

Proposed Resolution for Consideration at the June 2018 ACCF Membership Meeting

At the April membership meeting, the Revenues & Expenditures Committee (“R&E”) introduced a resolution recommending acceptance of the Manager’s proposed budget for 2019, which did not provide for an increase in the tax rate. The resolution was approved by margin of 50 for, 1 opposed, and one abstaining. At that meeting, R&E noted that the Manager had advised that future budgets would be subject to pressures to increase revenues and/or decrease programs and services. R&E said it would next introduce a resolution dealing specifically with those issues. Following is a draft resolution to be considered at the June membership meeting. R&E would greatly appreciate input from other committees as well as delegates and their respective organizations:

*Whereas the County Manager in the proposed 2019 budget has noted that population and inflationary pressures will likely require future service modifications, savings and efficiencies, as well as in increase in taxes and fees;*

*Whereas increases in mortgage interest rates and changes in the tax code (e.g., SALT and mortgage interest caps) may depress future increases in Arlington County residential property values;*

*Whereas Arlington County should not rely on increased residential property values to support increases in the budget;*

*Whereas Arlington County needs to do more to attract viable long-term commercial tenants and/or re-purpose existing commercial properties;*

*Whereas the County should continue to prioritize core needs vs. ‘discretionary’ expenses;*

*Whereas the County Manager should encourage cost-saving ideas by instituting a vigorous and effective suggestion rewards program;*

*Therefore, be it resolved that the Arlington County Civic Federation encourages a county-wide effort to improve revenue streams and examine and improve savings and efficiencies in the County budget by reviewing, among other things:*

- 1) employee compensation (i.e., eliminate regional competition, use of selective and/or temporary raises or bonuses, restrictions on overtime)*
- 2) construction costs and contract oversight (better bidding procedures; more effective cost oversight)*
- 3) emphasis on maintenance/repair of existing facilities vs. new facilities*
- 4) consolidation and re-purposing/sale/sub-let of County owned/leased buildings*
- 5) new incentives for commercial construction, including improved procedures for commercial business transactions*
- 7) less density*
- 8) Core needs vs. discretionary outlays*
- 9) Improve/enhance Open Data portal (priorities?)*
- 10) Consider direct subsidies for priority employees vs. non-selective AHIF subsidies*
- 11) Definition of debt ratio limitations*
- 12) Water bill inconsistencies*
- 13) Increase in resources for IG and Internal Auditor*