

BOARD MOTIONS

Budget Guidance for Fiscal Year 2012 and Fiscal Year 2013

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County, Virginia, held in the Board Auditorium of the Fairfax County Government Center on Tuesday, April 12, 2011, I move Board approval of the following Budget Guidance for FY 2012 and FY 2013:

FY 2013 Budget Development

Forecast

The Board directs the County Executive to provide a financial forecast for FY 2013 by Fall 2011 to assist Board of Supervisors' decision-making as it relates to guidance to the County and the Schools on the strategic priorities and the budgetary support for programs and services in FY 2013. This forecast shall include revenue projections with a focus on the real estate market and disbursement requirements for FY 2013 and the next several years. Special focus should also be given to the longer term capital requirements of the County.

The Board of Supervisors directs the County Executive to prepare an FY 2013 budget proposal that continues to consider the affordability of taxes for our residents and businesses and attempts to keep taxes steady with FY 2012.

County and School Collaboration

During FY 2012, the Board of Supervisors would like to continue the successful pursuit of opportunities for collaborations that can result in efficiencies, reductions and improvements. Some of the areas that we may want to explore are in the areas of security, transportation and human services.

To build on the increased collaboration between the Schools and County resulting from several recent initiatives, including the Community School Linked Services and Promise Neighborhoods pilot projects, the Board directs County staff to work with School staff to develop a process whereby the BOS and the FCPS School Board adopt a shared vision for an integrated service delivery system that creates greater opportunities for academic success and improved well-being for children, youth and families and creates a policy framework that maximizes resources, minimizes duplication and enhances overall effectiveness.

Budget Process

The Board of Supervisors recognizes the hard work of its various district budget committees in providing analysis and recommendations on the FY 2012 budget and directs staff to continue to support these groups during their work on the FY 2013 process. The work of these groups was extremely valuable in assisting the County navigate the FY 2012 budget process as well as the last several years. Individual supervisors have used a variety of approaches in establishing their committees or

identifying key budget advisors within their districts, which has greatly enhanced the public input process. In addition, the ability of committee chairs to share their ideas and research with other groups provided for a robust exchange of ideas in the best tradition of citizen involvement in Fairfax County government and the budget process.

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS)

The Board of Supervisors acknowledges the continued spirit of cooperation and collaboration demonstrated by the FCPS School Board and staff in working through the significant budget challenges during the last several years.

The Board is extremely supportive of the School Board efforts to fully implement Full Day Kindergarten within existing school resources in FY 2012. As we heard overwhelmingly during our meetings on the budget, Full Day Kindergarten is a community issue and clearly the Board of Supervisors would, if it could, approve the expansion of Full Day Kindergarten to all remaining elementary schools in the County. To assist the School Board with funding and re-prioritizing its resources to accomplish implementation of Full Day Kindergarten countywide, the Board of Supervisors will provide the savings from the elimination of the Kindergarten SACC program (\$500,000), which will no longer be necessary if all Fairfax County Public Schools have Full Day Kindergarten. In addition the Board of Supervisors has identified additional Cable funding of \$641,904 that can be added to the School Budget. More flexibility is identified in the \$1.9 million in funding for the School Nurse Health Program that is being returned from the County to the School Budget. Without this action, this \$1.9 million would have reverted to the County to offset its existing School Health expenses in the Health Department. Lastly, as a result of the Board Auditor's work, there may be additional flexibility within the Cable programming funds which go to the Schools. To be available, this would require a reprioritization by Schools of this funding.

The Board of Supervisors endorses the County Executive's recommendation that **the increased School Bond program of \$155 million a year (or \$125 million in increased capacity over the 5 year period of the CIP) be maintained.**

In addition, during the current budget process, the Schools approached the County with a proposal for **accelerating construction projects** in order to take advantage of the favorable construction market by using short-term financing alternatives for energy-related improvements. To accomplish this, County staff is directed to work very closely with the FCPS staff to identify short-term financing alternatives for energy improvements which are anticipated to result in significant energy savings. The savings can be used to pay off the short term debt. **As a result it is anticipated that the FCPS capital program will gain additional capacity by as much as \$30 million.**

The Board of Supervisors encourages the Fairfax County School Board to establish an independent auditor position that would report directly to the School Board. The Board of Supervisors has had an independent auditor since the 1990s and their work has saved millions of taxpayer dollars and resulted in more efficient delivery of services.

Available Balances

The Board of Supervisors directs that remaining balances made available at the Carryover and Third Quarter Reviews that are not required to support critical requirements be held in reserve to address FY 2013 budget challenges and requests that the School Board also reserve available balances for FY 2013 requirements. Recognizing that with the slow economic recovery and the budgetary reductions taken by agencies that have reduced their flexibility it is more important than ever that the County maintain adequate reserve funding for unforeseen requirements.

County Staff

The Board of Supervisors has a strong and consistent record of meeting our financial obligations relative to retirement. **The Fairfax County Retirement Systems are sufficiently funded to meet all benefit payments into the foreseeable future. Even though our systems, as with all systems nationwide, have experienced significant challenges related to the financial crisis in FY 2009, our systems have had exceptional investment returns, with the Employees' system placing first and the Police Officers system placing second in the nation among all corporate, public and endowment plans.**

The Board of Supervisors looks forward to reviewing the study on County retirement benefits once completed which will include a comprehensive understanding of the long term liabilities of the retirement system, recommended options for system affordability and benefits and specific programs. In addition, the Board directs that staff include as part of this discussion a review of the concept of a health insurance opt-back-in for retirees, a review of health savings accounts, i.e. Voluntary Employees Beneficiary Associations (VEBAs), and further changes to the employee contribution to Police retirement.

In conjunction with this analysis, the Board directs the County Executive to include at the *FY 2011 Carryover Review* funding for a reduction in the Social Security offset from 30% to 25% for service-connected disability retirees in the Uniformed and Employees' Retirement Systems. The Board also directs the County Executive to take necessary action to seek amendments to the Fairfax County Code reflecting this change. This will continue the previous commitment to reducing the offset for these retirees which we have been unable to fund during the most recent budget difficulties.

Staff is directed to continue to monitor the impact of the reductions in public safety overtime, especially for Police, and report back to the Board any necessary changes or unanticipated impacts that need to be addressed during FY 2012.

Staff is directed to complete its work on changes to the Pay for Performance program for Board approval at an upcoming Personnel Committee meeting so that any funding implications can be included in the FY 2013 budget. The changes already approved by the Board for FY 2013 include the implementation of a single anniversary date for

performance reviews for non-public safety employees and endorsement of a revised pay for performance system that will include a market rate adjustment increase and a variable rate increase based on performance. Both of the increases would be dependent on funding availability.

Human Services

In its testimony on the FY 2012 budget, the Human Services Council commended the budget's support of the safety net we have worked so hard to establish and maintain. There were a number of recommendations made by the Council, many of which have been resolved through adjustments to County revenues or included in the Board's budget proposal. In addition, staff has identified FY 2012 resources to continue the **homeless youth initiative** which was begun using ARRA funding, and the Board directs that this service be considered within the County's homelessness and housing planning processes as well as the funding pool process in the future. Staff is also encouraged to continue working on leveraging County funds with the private sector to maximize the ability of the community to combat homelessness. Finally, in light of potential federal budget reductions to key services to County residents including Head Start and CDBG, staff is directed to monitor and quantify the impacts and identify options for potential offset of these service reductions.

Staff is also directed to review funding requirements for the Housing Blueprint for FY 2012 and identify flexibility in Fund 319 generated from program income, savings from the Crescent refinancing and grant opportunities, and report to the Housing Committee at an upcoming meeting so that any necessary funding adjustments may be made at Carryover.

Direct staff to work with our community stakeholders to review the Ending Homelessness Strategic Plan and develop a framework for providing a full continuum of supports that address the root causes of homelessness. The Housing Blueprint and the Preventing and Ending Homelessness Strategic plan are excellent foundations for addressing homelessness and the availability of adequate affordable housing resources, but to ensure positive and sustainable outcomes, we must work to enhance the capacity of our system to provide support services for those most in need. Our strategy must include new housing resources but also the full continuum of housing supports including customized employment services, affordable health care and childcare in an effort to prevent homelessness and end the cycle of chronic homelessness.

SAFER Grant

The Fire Chief is directed to evaluate SAFER Grant funding opportunities to enhance the local fire departments' abilities to comply with staffing, response and operational standards

A Copy Teste:

Nancy Vehrs,
Clerk to the Board of Supervisors