

Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation  
February 2022 | Volume 106 | Number 7

## March Membership Meeting March 8, 2021 @ 7:00PM

Delegates, Alternate Delegates, others associated with member organizations, and the public are invited to attend this virtual meeting.

**Advance Registration is required and must be completed by 12 PM, Tuesday, March 8, 2022.**

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZotcumrrz4qGNy5LWF2KlDlHrd7WE8zqpe>  
[e](#)

A confirmation email will be sent with unique meeting log-in/phone-in details. We strongly encourage early check-in, which starts at 6 PM.

To expedite the check-in process please use your first and last name as your profile name this will help identify participants.

**\*\*The Secretary must be notified of voting member substitutions by 12 PM Monday, March 7th, 2022.**

If you are not familiar with Zoom, here is [a link to information and instructions on how to register and participate in CivFed's December 2021 Membership Meeting.](#)

## March 8, 2022 Membership Meeting Agenda

- 7:00 - Regular Business, pledge, approve minutes
- 7:15 - Public Services: Marcus Alert Presentation
- 8:15 - Data Privacy Panel
- 8:40 - Nominations Committee
- 8:45 - Virginia Hospital Center- The Future of VHC
- 8:50 - Old Business
- 9:05 - New Business
- 9:10 - Adjournment

## President's Corner

It is February, and Spring is coming soon. This has been a long, challenging winter, and we look forward to the renewal of Spring.

We are now officially in the County and Schools budget season. Our Revenues and Expenditure (R&E) Committee, and Public Services committee have been evaluating the County Budget and CIP, they will be reporting their analysis to the membership, along with a potential resolution. We will be discussing and voting on the proposed



[R&E resolution on the tax rate](#) at the March meeting.

Waverly Hills delegate Todd Truitt has been named chair of the Schools Committee. They are in the process of evaluating the Superintendent's proposed budget. They will report their findings and a potential resolution in advance of the May Membership meeting, when the School Board will be our guests.

The Public Services Committee Stormwater [resolution](#) was approved by the membership at the February membership meeting. John Ford and the Stormwater working group are engaging with Civic Associations all over the County and with County Staff to work to address ongoing issues and plans for Stormwater Management and Flood Mitigation across the County. The Civic Federation has been in the forefront of advocating for similar issues since its founding, we are encouraged by the County's willingness to engage and respond.

Also at this month's membership meeting, the Public Service Committee will be presenting on a panel on the new Marcus Alert system. Further information is below in the newsletter.

Finally, we will be voting on a nomination committee at the March Membership meeting. This committee will handle the nomination of at least one candidate Voting Member or Alternate Member for each Director position, including Civic Federation Officers. We will send proposed members of the nominations committee out in the meeting reminder before meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy. Please reach out to me if you have any questions about involvement with the Civic Federation, or engagement with the County or Schools.

Warmly,

[Allan Gajadhar](#)

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### **Panel: What is the Marcus Alert System and What Does it Mean for Mental and Behavioral Health Equity in Arlington?**

The Marcus-David Peters Act, signed into law in 2020, requires that all Virginia localities establish a local plan with protocols for first responders and behavioral health professionals when responding to a crisis related to mental health, substance abuse, or developmental/intellectual disability. The implementation aims to achieve positive outcomes for individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis, as well as diverting individuals away from the criminal justice system towards resources for treatment and recovery. DHS identifies success for the system to include "increasing the availability of, and access to, racially responsive crisis supports, with a focus on equity and safety to ensure the most optimal outcomes."

(<https://www.arlingtonva.us/files/sharedassets/public/commissions/csb/marcus-alert-townhall-17-feb-2022.pdf>).

Arlington has been working with partners and stakeholder groups to design the Arlington framework and is now in the stage of deciding on short-term steps, mid-term plans, and long-term goals. Although pending legislation may extend the deadline, the current deadline for submitting the plan is this May 2022.

What new programs are under consideration? How will current programs be modified or expanded? How are programs for youth included? What specific protocols and programs are being developed by DHS and ACPD to transition behavioral health and law enforcement to fully implement the Marcus Alert and last year's recommendations from the Police Practices Group? How will implementation work with the current national and local staffing crisis for both behavioral health and law enforcement professionals?

The plan that Arlington adopts will set the context for Arlington's future response to people in mental or behavioral health crises and for Arlington's commitment to equitable services for prevention and treatment.

The Civic Federation will provide a presentation on the current status led by Deborah Warren, Deputy Director, Department of Human Services who is the lead for developing the plan. The panel will include partners from the Arlington County Police Department, Lieutenant Steve Troyano, and Heather Horan from the Emergency Call Center (ECC/911), Public Safety Communications and Emergency Management Office (PSCM).

There will be an opportunity through the chat for questions and feedback.

If you have any questions you'd like to submit in advance, please email Jackie Snelling, [JTS@mtnzephyr.com](mailto:JTS@mtnzephyr.com)

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## **APS Superintendent Visit to Civic Federation**

Arlington Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Durán made his annual visit to the Arlington County Civic Federation at the February 2022 membership meeting. He gave a 40-minute presentation, followed by 20 minutes of Q&A from the audience. The presentation covered topics and subtopics requested by the Schools Committee. APS also provided answers in advance to the Schools Committee's written questions.

The Arlington County School Board is scheduled to make its similar annual visit at Civic Federation May 2022 membership meeting. The Schools Committee will be similarly working with the School Board in advance in requesting topics and subtopics for that presentation.

If you're interested in serving on CivFed's Schools Committee, please reach out to Todd Truitt at [toddtruitt@yahoo.com](mailto:toddtruitt@yahoo.com).

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## **Legislation Committee Update on Deaths in Arlington Detention Center**

On February 1, 2022, Paul Thompson died while in custody at the Arlington Detention Center. His is the seventh custodial death at the jail since 2015. Three of those deaths occurred in the last 15 months. According to news reports, Mediko Correctional Healthcare has been the medical services provider at the jail since November 16, 2021 and was the provider at the time of Paul Thompson's death. Three investigations are now open and pending, including an investigation into the October 1, 2020 death of Darryl Becton. Following the death of Clyde Spencer on October 5, 2021, the Civil Rights Working Group issued records requests to the Arlington County Manager, the Arlington County Sheriff's Office, and the Arlington County Police Department for information relating to a series of deaths at the jail. The scope of the requests were narrowly tailored to obtain records subject to release under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (Virginia FOIA).

The Arlington County Police Department (ACPD) produced responsive records on November 23, 2021. Records produced by ACPD include policy documents, emergency logs and other investigative records for four closed investigations from 2015, 2017 and 2019. The Police Department withheld records relating to the more recent deaths of Darryl Becton (died October 1, 2020) and Clyde Spencer (died October 5, 2021).

On October 27, 2021, The Arlington County Sheriff's Office invoked a provision of state law seeking a 60-day extension. Following a status inquiry on February 4, 2022, the Sheriff's Office confirmed that responsive records had been collected some time ago, and had been passed on to an attorney for review.

On February 10, 2022, the Sheriff's Office finally responded with a cover letter and a limited number of records. Released were policy documents, the inmate manual, a single directive dated October 23, 2020 relating to alcohol withdrawal, and a contract with Corizon Health. The contract with Corizon was terminated on or about October 25, 2021. The Sheriff's Office has withheld all other requested records, claiming they are not subject to disclosure under state law.

The County Manager's Office has not formally responded to the records request.

The Civil Rights Working Group is reviewing the adequacy of the responses and will follow up as appropriate.

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## **Task Force in Governance and Election Reform (TiGER)**

ACCF's Task Force in Governance and Election Reform (TiGER) continues to draft its final report to the general membership to address the problem statements presented to the full membership during the November 2021 Monthly Meeting. We will provide a draft report in advance of our planned presentation to the membership at the April 2022 meeting.

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## **Opportunity to weigh in on Arlington County CIP Priorities**

The County Manager's office is seeking public comment on priorities for the 2023-2032 ten-year county Capital Improvement Plan through this web link until March 15 .

<https://engage.arlingtonva.us/content/how-should-arlington-invest-major-infrastructure-future>

We urge all civic associations, their members and other ACCF member organizations to submit their priority issues of concern. Please consider including stormwater as a priority issue.

Share your thoughts on how Arlington should invest in major infrastructure for the future.

Your input will help inform the County Manager's proposed 10-year Capital Improvement Plan.

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## **Committee on Diversity, Equity, Belonging and Inclusion (DEBI)**

The Diversity Committee understands the power of social media as a way to bring in more engagement. More unique voices is the key to diversity! We want to provide the rest of the CivFed with tips on how to boost social media presence. These metrics are from Arlington Neighborhood College. Facebook's peak hours are: Tuesday 10AM and 1-2PM, Wednesday 11AM, Thursday 10AM - 3PM, and Friday 9AM-12PM.

In addition these tips are from the Energize Arlington forum from October, 2018 on how to bring more people into your organizations! "Ask office building managers how you can spread the word. There was one example where an office regularly asks the custodial staff to put a flyer on every chair".

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## **Newest Member Organization Arlington Parents for Education (APE)**

Arlington Parents for Education (APE) recently became our newest member, being approved for membership at the December 2021 membership meeting. APE was formed in

2020 and is a grassroots, bipartisan community group advocating for accountability, transparency and educational excellence at Arlington Public Schools.

If you know of an organization interested in joining the Civic Federation, more information is available [here](#) for how to become a member.

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## 2021 ACCF Dues Information

On August 29, the Arlington Civic Federation Board of Directors approved the 2021 – 2022 budget which will be used to pay for administrative and web services for the organization.

**Membership Dues for 2021 – 2022 are \$65 per member organization. Dues should be sent in as soon as possible, and are due by December 31, 2021.**

Dues may be paid by check or by Zelle.

If paying by check:

- Send check to Arlington Civic Federation, PO Box 42091, Arlington Virginia, 22203.
- Please be sure to include the name of the organization on the check as a memo.
- Please send an updated list of delegates to [tosecretary@civfed.org](mailto:tosecretary@civfed.org).

If paying by Zelle, please email [treasurer@civfed.org](mailto:treasurer@civfed.org) including the following information:

- Name of Organization
- Name of Payer
- Phone Number for Payer (for questions)
- Zelle ID (email address or phone number)
- The treasurer will then respond with the ACCF Zelle payment information.
- Please also email [secretary@civfed.org](mailto:secretary@civfed.org) with the updated list of delegates.

Thank you to the organizations that have submitted their dues payments.

If you have questions, please email [treasurer@civfed.org](mailto:treasurer@civfed.org) for payment information and [secretary@civfed.org](mailto:secretary@civfed.org) for any other questions. Thank you!

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## [The Civic Federation's Website](#)

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### 2021-2022 Board of Directors

#### Officers

President, [Allan Gajadhar](#)  
Vice President, [Nicole Merlene](#)  
Secretary, [Alistair Watson](#)  
Treasurer, [Stacy Meyer](#)

#### Board of Directors

Board Chair, [Nicole Merlene](#)  
Board Vice-Chair, Vacant  
Member at Large, [Mary Glass](#)  
Member at Large, [Julia Tanner](#)  
Member at Large, [Nadia Conyers](#)  
Member at Large, [Mona Steffen](#)  
Member at Large, [Eric Cassel](#)

Voting delegates and alternate delegates who are interested to serve on the Civic Federation's Board of Directors should contact [President Allan Gajadhar](#).

## **2021-2022 ACCF PUBLIC INTEREST COMMITTEES**

Cultural Affairs – Chair Tina Worden  
Diversity Committee – Chair Alistair Watson  
Environmental Affairs – Chair Mary Glass  
Housing – Chair John Vihstadt  
Legislation – Chair Ron Haddox  
Parks and Recreation – Chair TBD  
Planning and Zoning – Chair Ben Keeney  
Public Services – Chair John Ford  
Revenues and Expenditures – Suzanne Sundberg (POC)  
Schools – Chair Todd Truitt  
Transportation – Co-chairs Jerry Auten and Joe Pelton

- Airport Noise Subcommittee – Chair Joe Pelton

## **2020-2021 ACCF SUPPORT COMMITTEES**

Audit – Chair Jay Wind  
Awards – TBD  
Bylaws and Rules – Chair Adam Henderson  
Banquet – TBD  
Communications – Chair Chris Wimbush  
Membership – Chair Eric Cassel  
Nominations – TBD

Any Delegate, Alternate Delegate, or member of a Member Organization may participate on any Public Interest or Support Committee. Please contact the applicable Committee chair, point-of-contact, or President Allan Gajadhar if you are interested in participating on ACCF Committees.

## **LINKS TO MEETING DOCUMENTS**

- Revenue and Expenditures Committee DRAFT Resolution Regarding Arlington FY2023 Real Estate Assessments and Tax Burden
- February Membership Meeting Minutes

## **Interested in being an Arlington County Civic Federation Delegate?**

The Arlington County Civic Federation was founded in 1916. Today, it has 85 member organizations dedicated to advocacy and community involvement. The Federation membership reflects the broad array of interests and talents found in the County and is open and welcoming to all groups within Arlington, firmly believing that a broader range of groups creates better problem-solving outcomes for Arlington and its residents. Our purpose continues to be promoting the general welfare of Arlington County and its vicinity in a non-partisan, non-sectarian, non-sectional, and non-political manner.

Arlington County Civic Federation Delegates enjoy the full benefits of participation, voting, and serving in Civic Federation leadership positions. If your organization is a member of the Civic Federation, ask if it has open slots for delegates. If it is not a member organization of the Civic Federation, encourage it to join. Here is a [link](#) to our website for more details.

## **ACCF Calendar FY2022**

March 2022

- NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Tuesday 22 February 2022, 6p
- GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday 8 March 2022, 7p, via Zoom
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: Sunday 13 March 2022, 4p, via Zoom

April 2022

- NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Tuesday 29 March 2022, 6p
- GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday 12 April 2022, 7p, via Zoom



- BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: Sunday 17 April 2022, 4p, via Zoom

May 2022

- NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Tuesday 26 April 2022, 6p
- GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday 10 May 2022, 7p, via Zoom
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: Sunday 15 May 2022, 4p, via Zoom

June 2022

- NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Tuesday 31 May 2022, 6p
- GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday 14 June 2022, 7p, via Zoom
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: Sunday 19 June 2022, 4p, via Zoom

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