount Vernon, Mason, and Reston Police Stations and are now working to implement this County-wide. These efforts will continue to help us remain the safest jurisdiction of its size in the country. Additionally, the Board of Supervisors recently directed funds towards addressing the opioid crisis and gang prevention again for this fiscal year. Work is also underway to build a new South County Police Station, aimed at reducing operational strains and response times at our local existing stations.

Affordable Housing: Last year, the Board of Supervisors approved Phase 1 of our first-ever housing strategic plan, the Communitywide Housing Strategic Plan. This first phase led to the creation of 25 short-term strategies that are being implemented over the next two years. This strategic plan also has a "Phase 2" which includes longer-term strategies for developing new tools and policies to support the production, preservation, and access to housing that is affordable to those in our community. To increase our affordable housing stock, we are in the process of approving 150 additional affordable senior housing units, on County-owned property near the Van Dorn Metro Station. The Crest of Alexandria has begun construction and is expected to be completed next year, creating new senior affordable units as well. As we work to preserve our housing stock, renovations of Murraygate Village Apartments and Lafayette Apartments are well underway. Additionally, Huntington Gardens, a 113-unit apartment complex that was slated for demolition, was saved and will provide housing for those that make at or below 60 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI). I'm also very happy to say that Artemis House Region One opened this year. It is the second domestic violence shelter in the County.

Environment: Environmental Stewardship is a County priority. Recently, we adopted the Fairfax Green Initiatives Board Matter. This is a call to action for the County to consider additional endeavors to accelerate our work of addressing climate change and increasing environmental preservation. As part of the Fairfax Green Initiatives Board Matter, the County has begun developing a Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP) and a County-specific Climate Resiliency and Adaptation Plan contracting with an energy savings performance contractor (ESPC). Additionally, we intend to advance the goals and targets of the County's Operational Energy Strategy all while increasing locally generated environmentally friendly energy (like solar) to offset County government energy usage. Here in Lee District, we have master plan revisions underway for several of our parks, which will give the Park Authority a blueprint for how to best conserve and improve our playing fields, hiking trails, ecosystems and other amenities based on community input. We're also working to plan the long-term future of Lake Accotink, which is filling with sediment. We now have funding to dredge the lake and are working on a specific plan for the future. More information is available on the lake's website.



Contact Us!

6121 Franconia Rd. Alexandria, VA 22310

Phone: 703-971-6262

Email: leedist@fairfaxcounty.gov

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00 am—5:00 pm

Website: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/lee Facebook: Supervisor Jeff McKay Twitter: @JeffreyCMckay