



VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

February 17, 2015

Prince William Board of County Supervisors  
BOCS@pwcgov.org

Re: Our Prince William's Support for the County's Five Year Plan

We, the undersigned community leaders, activists, business owners, and residents, have come together to speak on behalf of Our Prince William. The Our Prince William movement exists to celebrate, advocate for, and communicate about the "Fundamental Five" (Arts and Recreation, Education, Health and Human Services, Public Safety, and Transportation) – that interconnected body of partners who work to support the quality of life of this County. We write to you with one voice to express our concerns about and recommendations for the current budget cycle, specifically encouraging you to focus on the priorities outlined by the community in the Five Year Plan.

**The Consumer Price Index-Urban Is Too Arbitrary, Unstable, and Unrelated to the Five Year Plan to Be a Useful Standard for the County Budget.** Our Prince William believes that a budget for our County based on the CPI-U is backwards-looking, untied from the community's goals, and arbitrary. This approach ties the County's fiscal future to an index of consumer prices that varies wildly from month to month and has no relationship to the priorities of this community. Coupled with the Board's decision to protect certain line items at the expense of others, the "One Point Three Percenters" (*i.e.*, advocates of using the CPI-U to form our county's budget) ignore the goals we set for ourselves in the Five Year Plan and instead would adopt a self-defeating "cut your way to prosperity" approach that harms our school system and the fundamental services on which you and your constituents rely.

**The Better Course Is to Craft a Budget that Funds the Five Year Plan as Written and Addresses the Looming Transit Crisis.** By adopting this approach you make it possible to remove political posturing from the process and make growth-focused, critical decisions. In the short term, we ask you to be guided by the budget growth you anticipated last year, when you approved the Five Year Plan *and* opened the door for alternate funding models for the PRTC. With an eye towards the long term, we invite you and your staffs to join members of Our Prince William as we engage in a series of meetings during the summer of 2015 to 1) estimate the actual level of spending required to fully fund the Five Year Plan going forward, 2) recognize the impending PRTC crisis and work to supplement its budget, 3) evaluate the tax rate that might flow from that level of funding, 4) discuss the Plan's priorities and any needed changes in light of that tax rate, and 5) share the results with the community.

**The Time Has Come for Us to Move from the Illusion of Planning to the Material Implementation of the Five Year Plan.** We are a group of leaders who are fully engaged with our community and who understand its needs. We attach our names to this letter because we believe in the Five Year Plan and its support

for the Fundamental Five. We attach our names to this letter because we unequivocally reject any attempts to bring Washington divisiveness, distraction, and dysfunction to Prince William County. We attach our names to this letter because we are confident that the future is bright for Prince William County. With your help we can work together to realize its goals.

Sincerely,

Mary B. Agee, President & CEO, Northern Virginia Family Services

Debi Alexander, Executive Director, Rainbow Therapeutic Riding Center

Hala Ayala, President, PWC National Organization for Women; Past President, Lake Ridge Elementary PTO; Chair, Leadership Diversity Advisory Council, U.S. Coast Guard

Mike Beaty, Secretary, PWC National Organization of Women; federal employee

Jo-Ellen Benson, President, Benecare, Inc.; Chairman of the Board, Project Mend-A-House

Jennifer Bolles, Executive Director, Project Mend-A-House

Sheyna Burt, Owner, the Law Offices of Sheyna Nicole Burt, PLC; Chair, Prince William County Arts Council, Director, Hylton Performing Arts Center Executive Board

Chris Caseman, Director, Resource Development, ARC of Prince William

Rick Davis, Executive Director, Hylton Performing Arts Center; Associate Dean, College of Visual and Performing Arts, George Mason University

Betty Dean, President, Coalition for Human Services; Chair, Prince William Chamber Public Policy Committee; President, Occoquan River Communities; Vice President, Didlake, Inc.

Barry Dean, Director, Prince William Historic Preservation Foundation, Director, Occoquan River Communities, (formerly) Councilman, Occoquan Town Council

Andrea Eck, Director of Housing Services, Northern Virginia Family Services

Laura Feld-Mushaw, Educator; Member, Lake Ridge Rotary; Past PTO leader

Mary Foley, Executive Director, Volunteer Prince William

Frances Harris, former Executive Director, ACTS/Turning Points; Past chair, Coalition for Human Services

Beverly Hess, Executive Director, Youth Orchestras of Prince William

Tim Jackson, Owner, MDA Technologies; Board of Directors and 2-time Past Chair, Prince William Chamber of Commerce; Past President and current Membership Chair, Lake Ridge Rotary

Sally Lay, Executive Director, Center for the Arts at the Candy Factory

Jim Livingston, President, Prince William Education Association

Dr. Mary D. Lopez, Executive Director, Independence Empowerment Center; Director, Coalition for Human Services

Mary Beth Michos, (formerly) Chief, Department of Fire and Rescue, Prince William County; Past president, Lake Ridge Rotary

Paul Moessner, Director, Coalition for Human Services; Citizen Activist

Colonel, USAF (Ret.) Stanley L. Mushaw, Defense Contractor

Richard Nagel, Executive Director, Neighbors Keeper

David Narburgh, Executive Director, Prince William Speech and Hearing Center, Inc.; Director, Coalition for Human Services; Past Director (Vice President, Treasurer), ARC of Prince William

Rexford G. Parr, President and CEO, Didlake, Inc.; Past Chair, George Mason University's Prince William Campus Advisory Board; (former) Appointee, Governor's Advisory Committee on the Needs of Handicapped Citizens; Recipient, Leadership Prince William Inaugural Vision Award

Don Peschka, Virginia Cooperative Extension Leadership Council

Diana Paguaga, Managing Member, DeSeguros LLC; Advisory Board member, Woodbridge Salvation Army; Volunteer, Neighbors' Keeper

Elena Schlossberg, Community Activist

Bill Scott, Chairman, Virginia Cooperative Extension Leadership Council

Karen Smith, Executive Director, ARC of Prince William; Chair, PWC Disability Services Board; Chair, PWC Housing Advisory Board

Cheri Villa, Chief Operating Officer, Northern Virginia Family Services

Amy White, Associate Organizer, Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement (VOICE)

Mike Yeatts, Executive Director, Prince William Soccer Incorporated