

FY 2027 Budget Comments Received



New comments on top.

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Friday, April 17, 2026	Any cuts to the Sheriff's budget will impact one of the most vulnerable populations in the city, those housed in the detention center. It will mean less programming to support them to improve their lives and thrive once back in the community. Please vote no on the delete and fully fund the Sheriff.
Friday, April 17, 2026	Any cuts to the Sheriff's budget will impact one of the most vulnerable populations in the city, those housed in the detention center. It will mean less programming to support them to improve their lives and thrive once back in the community. Please vote no on the delete and fully fund the Sheriff.
Thursday, April 16, 2026	<p>I am perplexed at why City Council would give even momentary consideration to cutting the Sheriff's Office budget for FY 27. Doing so strikes me as the sort of petty political gamesmanship we see Congress playing; I expect my City Council to be above that. The Sheriff's Office has mandated responsibilities that translate to fairly inelastic costs, the number of sworn deputies, hours of coverage required, etc. are rather fixed regardless of the number of prisoners in detention, number of court cases, etc. What would get cut might be viewed by some as "soft costs", but which make a huge difference in our community: public services to residents such as Project Lifesaver & The Sheriff's Academy. Educational and Social Services for inmates at the detention center. Staff support for citywide functions such as Drug Takeback Day, the Birthday Celebration, the various parades, First Night, etc. (Requiring Deputies to work more hours to cover mandatory functions means more overtime, and would simply shift costs to the Police Department, requiring their officers to work more overtime to cover those events.)</p> <p>The City Council is already penalizing the Sheriff's Office with a miniscule percentage budget increase in the FY27 budget. Our Deputies are among the lowest paid in the region already, and don't have the benefit of collective bargaining. You should be increasing the Sheriff's budget, not decreasing it! (To be able to do what...fund more Arts Grants??? Seriously???)</p>
Thursday, April 16, 2026	<p>Dear Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, and Members of the Alexandria City Council:</p> <p>I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed amendment to the City Manager's FY 2027 General Fund operating budget allocating \$27,000 in contingency funding to evaluate and address compensation disparities for Alexandria's Animal Control Officers. This amendment, referenced in Budget Questions #77, is funded by the FY 2027 revenue re-estimate and does not require reductions to other City services. I am especially grateful to see this issue addressed, as it is one I have raised and followed for many years.</p> <p>The City's own analysis in FY 2027 Budget Q&A #077 confirms a significant and measurable pay gap. Entry-level Animal Services Officers contracted through the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA) earn \$20-\$24 per hour, or \$41,600-\$45,760 annually. At the mid range, Alexandria's compensation is 37.22% below the average mid range salary of comparable positions in Fairfax, Montgomery, and Prince George's Counties, and at the maximum, 48.13% below neighboring jurisdictions. These disparities exist despite the fact that Alexandria's officers perform substantially similar work and, in key areas, even more.</p> <p>AWLA officers conduct cruelty investigations, enforce state and local animal laws, manage rabies control, capture and transport animals, and perform humane euthanasia. Notably, Alexandria's officers also carry greater responsibility for coordinating with law enforcement and legal/compliance staff on cruelty and neglect cases, and they operate the City's rabies control program. These are complex, high risk, and emotionally demanding duties that directly support public safety and humane outcomes for residents and animals alike.</p> <p>My perspective is grounded in direct experience. I was employed by the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria in 2014, and I have continued to volunteer there for more than a decade. Throughout that time, I have worked alongside Animal Control Officers and witnessed the scope, intensity, and unpredictability of their work, often performed after hours and under difficult conditions.</p> <p>On a personal note, both of my beloved cats are part of my family today because of the actions of an Alexandria Animal Control Officer. In two separate situations, an officer responded quickly and handled each case with professionalism and compassion, ensuring the animal received care and safety rather than being overlooked. Those experiences underscore how Animal Control Officers quietly but profoundly impact residents' lives, protecting animals, supporting families, and strengthening trust in City services.</p> <p>Under compensation has real consequences. When experienced officers leave for better paying jurisdictions, Alexandria loses institutional knowledge, response times suffer, and continuity of service is disrupted. Ensuring competitive compensation is essential to recruitment, retention, public safety, and humane treatment across our community.</p> <p>The proposed \$27,000 is a logical first step. A formal compensation evaluation will provide a data-driven roadmap, examining classifications, career ladders, and comparators, so future actions are targeted and defensible. It also signals to current officers that the City recognizes this long-standing issue and is committed to addressing it responsibly.</p> <p>I urge you to approve this amendment. It is fiscally sound, grounded in the City's own analysis, and aligned with Alexandria's values. Fair pay for Animal Control Officers is an investment in public safety, humane outcomes, and reliable services for residents. After years of advocating for this issue, I am encouraged to see it meaningfully acknowledged and addressed.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration and leadership.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Mallory Lawhorne Resident, City of Alexandria Former AWLA Employee & Longtime Animal Welfare Volunteer</p>
Thursday, April 16, 2026	<p>Dear City Manager Parajon, Mayor Gaskins, and Members of City Council - I can't help but continue to be frustrated with the lack of additional funding being proposed for ACPS, yet proposed funding for various pet projects get put forward. For a city that wants to continue to attract people to live here, we continue to make the city less attractive for families.</p> <p>Why? We continue to not fund ACPS the way it should be over what I can see is petty politics FROM BOTH PARTIES. Has the ACPS made very poor decisions as it relates to redistricting and K-8 conversions, absolutely. That doesn't mean you penalize students and teachers by cutting their funding. As a parent of a 1st grader that saw first hand budget impacts, I can tell you we are doing them no favors. We are making it harder for them to succeed. Given the proposed cuts, our school is already having to prepare for them, let alone preparing for if they are going to have to replace staff because they aren't being paid the same as neighboring systems.</p> <p>While not a direct comparison, as a city we've all but prioritized road diets and bike lanes for days over funding children's education. Tell me how that's making our attractive for people to move to? I hope you consider putting politics aside for ONCE and think more about our children's future.</p> <p>Chris Damato</p>

Date Received	Comment
Thursday, April 16, 2026	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing to comment on the budget increase for the Animal Services Department. I was a supervisor in this department for multiple years before I left in 2022. At the time of my departure I was making \$23 an hour. I was supervising the current officers, doing payroll and scheduling, attending management meetings, and being the first point of contact for the department. Along with handling a normal case load and working in the field. I was on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. I left due to the over loading amount of work which caused severe burn out, with little pay. I started with a different department, as just a regular officer, making almost \$6 more an hour. This also made my work load significantly less because I was no longer supervising. I still have very strong connections/relationships with this department and continue to assist them to this day with multiple things. Even after my departure, the officers were calling me to ask assistance with criminal cases. I have since come back to the City in a different position and make significantly more than I ever did as an ACO and have all of the city benefits, while doing a relatively easier job. This job is very difficult and requires a very specific type of person with a very specific type of skills. I want the best for the officers and believe they deserve to be paid more fairly for the work that they do. I have first hand seen the worst of the worst in Alexandria and really hope that the City can recognize these officers for the great work that they do.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
Thursday, April 16, 2026	<p>Hi. I strongly support the proposed additional funding for the DASH bus expansion proposed by Councilwoman Bailey. My two teenagers and their friends use the DASH buses to get around the city everyday- to school, soccer practice, visiting friends and shopping. Having more frequent busses will help them avoid waiting long periods outside in the cold and heat.</p>
Wednesday, April 15, 2026	<p>The Alexandria Sheriff's Office ensures courthouse security and safety in the Alexandria jail, assists the Alexandria Police Department in making the community safer, provides many programs for incarcerated individuals, serves civil process, offers services to the public like "Away from Home Checks" and Project Lifesaver, participates in many community events, and works with other City agencies, such as on the Opioid Work Group and the Eviction Prevention Task Force. The budget for the Alexandria Sheriff's Office should be increased above the originally proposed amount to get their staff caught up to the local comparators. ASO sworn staff are the lowest paid in Northern Virginia and need pay raises. It is a shame that misinformation has caused people to request budget cuts and be fearful of the Sheriff's Office. If people are afraid when they see a Sheriff's Office vehicle, then they have been deceived. Sheriff Casey had opted out of any voluntary collaboration with ICE long ago. ASO employees would never be on the street assisting ICE in any way, and they would never ask anyone in the community about their citizenship, nor would they care. However, Virginia law requires deputies to ask citizenship questions of those who are committed to the jail for certain criminal offenses. Anyone who is not arrested for criminal offenses and committed to the jail would not be asked these questions nor have anything to fear. The Sheriff's Office has a federal contract that brings in over \$7 million per year to the City of Alexandria to hold U.S. Marshals' prisoners (not ICE), but it requires the Sheriff to comply with all laws. This contract was renewed less than a year ago with the City's knowledge. The Marshals will send instructions on some releases that say the person is to be released to ICE custody. If Sheriff Casey failed to comply with the laws, it could cost Alexandria taxpayers about \$6 million dollars (after some savings from reduced inmate numbers). Many ASO employees are not happy with ICE and would support the laws being changed, but ASO staff must follow the law. Most people do not want a Sheriff who does not follow the law or only follows what he or she wants to, and most Alexandria residents would not want to pay an extra \$6 million dollars in taxes and assume other liabilities to allow Sheriff Casey not to follow the law. No Alexandria taxpayer money is going toward ICE and complying with the minimum required is not "voluntary collaboration." The Sheriff's budget should not be cut based on the suggestions of some misinformed people, especially considering Sheriff Casey was just re-elected less than six months ago by the Alexandria voters.</p>
Wednesday, April 15, 2026	<p>Please vote no on the proposed \$200,000 delete (Bagley/Elnoubi) to remove money from the Sheriff's budget to fund analysis on jail operations. This analysis has already been accomplished and provided to the Council to answer FY 27 Budget Q&A #036 (Gaskins/Bagley). Spending money on analysis that was already accomplished would be a "gross mismanagement" and a "gross waste of funds".</p>
Wednesday, April 15, 2026	<p>Dear Members of the Alexandria City Council,</p> <p>I write to urge you to reject any proposed cuts to Sheriff Sean Casey's budget. The premise behind these cuts is flawed. The Sheriff's Office does not conduct immigration enforcement in the community. It does not carry out raids, make immigration arrests, or act as an arm of ICE. Its role is limited to the jail, where it holds individuals already in custody for unrelated criminal offenses.</p> <p>Any cooperation with ICE is narrow, routine, and legally required. Transfers occur only at the point of lawful release and follow the same standardized procedures used for other law enforcement agencies. The Sheriff is not setting immigration policy. He is complying with the law, no more and no less.</p> <p>Using the budget process to punish lawful compliance is an abuse of authority. It attempts to coerce a constitutional officer into ignoring legal obligations through financial pressure. If the law is the problem, the remedy lies with the state legislature, not with cutting resources from a public safety office.</p> <p>Reducing the Sheriff's budget will not change the law, but it will weaken the safe and effective operation of the Alexandria Detention Center.</p> <p>Please reject these cuts.</p>
Wednesday, April 15, 2026	<p>Yes Please make parking paid on Sundays! Free parking is a blight on this city. It causes traffic as people circle and it incentivizes people to stay put instead of making way for other patrons.</p> <p>I know some people will feel passionately about free parking being helpful, but this is an uninformed position. Many studies show that it does the opposite of the intended effect.</p> <p>Street parking is a premium feature and it should be going at a rate higher than the local parking garages. The free bus service should take care of any cost issues people might have with this, but we need more bus service on Sundays to make this viable.</p>
Tuesday, April 14, 2026	<p>I joined the Sheriff's Office as a Deputy in late 2024 and have met some of the finest men and women I have ever known. The only thing this budget cut will do is hamper the ability of the Deputies to safely and securely do our job.</p>
Tuesday, April 14, 2026	<p>I chose to become a deputy sheriff to make a positive difference, and I chose to serve in this city because of its diversity, community values, and strong support for public service. It is disheartening to now see our agency being undermined by the very city we are committed to protecting.</p> <p>This profession is already demanding, often thankless, and increasingly dangerous. Despite that, we continue to show up every day to serve with integrity and dedication.</p> <p>We cannot do this work effectively without the proper support. Reducing our resources weakens our ability to serve the community safely and responsibly. I urge the council to stand behind those who serve and ensure we have the support needed to do our jobs well.</p>

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Tuesday, April 14, 2026	<p>Dear Members of City Council,</p> <p>I respectfully ask that the City not reduce the Sheriff's Office budget during this fiscal cycle. Any reduction in funding will have a direct impact on the safety, security, and services provided within the Adult Detention Center and throughout the Sheriff's Office.</p> <p>As a 20-year employee of the Sheriff's Office, I have witnessed the significant evolution of our operations, including the increased focus on maintaining accreditation standards and compliance requirements. While the inmate population may have declined in number, the workload has not decreased. In many ways, it has increased due to the complexity of the population and the expectations placed upon staff.</p> <p>Any reduction to the Sheriff's Office budget would have a severe impact on the safety and security of the jail, as well as the wellbeing of the inmates in our care. The inmate population is aging, presents with greater mental health needs, and often requires direct supervision, increased observation, and more individualized services.</p> <p>Alexandria Sheriff's Office staff take these responsibilities seriously; however, when appropriate staffing and resources are not available, the agency is exposed to significant operational risks and liability. Please take into consideration the impact these cuts will have on the staff and the inmates we serve.</p>
Tuesday, April 14, 2026	<p>Without funding, the sheriffs office isn't able to protect the city. Protecting the city includes not only keeping bad people off of the street, but it includes rehabilitating those who deserve a second change, those who just had a bad start in life. The programs that they're trying to take away are necessary to help those who can't help themselves. We don't want to see those people in jail again. We want them to have every opportunity they can to live a better, more productive life. If you take away the funding, that also equals less safety for officers and the general public alike. If there's less funding, that means they won't have the resources to upkeep on certain things, like gas, like upkeeping the jail, like making sure that multiple officers can be on one call. It's more dangerous for everyone if only one officer can respond. It could be the difference between life and death. Something that's also important to remember is that the system itself is broken. Our government is broken. And right now with all of the anarchy we rely on those who have the ability to protect us. I'm a leftist and I absolutely understand the importance of the sheriffs office, and it's important to have empathy in decisions like this. Empathy means understanding that just because we don't like what's happening doesn't mean that everyone is out to get us. You have to critically think about why this would be DETRIMENTAL to our community. Understand that by doing this to them (real human beings who are doing their best to protect this community), we in turn are hurting ourselves. Please, I ask that you think about the ramifications of these actions and understand that it would do MUCH more harm than good</p>
Tuesday, April 14, 2026	<p>Threatening to cut the Sheriff's Office budget to due political beliefs is outrageous. To cut the budget by \$200,000.00 to fund a jail study is reckless and a waste of money. This study has already been done by the state, for free. Guess what that survey said? The jail is already understaffed. Shame on you council for turning your backs on the very same people who protect this city from these very same criminals you are protecting. Fund ASO.</p>
Monday, April 13, 2026	<p>Pacers Running is asking that the city NOT institute paid meter parking on Sundays. This impacts our customers, and sales, which will have a negative impact on our sales figures (which consequently impacts our sales tax receipts). This is a short sighted proposal that should not be adopted. This also impacts our ability to bring people to the city, such as the PNC Alexandria Half, which drives sales to our surrounding businesses and restaurants.</p>
Monday, April 13, 2026	<p>I am writing to express my strong desire to fully fund the Sheriff's Office. I have worked for the office for over 21 years and have seen the impact of the programs offered on the inmate population. Programs such as GED, ESL and Reentry are essential investments in public safety. They are proven strategies that reduce recidivism and help individuals successfully reintegrate into society.</p> <p>Individuals who have access to education and reentry services are more likely to find employment, maintain stable housing, and contribute positively to society. These programs also help to foster accountability and personal growth, which are key elements in reducing crime and building safer communities.</p> <p>I urge decision makers to consider the broader impact of these services. Preserving funding for jail-based programs is not just about supporting individuals during incarceration, but also about investing in safer neighborhoods, stronger families, and a more resilient community for everyone.</p>
Monday, April 13, 2026	<p>As a resident of this city and a member of the sheriff's office, I take pride in serving the same community I call home. Every day, we are asked to step into difficult and unpredictable situations. Cutting the sheriff's office budget does not just impact those who wear the badge; it directly affects the safety and well-being of every resident. Our resources are already stretched, and further reductions will only make it harder to respond effectively and protect this community. We are not asking for an increase to our current budget, we are asking to maintain what we currently have.</p>
Monday, April 13, 2026	<p>I oppose the addition of parking meter fees on Sundays. I do not drive, as I live here, but I do not want to discourage drivers from coming on Sunday to visit our businesses and town.</p> <p>You are already planning to increase the business fee 14% (from 35c to 40c per \$100 of gross revenue). STOP hurting local businesses. Again, I don't own such an affected business, but the more burden you place on them, the harder it is for them to survive.</p> <p>The city needs to reign in the expensive projects, like the City Hall renovation, amongst others. It's still not a done deal that a mid-course correction cannot be made to lower the estimated costs. I've been in the building many times, and as far as office buildings go, it was not bad.</p>
Monday, April 13, 2026	<p>Dear Members of the City Council,</p> <p>I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the recent proposed budget cuts to the Alexandria Sheriff's Office. I believe these cuts will have far-reaching consequences for public safety, the effectiveness of our justice system, and the overall well-being of our community. My areas of concern are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduction in Deputies: The reduction of deputies will inevitably result in an increased workload for the remaining staff. This can lead to burnout, lower morale, and slower response times, which could have a detrimental effect on the safety and efficiency of our law enforcement operations. 2. Diminished Courthouse Security: Courthouse security plays a crucial role in protecting the safety of our citizens, judges, legal professionals, and staff. Cutting security personnel or reducing resources for safety measures could expose our courthouse to potential risks, such as unauthorized access, security breaches, and even violence. The safety of those who enter the courthouse should be a top priority. 3. Elimination of Key Programs: The loss of vital programs that serve the most vulnerable members of our community is deeply concerning. Many of these programs, mental health services, and alternatives to incarceration, are critical to reducing recidivism and providing support to individuals who may otherwise fall deeper into the criminal justice system. <p>Given the importance of these services and the potential risks posed by the proposed cuts, I respectfully ask the City Council to reconsider these decisions. I hope that the City Council will consider the potential consequences of these cuts and will allow for the continued operation of these essential services.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.</p>
Monday, April 13, 2026	<p>The members of St. Joseph Catholic Church, urge the city council to support the citizens of Alexandria by continuing funding for the Alexandria Office of the Sheriff</p> <p>This funding is vital for the department to continue providing essential programs like Project Lifesaver, "away from home" checks, and community engagement work with the CCNA and the Lions. It also supports necessary programming for our inmates so they can be successful.</p>

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Monday, April 13, 2026	<p>The proposed (~18%?) fee increase on the marina is almost certain to be counterproductive to the bottom line. There are a variety of important reasons, but starting with just the simple one: affordability.</p> <p>I know of 3 boaters leaving this season, all citing cost as a key reason they're departing. Big, medium and small boats.</p> <p>The big boat was a classic sailboat owned by an Alexandria elementary school teacher and his parter, who live in Old Town. He can't justify today's cost, let alone a 20% increase.</p> <p>The medium sized boat is owned by an Old Town resident who is actively involved in our city and the waterfront commission. He cites cost as a factor, hoping to get a slip at ODBC at some point, which would be 1/2 the cost. Or he may move his boat to another marina 90 minutes away, to save the same amount.</p> <p>The third boat is owned by an Old Town resident, but has 2 small children, and they can't board or disembark at anything below mid tide, because we don't have floating docks. He said, I can't keep paying for a slip that I can't use 1/2 the time. He moved to a dry slip at Washington Sailing Marina.</p> <p>I know of several other slip holders deliberating their options because of perceived value at our marina.</p>
Sunday, April 12, 2026	I support Sheriff Casey and the Alexandria Sheriff's Office. Do not cut their budget even by one penny.
Sunday, April 12, 2026	City council and the few community members who have been bashing Sheriff Casey and the entire Alexandria Sheriff's Office should really be ashamed of themselves. To turn your backs on an office that serves and protects the city residents day in and day out. The ASO does so much good in the community only to be treated so poorly. The Sheriff follows the law unlike these arrested criminals others are trying to protect. Imagine how ASO feels to maybe have their budget cut due to immigration laws beyond their control. Budget cuts for doing nothing wrong. Budget cuts because people don't like the law. Budget cuts because people don't like immigration. Focus your attention on other things and fund ASO fully and completely. Do the right thing and stop folding to the pressure of people who are not right.
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Sunday, April 12, 2026	As a resident of this city, an immigrant to this country, and a professional serving in the Alexandria Sheriff's Office, I am deeply concerned about the proposed budget cuts tied to misunderstandings about our work. Our agency follows the law, nothing more, nothing less. We do not operate outside our legal authority, and we do not make policy; we carry it out responsibly and professionally. Suggesting that we are somehow acting improperly or deserve to be penalized for doing our jobs sends a troubling message, not just to us, but to the entire community that depends on us. Every day, we provide critical services: ensuring the safety and care of inmates, supporting court operations, and serving the public through civil process. These are not optional functions. Cutting our budget would directly impact public safety, strain essential services, and undermine the very community this council is meant to serve. I ask that you base your decisions on facts, not assumptions. Engage with our agency, understand the realities of our work, and recognize the value we bring to this city before making decisions that could have lasting consequences. We are part of this community. We serve it with integrity. And we deserve to be supported, not unfairly targeted.
Sunday, April 12, 2026	Cutting the Sheriff's budget means cutting programs helping inmates. That will be the first cuts. This will result in inmates coming back to jail. Don't want to get released to ICE, don't get arrested. When will we hold ourselves accountable? I support Sheriff Casey for following the law.
Sunday, April 12, 2026	How is following the law challenged and breaking the law is supported? Make that make sense. Fund Sheriff Sean Casey's budget.
Sunday, April 12, 2026	I am a resident of Alexandria, and an Alexandria city employee. I understand the City Council's and the some of the public's concerns regarding the Alexandria Sheriff's Office and ICE. I understand their desire to work toward an outcome that they see as more favorable for the city. But cutting the Sheriff's Office budget, especially the severe cuts that are proposed, doesn't work toward a favorable outcome. These cuts would punish the employees of the Sheriff's Office, by cutting staff positions and needed resources. It would punish the inmates in the Alexandria Detention Center, by eliminating the educational, vocational, and reentry programs so many of them rely on. I urge the City Council to fully fund the Sheriff's Office budget, and not to take out their frustrations on those who rely on that budget either for their much-needed jobs or for a chance to improve themselves when they're in a difficult situation.
Sunday, April 12, 2026	Please fund collective bargaining for ACPS teachers and staff! I was born and raised in Alexandria and have taught for ACPS for 27 years. I already had to move out of the city because I couldn't afford to raise my own kids in my hometown. Having teachers pay more for healthcare doesn't give us a raise been down this road before. We are losing amazing teachers to other districts. Please fully fund.
Saturday, April 11, 2026	<p>I am writing to respectfully urge you not to reduce the budget for the Sheriff's Office. This agency plays a vital role in our community, consistently dedicating itself to protecting and serving residents.</p> <p>The Sheriff's Office contributes significantly to public safety and community well-being. Without adequate funding, it cannot effectively carry out its responsibilities or maintain the level of service that our community depends on.</p> <p>I strongly encourage you to consider the importance of this agency and the impact that budget cuts could have on its ability to operate effectively. Maintaining proper funding is essential to ensuring the continued safety and security of our community.</p>
Friday, April 10, 2026	I'll make a simple observation: the City Council has been urged repeatedly by Sheriff Casey, his staff, and hundreds of community members to judge this agency on its operational merits. The Alexandria Sheriff's Office has earned its full budget through years of professional achievement, community service, and national recognition. Whatever political disagreements exist about federal immigration policy belong in Congress and the General Assembly — not in the budget of the men and women who keep our courts, our jail, and our community safe every day. Please support fully funding ALL public safety agencies, this includes the Sheriff's Office.
Friday, April 10, 2026	I want to address something directly. Many of the comments demanding budget cuts use the phrase "voluntary collaboration with ICE." But Virginia Code §53.1-220.2 requires sheriffs to report certain individuals to federal immigration authorities. This isn't a choice Sheriff Casey is making. It's the law. I urge Council not to cut the budget of an agency being asked to follow state statute.
Friday, April 10, 2026	I've attended three Sheriff's Citizens Academy sessions as a community observer. What I saw was a professional, diverse, and deeply community-oriented agency that runs one of the most accredited correctional facilities in the country. The people calling for cuts have, by and large, never set foot inside that facility. I have. Fund it fully.
Friday, April 10, 2026	As a lifelong resident and a person of color, I find it deeply troubling that the one public safety agency in Alexandria with a majority minority workforce is the one Council is considering defunding. The Sheriff's Office looks like Alexandria. Its deputies come from our neighborhoods, our schools, and our families. If equity is truly a value of this Council, I'd like someone to explain how cutting the most diverse agency in the city advances it.
Friday, April 10, 2026	The comments comparing Sheriff Casey unfavorably to the Arlington and Fairfax sheriffs make it sound like those jurisdictions have found a smarter, more humane way to handle this issue. But the law is identical across all three jurisdictions. What is different is the choice each sheriff has made about how to respond to it, and those choices carry weight. We already have a case study from right next door. In December 2025, Fairfax County's approach resulted in the release of an individual who killed a Reston resident the very next day. The victim of that crime deserved the protection that proper processing would have provided. The residents of Alexandria deserve that same protection. Sheriff Casey is providing it. Please fund his office fully.

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Friday, April 10, 2026	I'd like to ask this Council a straightforward question. How many of the people who have shown up repeatedly to demand cuts to the Sheriff's budget are actually Alexandria City residents? How many pay property taxes here, send their children to our schools, and have a genuine stake in how this city is run? Because from what I have observed, a significant portion of the most vocal advocates at these meetings are not Alexandria residents at all. They are outside activists and organizers who will face none of the consequences of the policies they are demanding. The residents of Alexandria, the ones who actually live here, work here, and depend on public safety services every day, have shown up in large numbers to support full funding for the Sheriff's Office. This Council was elected to represent Alexandrians. I am asking you to do exactly that, and to stop allowing a small, loud, and largely non-resident pressure group to drive decisions that affect the safety and livelihoods of the people who actually call this city home. Vote for full funding.
Friday, April 10, 2026	There is a deep irony at the heart of this budget cut campaign that I don't think gets enough attention. The Lollipop Guild showing up meeting after meeting to demand cuts to the Sheriff's budget claims to care about vulnerable people. But the vulnerable people who will actually be hurt by those cuts are the nearly 300 individuals housed in the Alexandria Adult Detention Center. They are the ones who will lose access to GED classes, substance abuse treatment, mental health counseling, vocational training, and reentry support if this budget is reduced. They are largely people of color from our own community. They are someone's father, mother, brother, sister. The small chorus of activists demanding cuts has never once mentioned them. Not once. Because this campaign was never actually about protecting vulnerable people. It was about political pressure on an elected official who is following the law. Don't let a Lollipop Guild of outside activists strip programming from the most vulnerable people in our city. Fully fund the Sheriff's Office!
Friday, April 10, 2026	Please (finally) find the courage to support the safety and security of ALL residents of Alexandria. Unfortunately, your previous public statements have contributed to the fear and misunderstanding in our community regarding ICE. Currently both APD and the Sheriff's Office are not in fact collaborating with ICE in any way. Since the Sheriff's Office is currently upholding the Code of Virginia, any cuts to the budget will undermine key services they provide to make the community safe. Fully fund the Sheriff's Office to demonstrate your commitment to the City and uphold the oath each of you swore upon entering office.
Friday, April 10, 2026	I want to be honest with the Council about what it feels like to work at the Alexandria Sheriff's Office right now. We are proud of what we have built here. We have earned national recognition, federal certifications, and the trust of this community. And yet every week there is another news story suggesting our budget might be cut because of a political disagreement that has nothing to do with how we do our jobs. That is demoralizing. Please vote for full funding.
Friday, April 10, 2026	Teacher Salaries!! Teachers NEED to be paid more and get a larger increase each year to cover at the very least inflation but also to encourage teacher retention and keep high quality teachers throughout the district. I hear so much about increasing the students testing scores and how the children are generally behind. The best way to fix this is at the foundation. Teachers work hard everyday to boost these students but so many great teachers leave every year because it is not worth the time energy and emotional toll when the compensation is less than adequate. Most teachers have 6+ years of schooling but they are not paid the same most professional jobs that require the same. I appreciate your consideration and taking the time to read what I feel is very important
Friday, April 10, 2026	I have worked for the Alexandria Sheriff's Office for 7 years and have lived in the City of Alexandria for 9 years. It is unfortunate that this is even up for consideration. Budget uncertainty has a cost that doesn't show up in any spreadsheet. It costs us in sleepless nights, in conversations with our spouses about whether we should start looking elsewhere, in the quiet anxiety that follows us through every shift. Please end that uncertainty with a full funding vote. This will affect not only the community we serve, but also the Deputies and their families as well.
Friday, April 10, 2026	Alexandria Sheriff's Office has been one of the most professional agencies in the region. They are there to help and engage the community. The office has motivated, encouraged, supported and helped countless of people throughout the years. Their standards have never wavered nor changed. They are committed to the betterment of the people that they serve on a daily basis. This agency is a staple in the community and is much needed.
Friday, April 10, 2026	I have proudly served the city for 16 years, standing alongside my colleagues in the Sheriff's Office through many challenges, including the pandemic. Throughout it all, we have remained committed to representing our community with professionalism, dedication, and integrity. It is deeply disheartening to learn of the proposed budget cuts that would significantly impact our department. Our office is fully engaged with the community, and we take great pride in serving and protecting the people of this city every day. For many of us, this is not just a job—it is a calling. I struggle to understand the reasoning behind such a drastic proposal, especially given the essential role we play. These cuts could lead to the loss of jobs and weaken the services our community depends on. I sincerely hope that city leadership will reconsider and work toward a compromise that allows us to continue fulfilling our mission without such severe consequences. I believe there are alternative solutions that can help achieve the city's goals while preserving the strength and stability of the Sheriff's Office.
Thursday, April 9, 2026	The Sheriff's Office is on the front lines of mental health care, substance abuse intervention, and rehabilitation—not just incarceration." *Funding supports programs that reduce repeat offenses, which ultimately saves taxpayers money and makes our community safer." *Cutting the budget would mean cutting programs that actually help people reintegrate and break cycles of crime."
Thursday, April 9, 2026	The Sheriff's Office ensures safe and orderly court operations—without them, the entire justice system slows down or breaks down. They handle everything from courthouse security to inmate transport—critical services that keep Alexandria functioning. This is about keeping our courts safe for judges, staff, victims, and the public
Thursday, April 9, 2026	The Sheriff's Office ensures safe and orderly court operations—without them, the entire justice system slows down or breaks down. They handle everything from courthouse security to inmate transport—critical services that keep Alexandria functioning. This is about keeping our courts safe for judges, staff, victims, and the public
Thursday, April 9, 2026	This isn't just about inmates—it's about families, deputies, and a community that depends on a system that works. Deputies deserve to go home safe after every shift, and inmates deserve to be treated with dignity—both require proper funding. Behind every policy decision are real people—cutting funding puts them at risk.
Thursday, April 9, 2026	The Alexandria Sheriff's Office is not just a cost center—it's a critical public safety institution that protects our entire justice system. If we care about safety, fairness, and accountability, we must fully fund the Sheriff's Office. A strong city requires strong institutions—and this is one of the most essential ones we have.
Thursday, April 9, 2026	Investing in the Sheriff's Office now prevents far greater costs later—from lawsuits, incidents, or system failures. Well-run detention and rehabilitation programs reduce recidivism, lowering long-term costs for the city. Cutting essential services may look like savings today, but it creates expensive problems tomorrow.
Thursday, April 9, 2026	Recruiting and retaining qualified deputies requires competitive pay, proper training, and safe working conditions—budget cuts do the opposite. Understaffing leads to burnout, mistakes, and unsafe conditions for both deputies and inmates. Investing in the Sheriff's Office is investing in professionals who handle some of the most difficult and high-risk responsibilities in our city.
Thursday, April 9, 2026	Operating a jail and ensuring humane conditions isn't a choice—it's a legal obligation, and underfunding increases the risk of lawsuits and liability. The Sheriff's Office ensures we meet state and federal standards for incarceration—cutting funding puts the city at serious legal risk. We cannot meet constitutional standards for care, custody, and control without proper staffing and resources.
Thursday, April 9, 2026	The Alexandria Sheriff's Office is essential to maintaining safe, secure detention and court operations—this is not optional government, it's foundational. Without a fully funded Sheriff's Office, we risk compromising inmate safety, officer safety, and the integrity of our justice system. Public safety doesn't start on the street—it continues inside our detention center, and that requires trained professionals and proper funding.

Date Received	Comment
Thursday, April 9, 2026	Fairfax doesn't work with ICE and have had 2 members of the community killed. Do we want to do the same to our community?
Thursday, April 9, 2026	<p>I've proudly served with the Alexandria Sheriff's Office for nearly 20 years.</p> <p>We honor the law. We execute legal warrants. We don't pick and choose who we hold accountable—and we don't release individuals who pose a danger to this community. Our job is to protect the public, and we take that responsibility seriously every single day.</p> <p>We serve everyone—our inmates, our citizens, and our judges. We manage some of the most complex and high-risk situations in this city, often involving mental health crises, addiction, and individuals at their lowest point. And we do it with professionalism, dignity, and care.</p> <p>So I have to ask—why are we the ones on the chopping block?</p> <p>Why is funding being considered for cuts from a group of men and women who have dedicated their lives to protecting and serving this community?</p> <p>Historically, the Sheriff's Office has not received the same level of funding as other public safety agencies, like police and fire—yet our responsibilities are just as critical to the safety and function of this city.</p> <p>And let's be clear: we are also the most diverse of these agencies. We reflect this community. We understand this community. And we serve it with pride.</p> <p>Cutting our funding doesn't just impact us—it impacts safety, accountability, and the stability of the entire justice system in Alexandria.</p> <p>We are not asking for special treatment. We are asking for fairness. We are asking for recognition of the work we do. And we are asking for the resources necessary to continue doing it safely and effectively.</p> <p>Support the Alexandria Sheriff's Office. Support public safety. Support this community.</p>
Thursday, April 9, 2026	Keep the Sheriff's Office.
Thursday, April 9, 2026	<p>Good morning,</p> <p>I wanted to share some concerns about how the city's proposed budget cuts to the Sheriff's Office will affect us as deputies both in the work we do and in our personal lives.</p> <p>On the job, reduced funding means fewer deputies on each shift, longer response times, and increased workloads. When staffing and resources are stretched thin, we face greater safety risks and have less capacity to provide the level of service our community expects. Training opportunities and essential equipment are also impacted, which limits our preparedness for high-risk situations.</p> <p>These operational challenges don't stay at work. They follow us home. Mandatory overtime, unpredictable schedules, and chronic understaffing take a toll on our families, our health, and our overall well-being. Many of us are already balancing demanding responsibilities, and additional strain makes it harder to maintain a healthy work-life balance.</p> <p>These budget decisions may look like administrative adjustments on paper, but they have real consequences for the deputies who serve this community every day. Ensuring adequate support for the Sheriff's Office is essential to maintaining both public safety and the well-being of the people who provide it.</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to consider the impact these cuts will have.</p> <p>Best regards, Sgt Myrna Juarez</p>
Thursday, April 9, 2026	Reentry and The Second Chance Unit here at the Alexandria Detention Center is essential because it gives participants the opportunity to rebuild their lives with dignity and purpose. After incarceration, individuals face real barriers—employment, housing, trust—but with the right support and opportunities, they can become productive members of society. Second chances reduce recidivism, strengthen families, and create safer, healthier communities. Eliminating Inmate Programs undermines this support!
Thursday, April 9, 2026	<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>Please do not cut the Sheriff Office budget, as it is vital agency that keeps people who abuse laws and our wonderful community from repeat incidents, as well as it offers a chance for rehabilitation and a possible route away from a life of crime and desperation. I'm sure you enjoy a good life here as do I, and would think to strive to keep it that way. Support all law enforcement and the good they give to us.</p>
Thursday, April 9, 2026	<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>Please do not cut the Sheriff Office budget, as it is vital agency that keeps people who abuse laws and our wonderful community from repeat incidents, as well as it offers a chance for rehabilitation and a possible route away from a life of crime and desperation. I'm sure you enjoy a good life here as do I, and would think to strive to keep it that way. Support all law enforcement and the good they give to us.</p>

Date Received	Comment
Thursday, April 9, 2026	<p>Dear Mayor Gaskins and Members of City Council,</p> <p>My name is Kris Varga, and I live in Alexandria, 22304. I am writing as a VOICE leader/member regarding the FY2027 budget.</p> <p>I care about this because the lack of affordable housing because it neglects the needs of every human being. As a Christian, it is imperative that we tend to those who need support. It is in our scripture and our discipleship. If you believe love is a needed virtue to save our planet, than I implore that you take the time to genuinely reflect on this major issue.</p> <p>With a nearly \$1 billion budget, Alexandria has real capacity to act. Budgets are moral documents — they show what we value. In the midst of an ongoing housing crisis, I urge you to prioritize the following: Top Priority: Use the City's bonding authority to create a \$5M bond to unlock at least \$50M for approved affordable housing projects that are currently stalled due to lack of local funding.</p> <p>Expand emergency rental assistance to provide up to three months of support to prevent displacement.</p> <p>Expand the Pilot Rental Subsidy Program for low-income, cost-burdened renters.</p> <p>Maintain strong funding for Department of Community & Human Services programs that support vulnerable residents, including immigrant families.</p> <p>These investments are practical, preventative, and aligned with Alexandria's stated housing goals. We also share a continuing concern for tenant rights and better management at the ARHA properties. Local action is a critical part of addressing supply, subsidy, and stability.</p> <p>Thank you for your leadership and consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely, Kris Varga 3737 Seminary Rd. Alexandria, VA 22304</p>
Thursday, April 9, 2026	Cutting the Sheriff's Office budget isn't trimming excess—it's cutting into the core of our justice system. Deputies protect judges, attorneys, victims, and the public every single day in the courthouse. If that security is weakened, everything else is at risk.
Thursday, April 9, 2026	Court orders don't enforce themselves. The Sheriff's Office serves legal documents and executes court orders across the city—work that keeps our legal system functioning. Budget cuts here don't save money; they undermine accountability.
Thursday, April 9, 2026	If you care about public safety, you should care about what happens inside the jail. GED, ESL, vocational training, and Second Chance reentry programs reduce repeat offenses. Cutting funding means cutting the very programs that help people turn their lives around.
Thursday, April 9, 2026	This isn't just about spending—it's about return on investment. The Sheriff's Office generates roughly \$7.4 million annually in federal revenue for Alexandria. Reducing their budget risks losing millions that support the entire city.
Thursday, April 9, 2026	We ask the Sheriff's Office to do everything—protect the courts, enforce the law, manage the jail, rehabilitate inmates—and then consider cutting their funding. That's not a strategy; that's setting them up to fail.
Thursday, April 9, 2026	Public safety isn't the place to experiment with cuts. The Sheriff's Office operates at the intersection of justice, safety, and rehabilitation. Weakening it will have consequences far beyond a budget line.
Thursday, April 9, 2026	Victims and witnesses deserve to feel safe in court. Judges and attorneys need a secure environment to do their jobs. The Sheriff's Office makes that possible. Budget cuts send the wrong message about our priorities.
Thursday, April 9, 2026	Reentry programs aren't "extras"—they're essential. Every person who leaves jail with skills and education is one less person likely to reoffend. Cutting those programs is short-sighted and costly in the long run.
Thursday, April 9, 2026	There's a misconception that the Sheriff's Office is just another expense. It's not. It's the security backbone of the courthouse. Without it, you don't just lose staffing—you compromise the safety of judges, victims, and the public in a high-risk environment.
Thursday, April 9, 2026	A court ruling means nothing if it isn't enforced. Deputies are the ones serving papers and executing orders across the city. Cutting their capacity directly reduces how effectively the law is carried out.
Thursday, April 9, 2026	The jail is one of the few places where the city can actively reduce future crime. Education programs like GED and ESL, along with job training and reentry support, are evidence-based tools that lower repeat offenses. Removing them is a step backward.
Thursday, April 9, 2026	From a budget standpoint alone, this proposal doesn't hold up. The Sheriff's Office brings in about \$7.4 million a year in federal revenue. Any reduction that jeopardizes that funding creates a bigger financial hole, not a smaller one.
Thursday, April 9, 2026	This isn't about doing more with less—it's about being asked to do the impossible. The same office is expected to secure the courts, run the jail, transport inmates, enforce legal orders, and rehabilitate offenders. Cutting funding stretches those responsibilities past a breaking point.
Thursday, April 9, 2026	If staffing levels drop, coverage gaps appear. When coverage gaps appear, response times increase and risk goes up. That's the chain reaction of budget cuts in a public safety agency.
Thursday, April 9, 2026	Reentry programs aren't theoretical—they directly impact whether someone reoffends. Fewer programs mean more repeat offenders, which leads to higher long-term incarceration and policing costs. That's a measurable outcome.
Thursday, April 9, 2026	Budget cuts here don't stay contained. They ripple outward—into the courts, into neighborhoods, and back into the system as higher costs later. It's a short-term decision with long-term consequences.
Thursday, April 9, 2026	If the goal is a safer, more efficient city, reducing investment in an office that provides security, enforcement, rehabilitation, and millions in revenue moves things in the opposite direction.
Thursday, April 9, 2026	Behind every budget cut is a person. In this case, it's deputies—many of whom live right here in Alexandria—being asked to do more with less. These aren't abstract positions. They're neighbors who've committed their lives to public safety.
Thursday, April 9, 2026	Deputies don't work 9-to-5. They miss holidays, weekends, and family milestones to keep the courthouse secure and the system running. Cutting resources doesn't just strain operations—it puts more pressure on people who are already stretched thin.
Thursday, April 9, 2026	When we talk about reducing funding, we're really talking about increasing the burden on deputies. Fewer staff means longer shifts, fewer breaks, and higher burnout—all in a job that already carries risk and responsibility.
Thursday, April 9, 2026	These deputies show up during emergencies, in severe weather, and in unpredictable situations without hesitation. That level of commitment deserves support, not cuts that make their jobs harder and less safe.
Thursday, April 9, 2026	Many deputies are Alexandria residents. They serve the same community they go home to. Budget decisions don't just affect an agency—they affect local families who rely on these jobs and the stability they provide.
Thursday, April 9, 2026	It's easy to talk about numbers in a budget. It's harder to acknowledge the human cost. Every reduction translates into real people losing time with their families, taking on more stress, and working under tougher conditions.

Date Received	Comment
Thursday, April 9, 2026	Public safety depends on people, not just policies. If deputies are overworked and understaffed, the entire system feels it—inside the courthouse, inside the jail, and out in the community.
Thursday, April 9, 2026	There's an expectation that deputies will always step up—and they do. But continued cuts send the message that their sacrifices—missed holidays, long nights, and time away from family—are taken for granted.
Thursday, April 9, 2026	Supporting the Sheriff's Office means supporting the people behind it. Deputies are not just employees—they are parents, spouses, and community members who carry the weight of this work every day.
Thursday, April 9, 2026	If the city values safety, accountability, and rehabilitation, it also has to value the people delivering those outcomes. Right now, budget cuts suggest otherwise
Thursday, April 9, 2026	<p>The Alexandria Sheriff's Office has consistently been there for the City of Alexandria—through hardships, weather emergencies, COVID, and both difficult and positive moments. Time and again, we have shown up, supported our community, and done our jobs without hesitation. Unfortunately, that same level of support has not been returned.</p> <p>For years, we have advocated for the resources and recognition needed to continue serving effectively, yet we are often made to feel as though our contributions do not matter. Despite this, deputies and civilian staff continue to report for duty every day, making meaningful differences in people's lives. Much of this work goes unseen by the public, but it has a lasting impact on those we help.</p> <p>Through shared challenges, staff have built strong bonds—a sense of family forged through daily hardships. It is deeply discouraging to then be told, in effect, that our department is not a priority for funding.</p> <p>To hear that our work is not valued, that our sacrifices have not counted, and that our efforts are seen as insignificant is profoundly disheartening. It is especially difficult knowing that other jurisdictions demonstrate clear support for their public safety personnel.</p> <p>I sincerely hope this proposed budget cut is reconsidered, as it will negatively affect not only our department but also the many individuals and communities we serve.</p>
Thursday, April 9, 2026	<p>As a resident of the City, I fully support the Sheriff's office. I understand that they have to do what is legally required of them.</p> <p>A good example is Fairfax, those who were supposed to be deported because they were violent offenders, did not because Fairfax did not follow the law. Now those same individuals have committed serious offenses; sexual assaults, assaults and even murder. Is that what we also want in our city. Definitely not.</p>
Thursday, April 9, 2026	<p>As a Not For Profit and community organization in support of the Alexandria Sheriff's Office, we're asking our City Council to please reconsider any proposed cuts to the Sheriff's Office budget. The Social Responsibility Group, including those focused on human rights and community welfare, strongly support this request because the Sheriff's Office plays a vital role not only in public safety but also in ensuring humane, lawful treatment for every person in custody.</p> <p>The current discussion about Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has raised complex and emotional issues. However, the Sheriff's Office must abide by federal and state laws regarding ICE interactions just like any other law enforcement agency in the United States. Compliance with the law isn't a political choice; it's a legal and ethical responsibility. Punishing the Sheriff's Office budget over this matter would undercut the very principles of justice and due process that our city stands for.</p> <p>Cutting the budget would directly harm staff who work tirelessly to keep our jail residents safe and to support rehabilitation, mental health, and reentry programs that help individuals rebuild their lives. These efforts are cornerstones of social responsibility and public safety alike.</p> <p>The Sheriff's Office needs the resources to continue providing fair treatment, secure facilities, and compassionate programs. Weakening those capabilities through funding cuts would hurt not just the officers, but the residents they serve—and ultimately, our entire community.</p> <p>Best Regards, Pastor Louis G. Whiting Director Social Responsibility Group 4746 Eisenhower Avenue Alexandria, Va. 22304</p>
Wednesday, April 8, 2026	Sheriff Casey would poop his pants after 15 minutes in an ICE detention facility. Give his funding to single mothers and public schools.

Date Received	Comment
Wednesday, April 8, 2026	<p>Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, and Members of Council:</p> <p>I am a resident of the 00 block of Mt. Vernon Avenue writing to request that Council use the April 18 Add/Delete process to pause or reallocate funding for the Mt. Vernon Cul-de-sac Inlets and Alley Storm Sewer Improvements project. As currently scoped, this \$2.06 million project is a poor use of stormwater ratepayer dollars and should not be carried forward in its present form.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The design target does not match the flood regime. The project is scoped as an interim measure sized for up to a 10-year storm event. The FY 2027 Proposed Budget commits \$230.1 million over the 10-year CIP to stormwater "improvements to mitigate flooding during major rain events." A 10-year design storm is not a major rain event. The flooding that has repeatedly damaged homes on the 100 and 00 blocks of Mt. Vernon Avenue has been in the 50- to 100-year range. The project's design standard is misaligned with both the observed hazard and the stated purpose of the stormwater CIP. The funding source has shifted from grant to ratepayer, and the rate is rising. When this project was originally scoped, and even erroneously into the October 2025 community meeting, external grant funding was communicated as the source of funds for this project. That funding is no longer on the table, and the full \$2.06 million is now drawn from the Stormwater Utility Fee, the same fee Council is proposing to increase from \$340.30 to \$357.40 in FY 2027. Every Alexandria household is being asked to pay more into a pool that is, in part, underwriting an undersized fix for a handful of townhomes. A project that could not survive competitive grant review should not be quietly rerouted onto the ratepayer base without Council reassessing whether it is still the right solution. The FY 2027 Capital Budget allocates \$22.3 million to stormwater, including \$7.1 million for capacity improvements at Commonwealth Avenue, E. Glebe Road, and Ashby Street. Those are capacity projects, the kind of intervention that actually addresses major storm events. The Mt. Vernon project, by contrast, is attenuation via underground vaults sized for a 10-year storm. At \$2.06 million, it consumes nearly 10% of the FY 2027 stormwater capital pool and roughly 29% of what the City is spending on genuine capacity improvements citywide. In a budget cycle where staff closed a \$22.9 million gap by eliminating 38 vacant positions and finding \$9 million in efficiency reductions, this is not a defensible allocation. The construction impacts are disproportionate to the benefit. The current scope requires relocation of the municipal water utility (now complete), extended open excavation in the cul-de-sac, re-grading of the lower alley, overnight parking disruption, interrupted trash and recycling collection, and roughly 20 months of active construction from Spring 2026 through December 2027. The disruption to residents, trees, hardscape, and daily neighborhood function is real and permanent in ways the flood benefit, capped at a 10-year storm, is not. For many of us, the project as designed will do more harm than good. What I am requesting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delete the FY 2027 construction allocation for the Mt. Vernon Cul-de-sac Inlets and Alley Storm Sewer Improvements project, and Add direction to staff to return with either (a) a redesigned project scoped to the actual observed flood regime on the 100 and 00 blocks, with a transparent cost-benefit analysis against that higher standard, or (b) a recommendation to redirect these funds to capacity projects elsewhere in the stormwater CIP where the design standard and the hazard are aligned. <p>Continuing to spend \$2 million on an interim solution that does not address the storms that actually flood our homes is not fiscally responsible stewardship of the Stormwater Utility Fee, particularly in a year when Council is asking ratepayers to pay more into it.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
Wednesday, April 8, 2026	<p>Dear City Council members,</p> <p>Thank you speaking out in support of our immigrant neighbors in this moment. Immigrants are an important part of our community.</p> <p>But I'm extremely concerned about Sheriff Casey's voluntary collaboration with ICE and his policy of turning people over to ICE on administrative warrants. He has ignored your statement against this policy and continues to ignore the overwhelming majority of Alexandria residents who do not want anything to do with ICE.</p> <p>I am respectfully asking the Council to cut the Sheriff's budget and use those funds for affordable housing and important community needs.</p>
Wednesday, April 8, 2026	<p>Please do not cut the Sheriff's budget!!! They deserve every penny they ask for. They are such a vital part of our community -- Project Life Saver alone saves people from harm. Every Art on the Avenue you see the Sheriff's office out clearing the cars off of Mt. Vernon Avenue at 4:30 AM -- so the artists can set up. They are a vital part of all of our events in Del Ray and solve so many problems. Please do not cut their budget!!!</p> <p>My thanks, Pat Miller</p>
Wednesday, April 8, 2026	<p>As a member of this community, I ask City Council to protect funding for the Sheriff's Office. This budget supports not only public safety, but also education, reentry, and mental health programs that strengthen our city long-term. Cutting these resources undermines both safety and rehabilitation, and ultimately costs more than it saves.</p>
Wednesday, April 8, 2026	<p>I'm writing to express my strong support for fully funding the Sheriff's budget.</p> <p>Through my work and daily life here, I've spent many hours getting to know members of our Latino community, especially here in Arlandria. These are not abstract policy discussions for them, they are deeply personal realities. I have had employees and their families directly impacted by immigration enforcement, including painful instances where families have been separated. These experiences have shaped my perspective and reinforced how important it is that we approach local decisions with care, humanity, and clarity of purpose.</p> <p>At the same time, I am concerned about the growing tendency for national political debates to spill into and influence local governance. Our city functions best when we stay focused on practical, local priorities rather than allowing national issues to hijack decision-making at the city level.</p> <p>I urge you to let logic and common sense guide your decision. Reactionary or radical changes at the local level that are being called for can have unintended consequences for public safety, community trust, and the stability of our institutions.</p> <p>Supporting and properly funding our local law enforcement should not be viewed through the lens of national politics. Decisions about our Sheriff's office should be based on what is best for our community, not as a response to or statement about any national political figure or administration. I trust Sean Casey who I've known as a compassionate human for over 25 years, to run our Sheriff's Office with dignity and fairness.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our community.</p>
Wednesday, April 8, 2026	<p>As a business owner and citizen of Alexandria as well as a Del Ray Business Association Board member, I wanted to strongly oppose budget cuts for the Sheriff's Office. They provide an important role in our community and in our events and help us feel safe and supported. Losing the special programs they offer would be a loss for the entire community.</p> <p>Thanks for your consideration, Jenna Gotch Owner, Passionately Pets Del Ray Citizen</p>
Wednesday, April 8, 2026	<p>Budget Question #36: Please provide the Sheriff's Office's work productivity performance indicator report, the jail cost report, and the staffing study. (Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley)-Completed</p> <p>Budget Question #83: What would it cost for staff to hire a consultant to conduct a jail operations study? Mayor Gaskins - Completed</p> <p>Does Gaskins not trust the work that was already completed by the Sheriff's Office and NIC, or does she just not like the facts documented in the report as they don't fit her egotistical agenda?</p>

Date Received	Comment
Wednesday, April 8, 2026	<p>Dear Members of the Alexandria City Council, I write to express my strong and unwavering support for Sheriff Sean Casey and the Alexandria Sheriff's Office. As a committed member of this community and someone who has worked alongside many dedicated leaders and organizations in Alexandria, I have witnessed firsthand the positive impact the Sheriff's Office continues to have on public safety, community engagement, and the well-being of our residents. I respectfully urge you to reject any proposed budget cuts and to keep the jail in its current location.</p> <p>Under Sheriff Casey's leadership, the Alexandria Sheriff's Office has demonstrated a clear commitment to professionalism, accountability, and service. The Office's receipt of the National Sheriffs' Association's 2023 Triple Crown Award is a powerful testament to its excellence in law enforcement, corrections, and correctional health care. This level of recognition is not easily earned and reflects a standard of performance that should be supported and sustained.</p> <p>The Sheriff's Office plays an essential role in maintaining the safety and efficiency of our city. Its responsibilities, including operating the Adult Detention Center, providing courthouse security, serving legal processes, and transporting individuals, are critical to the integrity of our justice system. These services are foundational and must remain strong and well-supported.</p> <p>Equally important is the Office's deep and ongoing commitment to the community. I have personally observed Sheriff Casey's engagement with local organizations, faith leaders, and residents, where he shows everyone respect and dignity, which leads his staff to do the same. Whether through outreach efforts, support for families, or participation in collaborative public safety initiatives, the Sheriff's Office has demonstrated that it values partnership and understands that true public safety is built on trust and connection.</p> <p>I am also encouraged by the Sheriff's Office's forward-thinking approach to accountability and care. The Adult Detention Center's achievement of federal PREA certification in 2024 reflects a meaningful commitment to safety, transparency, and dignity for those in custody. Additionally, the Office's efforts to address mental health challenges through partnerships with health professionals, academic institutions, and community stakeholders show a clear understanding of the complex needs within our justice system.</p> <p>Maintaining a local detention facility is both practical and necessary. Keeping the jail in Alexandria preserves important connections between individuals in custody, their families, and the support systems that are critical for successful rehabilitation and reentry. Relocating the jail would increase operational costs, create inefficiencies, and place unnecessary burdens on families, undermining the progress that has been made in this community.</p> <p>At a time when many communities are striving to build trust and effectiveness within their public safety systems, Alexandria already has a model that works. Sheriff Casey and the Alexandria Sheriff's Office represent leadership, accountability, and a genuine commitment to the people they serve. This decision reflects our values, responsibility, and the future of our community. I respectfully urge the City Council to maintain full funding for the Alexandria Sheriff's Office and to keep the jail in its current location.</p> <p>As someone whose default is to be skeptical of police officers due to previous negative interactions, I have been awestruck by the relationships and reputation Sheriff Casey has built within the community. Alexandria has something special in that relationship, and it's because he actively prioritizes that relationship, through his engagement and how he uses his budget to improve the lives of people in the justice system.</p> <p>Please ensure he has the funding and support to continue that work.</p> <p>Respectfully, Shawn Gregoire</p>
Wednesday, April 8, 2026	<p>Hello City Council!</p> <p>I am writing to express my strong disapproval of Sheriff Casey's cooperation with ICE and I urge you to use whatever tools at your disposal, including the city budget, to stop any further cooperation with ICE's inhumane racism and cruelty. I want my city to be a safe place for all families and children, regardless of their origin.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Wednesday, April 8, 2026	Stop funding Sheriff Casey's cooperation with ice.
Wednesday, April 8, 2026	Stop funding Sheriff Casey's cooperation with ICE
Wednesday, April 8, 2026	Please withhold funding for the sheriff's office until they are no longer helping detain people for ICE. This is unacceptable! Alexandria should not be supporting ICE.
Wednesday, April 8, 2026	My son works for the Sheriff's Office. I watched the March 11 hearing livestreamed on my phone. I want the Council to know that the contrast between how the Sheriff was treated and how every other presenter was treated did not go unnoticed by the families of the men and women who work there. These are people who show up every shift, do difficult work, and don't make headlines for it. Watching their elected boss be treated with visible contempt while other city officials got courtesy and handshakes was demoralizing for him, and for us. Shame on you city council!
Wednesday, April 8, 2026	Budget reductions to law enforcement agencies are not cost-neutral. The direct savings from eliminating positions are consistently outpaced by the indirect costs: recruitment and training for replacements, increased overtime for remaining staff, higher workers' compensation claims from understaffed conditions, potential liability from incidents that adequate staffing would have prevented, and the longer-term cost of institutional knowledge that walks out the door when experienced deputies leave for better-funded agencies. Any cut to the Sheriff's Office budget, whether it ends up being the \$4 million activists demanded or some other number, needs to be evaluated against those downstream costs, not just the immediate savings. I am confident that analysis does not support a cut.
Wednesday, April 8, 2026	My clients are regularly held in the Alexandria detention center, and I have a direct professional interest in how that facility is operated. Adequate staffing and funding directly affects the conditions my clients experience, the speed of processing, the availability of programming, and the safety of the environment. I am not writing to take a position on immigration policy. I am writing because any reduction in the Sheriff's budget, whether it ends up being \$4 million, more, or less, translates directly into reduced capacity to serve the people in that building, many of whom are the most vulnerable in this community. I urge the Council to fully fund this office.
Wednesday, April 8, 2026	I have lived in this city my entire adult life. I raised my children here. I have watched this community grow and evolve. Through all of it, the Sheriff's Office has been a quiet, professional, consistent presence. They run the jail, they staff the courts, they serve civil process, and they do it all without drama or scandal. Now I'm watching elected officials treat their leader with open contempt at a public hearing, giving every other presenter a handshake and a kind word while grilling the Sheriff with visible anger, and considering cutting his budget not because of anything he did wrong but because of a political fight he didn't start and can't legally resolve any other way. I am asking the Council to do better. Full funding. Respectful treatment. Governance over politics.
Wednesday, April 8, 2026	My shop is two blocks from the courthouse. I see those deputies every day. I know some of them by name. They are members of this community. When I hear that the Council wants to cut their funding, not because of anything they've done wrong, but because of a political fight about immigration that they have nothing to do with — I am angry. These are good people doing hard work. They deserve better. And frankly, Alexandria's small businesses deserve elected leaders who don't treat basic public safety as a bargaining chip.
Wednesday, April 8, 2026	I work with people leaving the Alexandria detention center every week. I see directly how the quality of programming inside that facility affects what happens to people after release. When funding is adequate, there are GED classes, substance abuse counseling, job skills training, and transition planning. When it isn't, those services shrink or disappear. The people who don't get those services don't just disappear either...they reenter the community less prepared, more likely to recidivate, and more likely to end up back in the system. Cutting the Sheriff's budget does not make the costs go away. It just defers and compounds them. Full funding is the fiscally sound choice, not just the humane one.

Date Received	Comment
Wednesday, April 8, 2026	My husband has served with the Alexandria Sheriff's Office for nine years. He works nights, weekends, and holidays. He rarely complains. But I want the Council to know what it felt like in our house to watch the March 11 budget work session, to see his agency's elected leader walked into a room where everyone else got a handshake and a gentle question, and then subjected to a visibly hostile, angry interrogation unlike anything the other presenting agencies faced. That sent a message to every deputy and staff member in that building. The message was: your work doesn't matter to us; this is about something else. Fund the Sheriff's Office fully and send a different message. One this agency has actually earned.
Wednesday, April 8, 2026	The uncertainty around the Sheriff's budget is itself a retention and recruitment problem. Staff at all levels are aware of the hostile dynamic that was on full display at the March 11 hearing. They are asking whether their jobs are safe, whether their programs will survive, whether the Council values what they do. The Council cannot undo March 11, but they can signal through the budget that the Sheriff's Office is valued by funding it fully. Every month this goes unresolved costs this agency employees it cannot easily replace.
Wednesday, April 8, 2026	The Sheriff can't legally do what some members of the Council want him to do. Cutting his budget doesn't change that, it just hurts everyone else who depends on his office. This is not sound policy.
Wednesday, April 8, 2026	I spent my career in public safety. You don't cut public safety budgets for political reasons. You just don't. Fund the Sheriff fully and move on.
Wednesday, April 8, 2026	I am an immigrant and I have followed the debate about the Sheriff's ICE cooperation policy carefully. Even from my perspective, even feeling deeply about immigration issues, I can see that what the Council is doing is wrong. The Sheriff is following Virginia law. Cutting his budget doesn't change the law. It just hurts the people who depend on his office, many of whom are immigrants themselves who interact with the court system. This is not the right way to fight for the people you say you're protecting.
Wednesday, April 8, 2026	I work hard, pay my taxes, and expect this city to be safe and run professionally. Don't cut the Sheriff's budget for politics. It's that simple.
Wednesday, April 8, 2026	I have spent years doing community organizing in Alexandria and I want to address the residents who support the effort to pressure the Sheriff's budget. I understand the concern about immigration enforcement. I share many of those concerns. But I am asking you to think carefully about what a budget cut actually accomplishes here. The Sheriff cannot legally honor the demands being made of him. Virginia law requires ICE cooperation. A budget cut does not change that legal requirement — it only reduces the capacity of an agency that serves every resident of this city, including the communities most concerned about immigration enforcement. The people harmed by cuts to jail programming, courthouse staffing, and civil process are disproportionately low-income and people of color. Cutting this budget to make a political point does not protect those communities. It harms them. Fund the Sheriff's Office fully and advocate for legal change through the legislature, where it can actually happen.
Wednesday, April 8, 2026	I grew up in this city. I know these deputies, some of them coached youth sports, some of them volunteer in their off hours. Cutting their agency's budget to send a political message isn't just bad policy. It's disrespectful to people who have given a lot to this community.
Wednesday, April 8, 2026	I WOULD like my tax dollars to be used for collaborating with ICE
Wednesday, April 8, 2026	The corruption in this city is unreal. How much longer will you allow an incompetent liar of a city manager to exist and continue to run the city into the ground. Ask any city employee, the city apparatus is dysfunctional from the top to bottom. Defund the bloated, sprawling, and incompetent city managers office.
Tuesday, April 7, 2026	We must cut sheriff Casey's budget due to his ongoing voluntary collaboration with ICE. Alexandria deserves better
Tuesday, April 7, 2026	A budget is a values document. Giving Sheriff Casey his requested increase, or even fully funding his department is, at this point, an endorsement of his continued collaboration with ICE. We all know that Sheriff Casey does NOT need to continue handing members of our Alexandria community to ICE. After the Sheriff holds people past their release times and ICE collects them, they are held for days in rooms not meant to hold that many people and then taken to Farmville, a detention center that is rife with human rights abuses. There are plenty of places where Casey's budget can be cut without impacting support and services for the incarcerated people in the jail. Casey is an elected official who is refusing to be accountable to the people who elected him and to the city council of the jurisdiction where he operates. His actions are harming our community, our neighbors, and violating Alexandrian's trust in our city officials. Cut the sheriff's budget.
Tuesday, April 7, 2026	I don't support cutting the Sheriff's Office budget. Doing so translates to real world problems such as reduced staffing, operational safety of the detention center due to reduced staffing, cutting programs for inmates, cutting community outreach events, not having staff to attend school events, less training and essential equipment, and even the potential for increased liability.
Tuesday, April 7, 2026	The budget supports the recruitment and training of law enforcement personnel, which is essential for addressing crime and ensuring public safety in the community. Deputy officers work is very foundational to the effective management of correctional facilities and the protection of our community. Please Don't shut Alexandria's Sheriff's Office out of the upcoming budget.
Tuesday, April 7, 2026	Sheriff Office budget should not be cut down as it will impact them, their families. They are protecting our communities.
Tuesday, April 7, 2026	I support the full school funding AND full funding expenditure accountability to Alexandria constituents. ACPS needs to fund teacher salaries and items in the budget that directly support our unique student population - NOT funding central office staff overhead. Full transparency, funding accountability, and quite frankly, along with the expenditure of funds being transparent and responsive to constituents, this also includes decision-making. Continuously the school board makes decisions according to what the superintendent or central office decides they want - NOT the voters and parents of Alexandria. There is a theatrical effort for parent/community engagement, but the feedback is never taken seriously nor incorporated into planning decisions. This continues disenfranchise the "clients" - parents and voters - whose tax money funds the schools. We need to do better - please keep the school board accountable in whatever was is possible, for making decisions that respond to Alexandria residents (not central office staff) and ensuring funding of the critical elements of our schools that educate children ABs retain teachers. Thank you!
Tuesday, April 7, 2026	Dear city council and fellow community members, I am writing to implore you to not only reallocate finances from the sheriff's department to more deserving areas of our community (like housing or restorative justice initiatives at schools, health care etc), but to specifically cut funding from our sheriff's department that is willing to collaborate voluntarily with a rogue agency. Every community member deserves due process. Not getting it is unconstitutional. We are being called in this moment to act bravely and loudly state what kind of neighbors and community we want to create. This is our moment to do so. Please have courage here to make the tough decisions. The entire community is looking to you to be just and equitable leaders. Thank you. Peacefully, Wind

Date Received	Comment
Tuesday, April 7, 2026	<p>Members of the City Council,</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to speak about the importance of inmate programming within the Alexandria Adult Detention Center and the positive impact these services have both inside the facility and after individuals are released back into the community.</p> <p>Inmate programming is not simply an optional service within a correctional setting. It is one of the most effective tools we have to improve safety, reduce recidivism, increase accountability, and better prepare individuals for successful reintegration into society.</p> <p>Every day, the Alexandria Adult Detention Center houses individuals from many different backgrounds, with varying educational levels, work histories, family relationships, substance abuse issues, and mental health needs. Many enter the facility lacking a high school diploma, employment skills, coping skills, stable housing, identification documents, or support systems. Without intervention, these same barriers often follow them back into the community upon release.</p> <p>Programming addresses these barriers directly.</p> <p>Within the facility, educational classes such as GED preparation, ESL, digital literacy, health literacy, vocational certifications, and workforce readiness programs provide inmates with practical tools that can increase their opportunities for employment. Evidence-based classes such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Decision Points, Thinking for a Change, anger management, parenting, healthy relationships, emotional wellness, and conflict resolution help inmates identify criminal thinking patterns, develop healthier coping strategies, and improve decision-making.</p> <p>Reentry programming is particularly important because it helps bridge the gap between incarceration and successful community reintegration. Programs that assist individuals with obtaining identification, birth certificates, social security cards, employment preparation, clothing, transportation planning, housing referrals, and connections to community agencies greatly reduce the likelihood that an individual will return to criminal behavior. Vocational Programs such as OSHA (Spanish and English), Flaggers, Hair Braiding techniques, are practical, marketable skills that can be monetized upon release.</p> <p>The impact of these services is seen not only after release, but also within the jail itself.</p> <p>Inmates who participate in structured programming are generally more productive, more engaged, and less likely to engage in disciplinary behavior. Programming creates routine, structure, and accountability. It provides inmates with a sense of purpose during incarceration and gives them the opportunity to work toward something positive.</p> <p>Educational and therapeutic programs also improve the overall safety and stability of the facility. When inmates are engaged in meaningful activities, tensions decrease, idleness is reduced, and there are fewer behavioral issues for staff to manage. This contributes to a safer environment for deputies, civilian staff, volunteers, contractors, and inmates alike.</p> <p>Programming also has a direct impact on families and the Alexandria community as a whole. When an individual leaves jail with improved education, better coping skills, vocational training, and community support, they are more likely to gain employment, support their children, comply with court requirements, avoid substance abuse, and become productive members of society.</p> <p>The long-term cost savings associated with inmate programming are significant. Reducing recidivism means fewer arrests, fewer court cases, fewer victims, and fewer individuals cycling repeatedly through the criminal justice system. Investments in programming can reduce future burdens on law enforcement, the courts, social services, and the jail itself.</p>
Tuesday, April 7, 2026	I urge the city to cut the sheriff's budget in the 2027 budget. These funds should be redirected to rental assistance and community programs that help families stay housed and stable. Our budget should reflect our values by investing in support, not enforcement that creates fear in our community
Tuesday, April 7, 2026	I am asking the city to reduce the sheriff's budget and instead invest in programs that directly support residents, like rental assistance. Many families are struggling with the high cost of living, and these resources make a real difference. Our priorities should focus on stability and community well-being.
Tuesday, April 7, 2026	Cutting the sheriff's budget is a necessary step toward aligning our city's spending with our values. Those funds should go toward housing support and community services that keep families safe and stable.
Tuesday, April 7, 2026	<p>The City Council should not reduce the Sheriff's Office budget because of activist pressure and keep public safety first and foremost. The City Council should also remember a recent Alexandria Times survey indicates that most Alexandrians want the Sheriff's Office to follow state and federal immigration law.</p> <p>DO NOT PLAY POLITICS WITH PUBLIC SAFETY</p>
Tuesday, April 7, 2026	Please do not fund any city activities that allow undocumented persons to be picked up by ICE on administrative warrants. I believe Alexandrians believe in following the law, but not depriving people of their rights with perfunctory non-judicial warrants. This practice should be discouraged. Thank you for your kind attention.
Tuesday, April 7, 2026	<p>Dear Mayor Gaskins and Members of City Council,</p> <p>My name is Victoria Linner, and I live in the 22304 zip code. I am writing as a VOICE leader/member regarding the FY2027 budget.</p> <p>I care about this because housing is foundational to overall safety and wellbeing.</p> <p>With a nearly \$1 billion budget, Alexandria has real capacity to act. Budgets are moral documents — they show what we value. In the midst of an ongoing housing crisis, I urge you to prioritize the following:</p> <p>Top Priority: Use the City's bonding authority to create a \$5M bond to unlock at least \$50M for approved affordable housing projects that are currently stalled due to lack of local funding.</p> <p>Expand emergency rental assistance to provide up to three months of support to prevent displacement.</p> <p>Expand the Pilot Rental Subsidy Program for low-income, cost-burdened renters.</p> <p>Maintain strong funding for Department of Community & Human Services programs that support vulnerable residents, including immigrant families.</p> <p>These investments are practical, preventative, and aligned with Alexandria's stated housing goals. We also share a continuing concern for tenant rights and better management at the ARHA properties. Local action is a critical part of addressing supply, subsidy, and stability.</p> <p>Thank you for your leadership and consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely, Victoria Linner 3737 Seminary Rd PMG SG103 Alexandria, VA 22304</p>
Tuesday, April 7, 2026	Cut Sheriff Sean Casey's budget and allocate those funds to better support and protect our community. Say no to ICE in Alexandria or anywhere else
Tuesday, April 7, 2026	Fully fund the Alexandria Sheriff's Office.
Tuesday, April 7, 2026	Fully fund the Alexandria Sheriff's Office. To penalize an office due to following the law sends the wrong message. To cut their budget is morally and ethically wrong.
Tuesday, April 7, 2026	Completely fund ASO. Sheriff Casey does not work with ICE!!!!!!
Tuesday, April 7, 2026	I support the Alexandria Sheriff's Office. Shame on council for not supporting Sheriff Casey.

Date Received	Comment
Tuesday, April 7, 2026	I attended the March 11 budget session as a community observer. The differential treatment of Sheriff Casey compared to other presenting agencies was not a minor procedural note — it was a public demonstration of animosity from elected officials toward a constitutional officer who was there in good faith to present his budget. That kind of public theater poisons the well for the residents this Council serves. I urge the Council to treat the Sheriff's budget request with the same objectivity applied to every other agency.
Tuesday, April 7, 2026	We don't even know what the proposed cut is yet — only that activists have called for \$4 million. That number is not a budget analysis. It's a political demand. The actual cut, if it materializes, could be more or less, but any reduction driven by disagreement over the Sheriff's legal obligations rather than by a genuine fiscal need is wrong. I ask the Council to start from the actual budget facts and leave political pressure out of it.
Tuesday, April 7, 2026	Let me offer some budget context that I think is being lost in the political debate. Over the past eleven fiscal years, the Alexandria Sheriff's Office budget grew by approximately 15.7%. In nominal terms, that sounds like growth. Adjusted for inflation over that period, it represents a real reduction in purchasing power. The agency has been doing more — more inmates, more court proceedings, more civil process, more compliance requirements — with effectively less money. That is the fiscal baseline from which any discussion of cuts must begin. When activists demand \$4 million in reductions, or when the Council considers an unspecified cut, that demand is not being made against a bloated agency. It is being made against an agency that has already absorbed over a decade of real-dollar decline. I urge the Council to look at the actual numbers before making any decisions.
Tuesday, April 7, 2026	My brother was held in the Alexandria detention center for several months. That was one of the hardest periods of our family's life. I visited when I could. I spoke with staff when I was allowed to. What I want the Council to understand is that those staff members, correctional deputies, counselors, nurses, treated my brother with dignity even in the most difficult moments. He connected with a counselor who helped him address things he had been running from for years. He came out in better shape than he went in. That doesn't happen by accident. It happens because this agency is funded well enough to employ people who care. Please don't take that away from the next family going through what we went through.
Tuesday, April 7, 2026	Protecting essential institutions from political manipulation is a matter of leadership character. The Alexandria Sheriff's Office has served this community with professionalism through administrations of both parties. Using budget reductions, whatever the number turns out to be, as a coercive tool against a constitutional officer who is following the law is not a leadership decision. It is a failure of one. I am asking this Council to make the right call and fund the Sheriff's Office at the level required to do its job.
Tuesday, April 7, 2026	If the Council cuts the Sheriff's budget, I want them to stand up publicly and say: 'We are reducing this agency's funding not because of any operational failure, not because of any fiscal necessity, but because we disagree with a legal obligation he is required by Virginia law to fulfill.' Because that is what this is. Say it clearly and defend it to the people who will be waiting longer for court service, working in an understaffed facility, or watching qualified deputies take their careers elsewhere. Own it — or don't do it.
Tuesday, April 7, 2026	Alexandria has a long tradition of constitutional officers serving with independence and integrity. The Sheriff's Office has been part of this community's fabric for generations. The March 11 hearing, where the Sheriff received hostile, angry questioning, especially from Mayor ALIAR Gaskins, that was not directed at any other presenting agency — and the prospect of budget cuts driven by political pressure rather than operational need represent a departure from that tradition. I am asking the Council to restore it by funding this office fully and treating its leader with respect.
Tuesday, April 7, 2026	I work in immigration law, and I understand why residents are concerned about ICE cooperation policies. But I also understand the legal framework, and the reality is that the Sheriff of Alexandria has legal obligations under Virginia law that he does not have discretion to ignore. Cutting his budget to pressure him to violate those obligations would not change the legal requirement, it would only compromise his ability to perform all of his other functions: court security, civil process, detention operations, inmate programming. The people harmed by those cuts are not ICE. They are Alexandria residents who need those services. I urge the Council to pursue immigration policy concerns through appropriate advocacy and legislation, and to fund the Sheriff's Office fully.
Tuesday, April 7, 2026	I have lived in Alexandria for 47 years. I have watched many councils come and go. I cannot recall ever watching a budget hearing where an elected constitutional officer was treated with the kind of visible contempt directed at Sheriff Casey on March 11 while every other presenting official received courtesy and handshakes. I don't know exactly what the Council is considering cutting from his budget, only that activists asked for \$4 million and that the actual number hasn't been disclosed, but whatever it is, it should not happen. Fund the Sheriff's Office fully and treat its leader with the respect this city used to be known for.
Tuesday, April 7, 2026	I am studying public policy and I want to offer an academic observation that I think is practically relevant. The mechanism being used here, budgetary pressure against a constitutional officer to coerce policy change, has been litigated in Virginia courts and has not fared well. The Sheriff's legal independence is not a technicality; it is a structural feature of Virginia governance designed specifically to prevent the kind of political coercion now being attempted. The Council's display of hostility at the March 11 hearing, combined with the prospect of cuts tied explicitly to the Sheriff's immigration enforcement practices, creates a factual record that would be very useful to the Sheriff's legal team in any future litigation. The Council should consider carefully what record they are creating before they vote on this budget.
Tuesday, April 7, 2026	The \$4 million figure the activists picked has no budget analysis behind it. It's a protest number. Whatever the Council is actually considering, it should be based on facts, not pressure. Fund the Sheriff fully.
Tuesday, April 7, 2026	Thirty years in public safety. You don't use a budget to pick a political fight with a constitutional officer. Fund the Sheriff.
Tuesday, April 7, 2026	I am 74 years old and I have never written a public comment before. The way the Sheriff was treated on March 11 convinced me to start. It was wrong. Fund his office.
Tuesday, April 7, 2026	Mayor Gaskins is a liar and hypocrite. She has publicly stated that she hates Parajon and that him and his sidekick boy wonder Lambert were both incompetent liars. Now she is using them to harass the sheriff and his office. If only someone on council had the nerve to stand up to this lying bully.
Tuesday, April 7, 2026	When I think about what a city government should do, the basics come first: keep the courts running, keep the jail safe, keep the streets orderly. The Sheriff's Office does all three. Cutting their budget because of a political fight that the Sheriff has no legal power to resolve differently is a failure to prioritize those basics. I am asking the Council to fund this office fully and do the job Alexandria residents elected you to do.
Tuesday, April 7, 2026	I want to comment specifically on the process: the Council has not told the Sheriff or the public what cut is actually being considered. Activists demanded \$4 million but that's not a budget document, it's a political demand. The Sheriff is being asked to defend against an unnamed number while being treated with hostility at the one hearing where the matter could be discussed. That is not a fair process. Fund the Sheriff's Office fully and give this agency the transparent, professional budget treatment every other city department received. I know that council struggles with transparency and professionalism, but it's worth a shot.
Monday, April 6, 2026	The Sheriff's Office budget should not be cut. Our community depends on strong public safety, and the Sheriff's Office plays a critical role in providing that protection. Public safety requires sufficient funding to ensure there are enough well-trained personnel, proper equipment, and the resources needed to respond effectively. Budget decisions should be guided by workload, response demands, and the safety of our community not by politics. I speak not only as a member of this community, but also as a member of the Sheriff's Office. Any cuts to the budget would directly impact me and my ability to serve effectively. I grew up in Alexandria, volunteering in recreation and therapeutic centers, always with the goal of giving back to the community that shaped me. That commitment led me to a career in public service. It is difficult to see the very community I have dedicated myself to now considering decisions that could directly impact the career I chose in order to serve them.
Monday, April 6, 2026	The tax rate is too high. My property taxes have increased about \$100 a month every year for the last 5 years at least. This is unsustainable. Alexandria is running people on a fixed income out of the city. Is this good for the city? Older people contribute socially and because they do not have children any longer in the educational system, are not consuming as many public services and thus are financially desirable to the city. Our tax rate is the highest, or among the highest in the dmV (and country). Is this necessary? We are all tightening ny our belts- why can't the city?

Date Received	Comment
Monday, April 6, 2026	<p>Members of the City Council,</p> <p>I am writing to respectfully urge you to reconsider the decision to eliminate funding for the Sheriff's Department program division. I understand that difficult budget decisions must be made; however, the complete removal of this section will have lasting and deeply harmful consequences for our community.</p> <p>Law enforcement is often summarized by the phrase "serve and protect." While protection is what people most readily see, service is the heart of what we do. It is reflected in these programs that address the root causes of behavior, support rehabilitation, and create pathways for individuals to return to society in a better position than when they entered. Removing this entire division does not just reduce services, it removes a critical function of public safety.</p> <p>These programs are not optional or supplemental. They are central to reducing recidivism, maintaining order within the facility, and fostering safer outcomes both inside and outside our system. Without them, we risk increasing repeat offenses, straining staff resources, and ultimately placing a greater burden on the community.</p> <p>Beyond the measurable impacts, there is also a human cost. These programs provide structure, purpose, and hope to individuals who often have very little of any of those things. Eliminating them sends a message that rehabilitation and second chances are no longer priorities.</p> <p>I respectfully ask that you reconsider this decision, or at the very least explore alternatives that would allow these programs to continue in some capacity.</p>
Monday, April 6, 2026	<p>Why do we have a 'strategic' priority in investing in employee retention and attraction. The job market is flooded with quality applicants and there is no reason for excess expenditure in staffing. Please be intelligent in employment matters and stop wasting taxpayer funds on programs that only benefit bureaucrats. Taxpayers get no additional benefit for paying more for services that can be acquired at a lower market rate. Indeed service quality has degraded or conveniently been removed from measurement in recent years. These are not the characteristics in which we should be 'investing.'</p>
Monday, April 6, 2026	<p>Fully fund the Alexandria Sheriff's Office</p>
Monday, April 6, 2026	<p>Please force the sheriff to stop helping ICE terrorize our neighbors.</p>
Monday, April 6, 2026	<p>Cut the Sheriff's budget until his cooperation with ICE ends!</p>
Monday, April 6, 2026	<p>My name is Brian Wade, and I have been a proud sworn member of the Alexandria Sheriff's Office for 19 years. I am a Lieutenant currently serving as a Watch Commander in the Detention Center. I'm reaching out today because the proposed four-million-dollar reduction to our budget is not just a financial decision, it is a decision that directly impacts the people who hold the line for this community every single day.</p> <p>We are already facing a severe retention crisis among sworn personnel. Every shift is a challenge to keep the jail safely staffed, and my team is stretched to its limits. Deputies are already discouraged by a pay scale that has fallen behind neighboring agencies offering higher starting salaries and large sign on bonuses. Morale is fragile. Stability is fragile. And removing four million dollars from our budget at a time like this feels not only unreasonable but deeply disheartening.</p> <p>To the men and women who show up every day, despite the risks, despite the sacrifices, this proposal feels like a message that their dedication is invisible. That their sacrifices are unnoticed. That the dangers they face and the burdens they carry somehow matter less.</p> <p>My staff give more than their time; they give pieces of their lives. They miss birthdays, family gatherings, first dance recitals, ball games, and milestones they can never get back. They walk into a facility every day knowing the environment is unpredictable, knowing that one moment can change everything, and hoping they return home the same way they arrive. This is not just a job to them, it is a commitment, an oath, and a calling.</p> <p>When decisions like this are made, it forces us to ask: what does it say about the value placed on the people who protect this community? What does it say to the deputies who continue to serve despite the strain, the danger, and the personal cost?</p> <p>We are not asking for luxury. We are asking for the basic support necessary to keep our staff safe, our facility secure, and our community protected. Cutting four million dollars from our budget undermines that mission and sends a message that the sacrifices of sworn law enforcement are secondary.</p> <p>We took an oath to serve this community. We honor that oath every day. All we ask is that the community, and its leadership, honor the commitment we have made in return.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>
Monday, April 6, 2026	<p>Dear City Council Members,</p> <p>I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed budget cuts for the Alexandria Sheriff's Office. Our community relies heavily on the jail's operations for maintaining safety and order, and reducing funding would negatively impact us in several significant ways.</p> <p>First and foremost, a well-funded jail is essential for ensuring that those who pose a threat to public safety are adequately detained and rehabilitated. Cutting the budget could lead to staffing shortages, hindering the ability to maintain a secure environment for both inmates and staff. We must prioritize the safety of our community and the individuals who work within the jail system.</p> <p>Additionally, budget cuts can undermine programs designed to help with inmate rehabilitation. These initiatives are vital for reducing recidivism rates and helping individuals successfully reintegrate into society. Investing in rehabilitation is not only beneficial for those incarcerated but ultimately makes our community safer in the long run.</p> <p>Moreover, neglecting the jail's budget could increase strain on other city resources, such as law enforcement and emergency services. If the jail cannot function effectively, we may see a rise in crime and public safety issues, ultimately requiring even greater expenditures in other areas.</p> <p>I urge the council to reconsider these cuts and prioritize funding for the Sheriff's Office jail. Our community's safety and well-being depend on it.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this crucial matter.</p>
Monday, April 6, 2026	<p>Please cut Sheriff Casey's budget. Money should go toward helping our community (for example, housing and education), not harming our neighbors (VOLUNTARILY handing them over to ICE like the sheriff does).</p>
Monday, April 6, 2026	<p>I don't want my tax dollars to subsidize ICE collaboration. I demand that you cut Sheriff Sean Casey's budget until he ends all voluntary collaboration with ICE. It does more harm to our communities than good!</p>

Date Received	Comment
Monday, April 6, 2026	<p>The City Council's focus on the Sheriff's Office budget as a mechanism to curtail ICE cooperation reflects a deliberate choice to avoid exercising the authority they actually possess. APD is a city department under the direct control of the City Manager, who serves at the Council's pleasure. The Council has clear structural authority to direct APD's operational priorities — including limiting immigration-status inquiries or deprioritizing certain categories of arrests. That lever exists and could be pulled today.</p> <p>The reason it won't be is accountability. Directing APD to stand down on certain enforcement actions creates a direct, traceable line between Council policy and real-world outcomes. If a person not arrested by APD subsequently harms a resident, that consequence lands squarely on the Council. By contrast, pressuring the Sheriff's Office — a constitutionally independent office — allows the Council to perform a policy position without fully owning it. The Sheriff can be cast as the obstacle, and any resulting harm feels narratively attenuated.</p> <p>This dynamic also gives the Council political cover that a straightforward APD directive would not. The intergovernmental conflict itself serves a purpose: it signals values to a constituency while avoiding the operational and legal accountability that comes with actually implementing those values through the channels they control.</p> <p>If the Council's concern is genuine, the remedy is within their own house. The decision to instead target the Sheriff's Office budget — a constitutionally protected appropriation — suggests the goal is posture, not policy.</p>
Monday, April 6, 2026	AG opinions from 2015, 2019, and 2024 all confirm that cooperation with ICE detainers is lawful under Virginia law. If the Council genuinely believes otherwise, the courthouse is on King Street. The fact that they are threatening appropriations instead of filing suit tells you everything about the strength of their legal, ethical, and moral position.
Monday, April 6, 2026	The Council's position implicitly assumes that public safety is divisible — that you can limit cooperation with federal immigration enforcement without any downstream effect on crime, victims, or community trust. No serious law enforcement professional believes that. The Council is welcome to hold that view, but they should own it explicitly in the budget rather than laundering it through a funding dispute with an independent constitutional officer.
Monday, April 6, 2026	<p>To the Editor:</p> <p>I am writing to urge the council to cut Sheriff Casey's budget to pressure him to stop voluntary collaboration with ICE. Sheriff Casey has been handing over members of our community to ICE based on so-called administrative warrants, which do not require probable cause, and are not signed by a judge or magistrate. I understand, deeply and personally, the catastrophic consequences of authorities marking vulnerable individuals for detention and deportation.</p> <p>My opposition to ICE is rooted in my family history. My parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents were Jews living in 1940s Europe, where local authorities—people whose jobs were to protect their communities—participated in the systematic roundup and deportation of Jews, as well as other vulnerable groups. My family's experience illustrates what happens when officials choose to become agents of fear and separation.</p> <p>My grandmother Ilse and Uncle Peter were seized, deported, and sent to Bergen Belsen, where Peter died of overwork, disease, and starvation. My great-grandmother Ady was gassed in Auschwitz. My mother, Chaninah, by age ten was left without family members, but survived because a Christian family in Holland chose to risk everything to hide her. They recognized her humanity as well as the inhumanity of the Nazi system of categorization. The sheriff's office must recognize the humanity of our neighbors and the inhumanity of ICE, as documented by Congress, Amnesty International and the ACLU, and witnessed by all of us with the videotaped slaughter of Renee Good and Alex Pretti. When the sheriff's office makes a so-called "Courtesy call" they are not simply making a phone call, they are dismantling our community's trust and security and placing people in the power of an institution whose hallmark is neglect, cruelty, and abuse.</p> <p>I am not writing to compare Bergen Belsen to Dilley or Farmville. I am warning against the principle of local law enforcement choosing to collaborate with a lawless agency characterized by hate. We can learn from the trauma of the past—where fear, compliance, and an odious line between "us" and "them" led to catastrophe. Our moral obligation is to protect all members of our community."</p> <p>The Sheriff has a choice. He can choose to protect every Alexandria resident, or not. I urge the Council to withhold our tax money, if he insists on voluntarily collaborating with ICE. Do not choose the path that history warns us against. End the policy of handing our neighbors over to ICE. Choose humanity. Choose community. Choose the side of the Mook family, whose brave actions led to the survival of my mother, Chaninah, and my ability to write this today. Thank you.</p>
Saturday, April 4, 2026	<p>Dear Members of Council,</p> <p>I write in support of existing or further budget for Sheriff Sean Casey and his department. Our community is fortunate to have a Sheriff's Department that is visible, seen, and trusted in the community. However we should never take public safety and that continuity for granted. Its the bedrock of communities that continue to grow and flourish.</p> <p>I urge our city leaders to continue to support the work of their Department and keep their budget levels the same.</p> <p>Thanks for all you do for the city,</p> <p>Bradley Beychok</p>
Saturday, April 4, 2026	<p>I'm writing in opposition to the proposed changes in the section of Braddock Road from Russell Road to the Braddock Road Metro. From a purely budgetary standpoint, this expense in a time of budget shortfall concerns is totally inappropriate. Additionally, leaving lived in this area for most of my life and using Braddock Road as a major way to and from my home, I believe the impact on traffic will be horrendous. It is difficult now navigating Russell and Commonwealth at times—particularly during rush hour. The proposed changes have the possibility of making my normal travels more difficult and increasing travel times, particularly when traveling east on Braddock and attempting to turn on Commonwealth to get to my home. But beyond my issues, those who live on or near Braddock Road and those who travel it regularly will be impacted at an even higher level.</p> <p>I encourage common sense in decision making. This recommendation makes no sense.</p>
Saturday, April 4, 2026	Dear Alexander board members. I am Gene Carlos speaking about police. Ice, in our streets in Arlington, we have enough for decades weeks months years. We're facing injustice, we're facing invasion for our land what happened to this share of Casey? He started the destruction of Alexander. We must stop ice. We must cut the budget because if we don't. It will BE 2 late because if you know about police ice, they like stealing land property houses, everything they kid took there look like a British army to me. Because since 250 years in America, we have the same fame, we have one word, we must end ice. We must stop the killings. We must stop everything we can't. If not Arlington will be in danger because what happens? Beans didn't go well. We know what happened when we know we know Alexander's naughty safe place, we know police. Ice plans are what are your plans Rip family support so in the name of Alexander and all the season and all the people we must free Alexander and the police eyes from not call me back. Sincerely jean carlos p.s mind writing speech is bad writing
Saturday, April 4, 2026	Immigrants deserve to be safe in our communities. Undocumented people deserve to be safe in our communities. Collaboration with ICE is a disgrace and does nothing to protect us.
Friday, April 3, 2026	I would not like my tax dollars to be used in collaboration with helping ICE .
Friday, April 3, 2026	Cut funds to the Sheriff's Department! No voluntary collaboration with ICE!!
Friday, April 3, 2026	I'm a proud Alexandria resident and I am demanding that the city council cut Sheriffs budget. The Sheriffs voluntary collaboration with ICE must be stopped! Protect our city and our community!

Date Received	Comment
Friday, April 3, 2026	<p>To the Mayor and City Council</p> <p>I understand that among the budget items you may be considering is a reduction in support for the Alexandria Sheriff's Office (ASO) as a result of concerns relating to work with the federal office of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Allow me to offer a few comments.</p> <p>Alexandria is very fortunate to have Sean Casey as the sheriff in our city. I've known Sheriff Casey for many years including his service in the Alexandria Police Department and his years as Alexandria's sheriff. He is an outstanding law enforcement professional who cares deeply for Alexandria and the people who live here and has long been committed to ensuring their safety and well-being. His stewardship of ASO has brought many distinctions including the prestigious Triple Crown Award from the National Sheriffs' Association which recognizes accreditation in law enforcement, corrections and correctional health care--an award that has only been given to some 50 offices in the country. He is a true professional--an honest, hard-working individual who has a strong passion for justice.</p> <p>Always sensitive to the concerns and interests of the citizens he serves, Sean has heard and understands the reactions of those among us who object to the troubling ways in which ICE has sought to meet its mission. As a result, our sheriff has made it his policy that ASO will not collaborate with ICE and that any involvement is strictly limited to what is required by law. Importantly, he has said, "I do not support or condone the way ICE has been enforcing law in the community. That is why I have said many times, the Alexandria Sheriff's Office does not and will not conduct immigration enforcement in our community while I serve as Sheriff."</p> <p>Against this backdrop then, I would submit to you that we have a leader who is committed to ensuring that all of our citizens and non-citizens alike receive equal protection under the law. Sheriff Casey has earned and deserves our support and trust. We should, therefore, refrain from reducing the size of the budget given by the city to support ASO operations.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Dan Rosenblatt</p>
Friday, April 3, 2026	<p>I would like to express my unhappiness, with Sheriff Sean Casey's collaboration with ICE. Please cut Casey's budget, he is informing ICE when city law enforcement (police, fire marshals) do not participate in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids or arrests. This is going AGAINST mayor Gaskins.</p>
Friday, April 3, 2026	<p>Please slash the sheriff's budget to nothing, if possible, until he stops cooperating with ICE administrative arrest warrants!!</p>
Friday, April 3, 2026	<p>I am a small business owner in Delray. The sheriff's department are always helpful to us. Please don't cut their budget. There are other places for you to find money.</p>
Friday, April 3, 2026	<p>It has come to my attention that city council wants to cut the Sheriffs department budget because of their cooperation with ICE. Instead of putting all of your efforts into affordable housing and raising taxes on those of us that work hard, how about putting emphasis into public safety. Just look at the clown show in Fairfax County where illegal aliens are murdering citizens while the county attorney and sheriff do not cooperate with ICE. Enough is enough. Your job is public safety. Stop pandering to the progressive base of your party. It wasn't long ago that Clinton and Obama shared the same beliefs as I do.</p>
Friday, April 3, 2026	<p>I support full funding of the Sheriff Department's budget. The highly charged arguments against continued necessary funding could negatively impact our community's safety and security. Additionally, the financial impact of not funding at the level requested could result in additional expenditures and increased costs as we seek other avenues to provide these necessary services.</p>
Friday, April 3, 2026	<p>I support full funding of the Sheriff Department's budget. The highly charged arguments against continued necessary funding could negatively impact our community's safety and security. Additionally, the financial impact of not funding at the level requested could result in additional expenditures and increased costs as we seek other avenues to provide these necessary services.</p>
Friday, April 3, 2026	<p>I'm writing in opposition to the proposed changes in the section of Braddock Road from Russell Road to the Braddock Road Metro. From a purely budgetary standpoint, this expense in a time of budget shortfall concerns is totally inappropriate. Additionally, leaving lived in this area for most of my life and using Braddock Road as a major way to and from my home, I believe the impact on traffic will be horrendous. It is difficult now navigating Russell and Commonwealth at times--particularly during rush hour. The proposed changes have the possibility of making my normal travels more difficult and increasing travel times, particularly when traveling east on Braddock and attempting to turn on Commonwealth to get to my home. But beyond my issues, those who live on or near Braddock Road and those who travel it regularly will be impacted at an even higher level.</p> <p>I encourage common sense in decision making. This recommendation makes no sense.</p>
Friday, April 3, 2026	<p>Everything our Sheriff does is lawful and he abides by all court issued orders. For you to ask anything different is unlawful and will make our community less safe. Deputies follow all legal requirements, including required immigration status checks for felony charges. With already low staffing levels further cuts will mean less protection for the City of Alexandria and will also impact deputies' families. Please do not cut our budget!</p>
Friday, April 3, 2026	<p>In regard to the Alexandria Sheriff's Office, the claims driving these budget cuts are inaccurate. Our actions are mandated by law, especially in felony cases. We work under pressure every day to ensure safety and protect our community.</p>
Friday, April 3, 2026	<p>Budget concerns are being driven by false narratives about the Alexandria Sheriff's Office. Deputies act within the law, completing required status verifications in felony cases. After losing the community engagement unit, further cuts will leave Alexandria with fewer deputies to protect the community.</p>
Friday, April 3, 2026	<p>Alexandria Sheriff's Office Budget Cuts</p> <p>WAKE UP!</p> <p>With less deputies, it wouldn't just be "less safe" it would fundamentally weaken how the entire system functions. Deputies are the people who maintain order inside detention facilities, supervise individuals charged with serious offenses, and ensure they appear in court. Without that structure, there's a real risk of uncontrolled environments, increased violence, and failures in accountability. Facilities rely on trained deputies to manage conflicts, respond to emergencies, and prevent harm to both staff and those in custody. Beyond the facility, the impact extends directly to the community. Deputies play a key role in processing individuals charged with felony offenses, following legally required procedures, and coordinating within the justice system. Without that, there's a higher likelihood of breakdowns in communication, delayed processing, or even the release of individuals who should still be in custody, which can put the public at risk.</p> <p>There's also a major public safety ripple effect. When staffing is reduced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Response times to incidents inside facilities slow down •Tensions and safety risks increase for everyone involved •Oversight and supervision become stretched thin •Critical programs—like community engagement—get cut, reducing trust and prevention efforts <p>And importantly, deputies don't just provide security they provide stability and care. They handle medical needs, mental health crises, and day-to-day safety. Without them, those responsibilities don't disappear they go unmet.</p> <p>So the issue isn't hypothetical. Fewer deputies means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Less control •Less accountability •Slower response •Greater risk to both the public and those in custody <p>In short, deputies are a core part of keeping both the facility and the broader community safe. Removing or reducing them creates gaps that can quickly turn into serious safety problems.</p>

Date Received	Comment
Friday, April 3, 2026	<p>The current discussion surrounding budget cuts and the potential dismantling of the Alexandria Sheriff's Office raises serious concerns about public safety, fiscal responsibility, and the overall stability of the criminal justice system. This issue extends far beyond funding it directly impacts the safety of the community, the effectiveness of law enforcement, and the well-being of the deputies and their families who serve our City of Alexandria.</p> <p>Law enforcement agencies are already facing significant staffing shortages, and local police departments are stretched thin responding to daily calls for service. Deputies play a critical role in supporting these efforts. In addition to their primary responsibilities within detention facilities, deputies regularly assist police in the community, helping manage incidents, maintain order, and ensure timely responses. Without this support, the burden on already understaffed police officers would increase, leading to slower response times, reduced coverage, and a greater risk to public safety.</p> <p>Inside detention facilities, deputies are essential to maintaining control, preventing violence, and ensuring that individuals charged with serious offenses are securely housed and properly processed. Their responsibilities include managing high-risk situations, responding to medical and mental health crises, and ensuring compliance with legal requirements. Removing or reducing this workforce would create immediate safety concerns, both inside facilities and in the community, as gaps in supervision and coordination begin to emerge.</p> <p>The potential dismantling of the Sheriff's Office would also create significant financial consequences. While it may appear to reduce costs upfront, the reality is far more complex. The City of Alexandria would still be responsible for housing inmates, many of whom are currently held under federal agreements. Transferring these individuals to other jurisdictions would require the city to pay daily housing fees, transportation costs, and additional administrative expenses. At the same time, the city would likely lose federal revenue associated with housing those inmates. These combined factors could result in millions of dollars in new annual costs, placing a greater financial burden on the city rather than reducing it.</p> <p>Transportation alone presents a major logistical and financial challenge. Inmates would need to be moved regularly for court appearances, medical appointments, and other legal obligations. This requires personnel, vehicles, and coordination, all of which add ongoing costs and increase the risk of delays or incidents. Housing inmates outside the city would also disrupt court proceedings, potentially leading to delays in justice and additional strain on the legal system.</p> <p>Additionally, the Sheriff's Office has already experienced reductions, including being unable to fully staff the community engagement unit. This unit plays an important role in building relationships, supporting prevention efforts, and strengthening trust between law enforcement and the public. Further cuts would only deepen that gap, leaving fewer resources available to maintain safety and prevent crime before it occurs.</p> <p>Beyond operations and costs, these decisions have a human impact. Deputies and their families would be directly affected by job losses, increased workloads, and reduced resources. These are individuals who work in high-risk environments, often under stressful and unpredictable conditions, while maintaining professionalism and compassion. Their contributions extend beyond enforcement; they provide stability, care, and support to individuals during some of the most difficult moments of their lives.</p>
Thursday, April 2, 2026	<p>I have been a resident of the City of Alexandria since 2008, and an employee of the Sheriff's Office (administration section) for three years. Prior to working in the office, I was unaware of many of the valuable services to the community, the inmate population, and the courthouse that are provided by the staff working at the Sheriff's Office. I am proud of the work that they do, and I support funding for continued operations.</p>
Thursday, April 2, 2026	<p>These are difficult economic times for all of us. In particular for us retirees. Please look into making the city government more efficient and find out where costs can be reduced. We can't afford a tax hike every year. Let's all do our part.</p> <p>The Dash bus free rides are very useful. Consider putting a 'Donation s Welcome' box to assist in keeping this program going.</p> <p>Thank you for your hard work!</p>
Thursday, April 2, 2026	<p>When I took this job, I understood the pay wasn't going to make me rich. I accepted that trade-off because the work is meaningful and the benefits provide some security for my family. Cutting our budget changes that calculation in ways that will drive people out of this agency. Please vote for full funding.</p>
Wednesday, April 1, 2026	<p>I am a concerned citizen who is asking a simple question: why would we cut the budget of one of the most professionally recognized law enforcement agencies in the country? The answer I keep hearing is politics. That is not a good enough reason. Please fund the Sheriff's Office on its operational merits.</p>
Wednesday, April 1, 2026	<p>As someone who has worked in corrections in other jurisdictions, I can tell you that what Alexandria has built is exceptional. The programs, the accreditation, the community relationships — these don't happen by accident and they don't survive budget cuts. Please fund the Sheriff's Office fully.</p>
Wednesday, April 1, 2026	<p>I've followed the budget discussions this year and I want to be direct with the Council: the Alexandria Sheriff's Office has earned full funding through years of professional achievement, community service, and operational excellence. Whatever political context surrounds this budget discussion, please fund the agency on its merits.</p>
Wednesday, April 1, 2026	<p>I write as someone who cares deeply about both public safety and social justice. I believe those values are not in conflict at the Alexandria Sheriff's Office. Under Sheriff Casey, the agency has pursued both professional excellence and humane treatment of people in custody. That combination is worth funding and protecting.</p>
Wednesday, April 1, 2026	<p>I want to be honest with the Council about what it feels like to work at the Alexandria Sheriff's Office right now. We are proud of what we have built here. We have earned national recognition, federal certifications, and the trust of this community. And yet every week there is another news story suggesting our budget might be cut because of a political disagreement that has nothing to do with how we do our jobs. That is demoralizing. Please vote for full funding.</p>
Wednesday, April 1, 2026	<p>I am writing this comment on my own time, on behalf of myself and the colleagues who are too worried about retaliation to speak publicly. We are good people doing hard work for this community. We are scared. We are watching colleagues leave and wondering if we should too. We need the Council to stand up for us the way we stand up for Alexandria every single day. Please vote to fully fund the Alexandria Sheriff's Office. We are counting on you.</p>
Wednesday, April 1, 2026	<p>The Sheriff's Office has worked hard to build a diverse, talented workforce that reflects our community. That workforce will erode quickly if we cannot offer stability and competitive compensation. Budget cuts undermine both. Please vote for full funding.</p>
Wednesday, April 1, 2026	<p>As a resident and as a citizen of Alexandria, I am here to express my strong support for the Alexandria Sheriff's Office.</p> <p>The Sheriff's Office plays a vital role in public safety through jail operations, court security, and essential services that protect staff, residents, and visitors every day. These responsibilities require appropriate staffing and resources to be carried out safely and professionally.</p> <p>I urge City Council to support a budget that reflects the real operational needs of the Sheriff's Office, rather than politically motivated reductions. Fully funding this agency is an investment in safety, accountability, and our community as a whole.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>
Wednesday, April 1, 2026	<p>Cut the ICE budget!!! Police should not be working with ICE unless it's to protect people from ICE. I don't care about undocumented people; they have the right to be here. Use the police budget to actually make our community safer. Cut sheriff Casey's budget for ICE!</p>

Date Received	Comment
Wednesday, April 1, 2026	<p>As a deputy with the Alexandria Sheriff's Office since 2016, and as an Afghan American, I feel compelled to speak up about the proposed budget cuts.</p> <p>This is not just about funding—it's about public safety, legal responsibility, and the reality of the work we do every day.</p> <p>There seems to be a narrative that we are choosing to work with federal immigration authorities or acting outside our role. That is simply not true. We are not making independent decisions to collaborate—what we do is mandated by law. When individuals are committed on felony charges, we are required to follow specific procedures, including verifying citizenship status and submitting the appropriate federal queries when applicable. This is not discretionary. It is not optional. It is part of our legal obligation as law enforcement professionals.</p> <p>It isn't about what we want to do or adding extra work to our plates—we already face intense responsibilities and risks every single day. We manage mental health crises, monitor individuals going through withdrawal, prevent violence, and ensure the safety of everyone in our custody. At the same time, we provide access to food, hygiene, medical care, and opportunities like education and job training. We put our lives on the line daily, and our focus is on fulfilling our duties safely and professionally.</p> <p>Cutting our budget will not reduce the number of people in our care or the legal responsibilities we are mandated to meet. It will only make an already challenging and high-risk job even more dangerous for both staff and those in our custody.</p> <p>All I ask is that decisions like this be made based on facts and a full understanding of what we do—not on misconceptions.</p> <p>We are here to serve this community, and we take that responsibility seriously.</p>
Wednesday, April 1, 2026	<p>As a deputy who has served for 8 years with the Sheriff's Office, I find it heartbreaking that the City Council and some citizens of Alexandria have taken a stance against us. I personally do not agree with the way ICE has chosen to implement immigration laws, and that agency needs to be held accountable. What I do not understand is why the citizens of this City have an issue with a law enforcement agency following the law. That is what we took an oath to do.</p> <p>Anyone who has taken a civics class should be well aware of the three branches of government. As law enforcement officers, we serve under the executive, meaning we must do whatever the law commands, regardless of our personal feelings. Sheriff Casey has explained this multiple times at public meetings with the City Council and residents, yet this agency is still being penalized.</p> <p>If you do not agree with the law, become aware of the avenues for changing it. We simply ask that the Sheriff's Office not be penalized for following the law through budget cuts.</p>
Wednesday, April 1, 2026	<p>The Sheriff's Office has been underfunded my entire career. And yet, we show up on National Night Out, and we show up at Community Cookouts and events throughout the City. If you want us to check on your home while you are away, we'll do it, just call and ask. We even offer a Community Academy twice a year, so anyone who would like to see what we do can. We do all of this not for the photo ops or to shake hands and hug kids, but because we genuinely care for the City we serve and want you to be aware of what we do.</p> <p>On a daily basis, we offer those in our custody (some of whom are your loved ones) mental health care, medical care, programs, and recreation. They can contact their families via our phone and inmate tablet systems. We have counselors on staff to assist them in contacting their attorney or notarizing a document they may need for court. For those experiencing financial hardship, our counselors provide hygiene items so they do not have to go without. We ensure that the ADC is operated in accordance with the standards set by DOC, ACA, and CALEA. Not many facilities in the Commonwealth can say that, and yet we can.</p> <p>We have a fantastic group of volunteers who take their time to offer those in custody religious programs, Alcoholics Anonymous, the Flaggers Program (once completed, individuals are certified to be flaggers at construction sites), and other special programs such as Black History Month, Job fairs, and the like. We recently held a class for our female inmates, where they learned to braid hair. Students from Georgetown University volunteer their time to teach a class. And this is IN ADDITION to our GED and ESL class. There are the Thinking 4 Change and the OAR programs, both geared towards those in custody who are soon to be released.</p> <p>Outside of our volunteers, it takes funding to make all these things happen. Cutting the Sheriff's Office budget undermines the programs we provide to those in custody.</p>
Wednesday, April 1, 2026	<p>Where is your compassion for the nearly 300 people housed in the detention center? Why are you proposing cuts to religious services, reentry and life skills programs, education and vocational training, behavioral and substance abuse programs, and parenting and family support programs all of which are thriving at the detention center. Fully fund the Alexandria Sheriff's Office so they can continue helping and protecting people.</p>
Tuesday, March 31, 2026	<p>As a City resident, I am deeply concerned about the City Council's consideration of reducing the Sheriff's Office (SO) budget simply because the SO complies with current laws and procedures regarding how they work with the ICE in handle the processing of inmates without legal immigration status.</p> <p>All City departments, especially law enforcement, must carry out their lawful duties impartially and without political influence, so that residents can rely on fair treatment for all citizens and consistent enforcement of all laws — not selective enforcement. The City Council must not penalize the Sheriff's Office by cutting its budget based on the personal opinions of certain Council members. While those members are entitled to their personal views, those views have no place in the conduct of City business.</p> <p>I strongly oppose decreasing the SO's budget.</p>
Tuesday, March 31, 2026	<p>Please fully fund the Alexandria Sheriff's Office so they can continue all the great programs that assist our local inmates to have the best outcomes once released back to our community.</p>
Tuesday, March 31, 2026	<p>Good afternoon,</p> <p>I am a resident of Alexandria, and I am here to speak about the Sheriff's budget.</p> <p>While the Sheriff's Office may show up at community events, we cannot ignore the real harm caused by its voluntary collaboration with ICE. This decision has created fear and distrust among many immigrant families who call Alexandria home.</p> <p>People in our community are now afraid to attend events, seek services, or interact with local institutions. That is not what safety looks like.</p> <p>A truly safe city is one where everyone feels protected, not targeted.</p> <p>For this reason, I urge the City to cut the Sheriff's budget. Public funds should not support practices that harm our community and break trust with residents.</p> <p>Instead, the City should invest in programs that actually strengthen safety, stability, and inclusion for all people in Alexandria.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>

Date Received	Comment
Tuesday, March 31, 2026	<p>Good evening,</p> <p>Immigrants are essential to our community. They do the jobs that many others are not willing to do, and they help keep our city running every day.</p> <p>But the Sheriff's voluntary collaboration with ICE is creating fear among these same communities.</p> <p>For that reason, I urge the City to cut the Sheriff's budget and invest instead in programs that truly support and protect our residents.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Tuesday, March 31, 2026	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I just want to say that immigrants are a big part of this community. They do a lot of the work that keeps this city running—jobs that not everyone is willing to do.</p> <p>But at the same time, the Sheriff's voluntary collaboration with ICE is creating a lot of fear. People are scared to go to events, to ask for help, or just to be part of the community.</p> <p>That's not what safety should feel like.</p> <p>Because of that, I'm asking the City to cut the Sheriff's budget and invest in things that actually support our community.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Tuesday, March 31, 2026	<p>Good Afternoon,</p> <p>As a young person in Alexandria, it's scary knowing that our Sheriff is choosing to collaborate with ICE. Every time my parents go out, or even when I see a Sheriff's car, I think about that, and I feel scared, I worry for my family and for my community. No young person should have to feel that way just because of the people who are supposed to keep us safe. Immigrants are a big part of this community. They work hard and help keep this city running. But instead of making people feel safe, these actions are creating fear. That's why I'm asking you to cut the Sheriff's budget and invest in things that actually support and protect our community.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Tuesday, March 31, 2026	<p>Good evening,</p> <p>I understand teachers deserve higher pay, but we also need to think about working-class families who are struggling to stay in Alexandria. Their incomes are much lower than teachers' salaries, and without them, our schools lose students, and teachers lose stability in their jobs.</p> <p>If we want a strong, thriving community, we need to support families first. Keeping families in the city benefits everyone, including our teachers.</p> <p>I ask city officials to add more funding for housing programs.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Tuesday, March 31, 2026	<p>We don't want our taxes subsidized for ICE collaboration. My child is afraid at school and for her peers and is in 4th grade! Having to teach her about ICE and what to be aware of has been traumatizing</p>
Tuesday, March 31, 2026	<p>Do not allocate budget towards ICE initiatives</p>
Monday, March 30, 2026	<p>Your choices are too presumptive</p> <p>Missing is the recognition that your audience are property tax payers</p> <p>None of your questions ask if this clientele believes the city's proposed budget is too costly and, if so, what could be reduced or eliminated.</p> <p>Your questions overall reflect wealth-taking not wealth-making</p>
Monday, March 30, 2026	<p>Fully fund the Sheriff's office. I hate ICE but Casey is following the law.</p>

Date Received	Comment
Monday, March 30, 2026	<p>Revenues</p> <p>Set short term rental rates as high as state law permits</p> <p>Increase trash and recycling fees for residents and businesses</p> <p>Set Dash bus fares at \$1</p> <p>Impose and/or Increase taxes on taxi and Uber/Lyft trips if permitted by state law.</p> <p>Increase hourly parking fees by \$.50 per hour.</p> <p>Increase property taxes an addition 1% over proposed rate.</p> <p>Savings: Don't chase bad money with good</p> <p>Settle lawsuit with CLA and rescind zoning and parking ordinances at issue</p> <p>Discontinue any work on Zoning phase 2.</p> <p>Stop work on Duke St Corridor project</p> <p>Reject proposal to eliminate parking on Braddock Rd between Mt Vernon and Russell Roads.</p> <p>Spend more</p> <p>Increase services to immigrant population</p>
Monday, March 30, 2026	I demand the Council to cut Sheriff Sean Casey's budget until he ends his voluntary collaboration with ICE. I do NOT want my tax dollars subsidizing ICE collaboration. I want ICE off our streets and out of our community.
Sunday, March 29, 2026	I don't want my tax dollars subsidizing ICE collaboration. Cut Sheriff Sean Casey's budget until he ends all voluntary collaboration with ICE. ICE does not keep communities safe. ICE threatens safety and pushes racist ideologies about Latinos and all people of color.
Sunday, March 29, 2026	We are not in favor of any budget cuts for the Sheriff's Department. These funds are essential to continue the good work for the programs that are currently in place in the corrections department and other areas and programs.
Sunday, March 29, 2026	<p>Good morning ,</p> <p>There's a lot of talk of not supporting ICE among the Alexandria City council. I appreciate that . However more needs to be done besides just talk . Residents such as me demand that the Council cut Sheriff Sean Casey's budget until he ends his voluntary collaboration with ICE: I do NOT want my tax dollars to be supporting collaboration with ICE and imprisoning and torturing my neighbors . Enough with the talk . Respectfully : Do something .</p> <p>Thanks very much ,</p> <p>Cristin Reeder</p>
Sunday, March 29, 2026	<p>I am appalled,confused, and stunned to hear that you are considering making reductions in the budget of our Sheriff's Office as capitulation to pressure from an activist organization. I have been following the communications that you have had regarding the opinions of ICE OUT of ALX and your consideration of acting on their demand to reduce the Sheriff's budget. I am stunned that you would succumb to such tactics especially in light of the excellence that the Sheriff's office has been recognized for on a national level by the National Sheriff's Assn. Please take the time to read Sheriff Casey's detailed explanation of his policies and how he is indeed following well documented legal obligations. His policies prevent the disastrous outcome experienced in Fairfax county when an undocumented felon who had committed a violent crime was released and committed a crime that resulted in loss of life. Please refrain from being unduly influenced by any organization seeking punitive budgetary action and continue to fund Sheriff Casey's efforts on behalf of our city and it's residents in full as his needs dictate.</p> <p>I advocate strongly against any action of our City Council, no matter what the issue, being unduly influenced by outside activist organizations. I depend on you working on my behalf and on behalf all the residents of our city to make well-reasoned budgetary decisions based on facts and not innuendo. Sheriff Casey has detailed his rationale and the legal support for it on the City's Sheriff's Office website. PLEASE READ HIS STATEMENTS and ACT to fully fund his excellent efforts on behalf of our city!</p>
Sunday, March 29, 2026	I register my opposition to proposed cuts in the budget for the Sheriff's Office. I believe the Sheriff and his staff are complying with the legal requirements regarding interaction with ICE and its operations. It is shortsighted to reduce the Sheriff's Office budget related to this activity, especially when that office is recognized nationally and in our state by its reception of the National Sheriffs' Association "Triple Crown Award".
Sunday, March 29, 2026	Ice out
Saturday, March 28, 2026	<p>Please do NOT cut the Sheriff's budget. Care for our courthouse and jail is very important.</p> <p>Political attacks are not appropriate for budget cuts.</p> <p>Our Sheriff's Office has a wonderful reputation and has received honors for how well run it is. We cannot expect outstanding services from the Sheriff if he doesn't have the funding to run well and support the inmates.</p> <p>We should be very proud of the reputation the Alexandria Sheriff's Office has attained and funding his budget is the only way to maintain that.</p> <p>The Sheriff's office is the recipient of the National Sheriffs' Association "Triple Crown Award", recognizing accreditation in law enforcement, corrections, and correctional health care. We are only one of two Sheriffs Offices in Virginia to achieve this award and only 51 Sheriff's Offices in the entire country have ever received it.</p> <p>Please support our Sheriff and fund his budget!!!</p>
Saturday, March 28, 2026	Cut Sheriff Casey's budget until he ends his voluntary collaboration with ICE.
Saturday, March 28, 2026	Cut Sheriff Casey's budget until he ends his voluntary collaboration with ICE.

Date Received	Comment
Saturday, March 28, 2026	<p>Hi there,</p> <p>I'm commenting in opposition of the sheriff's office receiving more funding. The city council should demonstrate leadership by slashing Casey's budget and using the funds for something good, like social housing or public transit. There's no future for immigrants in Alexandria if we let Casey's actions slide, and I personally rely on immigrant labor to clean my house and eat my food. In fact, immigrants mow and landscape my yard. Immigrants carry my trash and drive my Uber. Immigrants fix my roads, receive my phone calls, and clean my public toilets! I do not benefit in the slightest from ICE collaboration, and I'm in contempt of the very thought these state kidnappings are for me. The Alexandria City Council has the chance to give people like me hope; to show us we have authority on how our taxes are spent. I have no sympathy for Casey's willingness to work with lawless feds, and I doubt he'd like it if Trump's thugs targeted him. Please, put yourselves in our position. Stand for what's right. Cut his gosh darn funding!</p> <p>MW</p>
Saturday, March 28, 2026	ICE out of Alexandria, VA NOW! My tax dollars need to help people, not terrorize or kidnap.
Saturday, March 28, 2026	Please cut the sheriffs budget still he stops voluntary cooperation with ICE. So called law enforcement should never be engaging with lawless thugs who are abducting people. Sheriff Casey has a choice to work with ICE and he is choosing to put his community in danger by cooperating with them. Withhold funds from his work until he agrees to stop.
Saturday, March 28, 2026	<p>ICE OUT OF ALEXANDRIA!</p> <p>Council must cut Sheriff Sean Casey's budget until he ends his voluntary collaboration with ICE.</p> <p>I do not want my tax dollars to subsidize ICE collaboration!</p> <p>ICE needs to be off our streets, out of our community, and out of everywhere. This is Alexandria City Council's chance to take a stand in a meaningful way.</p> <p>Please show up. A budget for a place shows your priorities— take a stand against voluntary collaboration with ICE now.</p>
Saturday, March 28, 2026	Hello, I love my city and I love its people. I don't want them to be terrorized by ICE, a poorly trained force that has caused chaos and committed crimes against the people of so many other cities. We can't let that happen to Alexandria! Please cut Sheriff Casey's budget until he ends his voluntary collaboration with ICE. I don't want my tax dollars to subsidize ICE collaboration when our city has so many other beautiful programs that truly help its people, like our DASH buses!
Saturday, March 28, 2026	I don't want my tax dollars to subsidize ICE collaboration. I'm asking the council to cut Sheriff Sean Casey's budget until he ends all voluntary collaboration with ICE.
Saturday, March 28, 2026	Sheriff Casey, I live just over the line in Fairfax county. I am a frequent visitor and shopper in Old Town. I can certainly stop shopping in Old Town. I am asking that you stop your voluntary collaboration with ICE.
Saturday, March 28, 2026	<p>The City Budget should be a reflection of our ethical, moral and political priorities. In this moment, the Trump regime is racially profiling and illegally arresting and deporting many immigrants. Sadly, Sheriff Casey has continued to voluntarily cooperate with ICE in order to facilitate the deportation of immigrants. Reducing the Sheriff's budget is perhaps the only way that City Council can concretely pressure the Sheriff to cease his voluntary cooperation with ICE. That is real solidarity and leadership and it is urgently needed here and now.</p> <p>These cuts are relatively small but savings should be shifted to support those most negatively impacted by the ICE wave of terror. Working class immigrants face ongoing urgent needs for deeply affordable housing and emergency services.</p>
Saturday, March 28, 2026	<p>I urge you to ensure that no city funds support voluntary collaboration with ICE. These practices undermine community trust and make residents less likely to report crimes or engage with local services.</p> <p>Please reduce Sheriff Sean Casey's budget unless and until all voluntary ICE collaboration ends. Budget decisions are a direct reflection of the City's priorities.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
Saturday, March 28, 2026	<p>I urge you to ensure that no city funds support voluntary collaboration with ICE. These practices undermine community trust and make residents less likely to report crimes or engage with local services.</p> <p>Please reduce Sheriff Sean Casey's budget unless and until all voluntary ICE collaboration ends. Budget decisions are a direct reflection of the City's priorities.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
Saturday, March 28, 2026	Cut Sheriff Casey's budget. No funds for ice collaboration.
Saturday, March 28, 2026	<p>Dear Members of the Alexandria City Council,</p> <p>I am writing to express my support for Sean Casey and the dedicated team at the Alexandria Sheriff's Office.</p> <p>I have had the personal pleasure of knowing Sean through my work—I've even had the opportunity to cut his hair—and I can truly say he is a kind, respectful, and genuine person who cares deeply about the community he serves. That same care and integrity is reflected in the work of his office.</p> <p>The Sheriff's Office plays an important role in maintaining safety, order, and trust within our city. Their commitment does not go unnoticed, and their presence makes a meaningful difference in the lives of many.</p> <p>I respectfully ask that you consider the impact of cutting their budget and continue to support the vital work they do for our community.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration. Rubie Williams</p>
Saturday, March 28, 2026	I'm writing to demand that the Council cut Sheriff Sean Casey's budget until he ends his voluntary collaboration with ICE. I do not want my tax dollars to subsidize ICE kidnappings.
Saturday, March 28, 2026	<p>To the Council:</p> <p>You should cut Sheriff Sean Casey's budget until he ends his voluntary collaboration with ICE. I don't want my tax dollars to subsidize ICE collaboration!</p> <p>Becca Kallem, Rose Hill</p>

Date Received	Comment
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>I am a volunteer with Concerned Citizens of Alexandria (CCNA). Being a volunteer has given me the opportunity to attend community events and to meet individuals who are or not members of the community. No matter what the event mental health meetings, school programs, free eye clinics, holiday giveaways, or cookouts, Sheriff Casey and the Alexandria Sheriff's Office were in attendance to show support. I first met Sheriff Casey at Minnie Howard High School where CCNA had planned and scheduled a number of talks for the students on various issues. Sheriff Casey talked about discernment. Noted that as students we want to make the right decision. But we are met with uncertainties as to what is the right decision. We need to ask for advice. And recalled when he was in college and was uncertain in what direction to go. He wanted to change his course and to go into law enforcement. He first sought advice not only from family members but also friends. At every event Sheriff Casey and his office greeted all of us. This made me a witness to their commitment to the community and their respect for we the people. Their appearances earned high respect from all of us. And they in turn showed the same to each and every one of us. And this gave all of us a feeling of a community that is safe to live in. I applaud the commitment and the trust the sheriff and his office built with the community they serve. Please don't cut the budget.</p> <p>Cynthia Cortese, CCNA volunteer</p>
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>I live in the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and have for over 70 years. I went to ACPs schools. After graduating from college, I returned to teach here for 36 years.. I support the sheriff's department. Please, DO NOT cut the departments budget. The work and programs they support are vital to our city!</p>
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>I am writing in support of fully funding the Alexandria Sheriff's Office in the FY 2027 budget. As a taxpayer, public safety is my top priority. The sheriff's office protects our courthouse, transports prisoners, and runs rehabilitation programs that reduce recidivism, saving us money in the long run. A 0.7% budget increase doesn't even keep pace with inflation. Our deputies deserve better, and our community deserves a fully staffed, fully funded sheriff's office.</p>
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>The Alexandria Sheriff's Office is the most diverse public safety agency in the city, with a majority-minority staff that reflects the community it serves. You cannot advance equity by defunding the most diverse agency in Alexandria. Protect these jobs. Fund the sheriff's office.</p>
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>If council is serious about equity, fully funding the sheriff's office should be an easy decision. It's the most diverse agency in the city. Its programs serve the most vulnerable residents. Its staff comes from the communities it protects. Fund it.</p>
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>I'm concerned that proposed cuts to the sheriff's office budget are politically motivated rather than fiscally responsible. The sheriff is a constitutional officer who follows Virginia law. Using the budget as political leverage against an elected official sets a dangerous precedent. Fund the sheriff's office on its merits.</p>
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>I attend City Council meetings and I've watched how the sheriff's budget has been discussed this year. I'm troubled by the tone. These are real people with real jobs serving our community. They deserve respectful consideration and full funding.</p>
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>How do you find it acceptable to release violent offenders into the community and threaten the Sheriff through the budget process to violate his constitutional oath by doing so? Keep in mind that those released from the detention center are only blocks away from King St, a critical contributor to tourism dollars for the City. Why will anyone visit Alexandria when the incidents (violent crimes) similar to what is occurring in neighboring jurisdictions happen here? Releasing violent offenders distinctly changes dangerous outcomes to a "when it occurs" scenario and away from "what if it occurs" scenarios. Please don't exchange short term political gains for the reduced safety and security of the residents of Alexandria. Fully fund the Alexandria Sheriff's Office.</p>
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>I am writing requesting that you fully fund the Alexandria Sheriff's Office. Proposing to cut the budget by 4 million dollars or by any amount would truly hurt the very same inmates (Alexandria residents) you are trying to protect. Cutting the Sheriff's Office budget means that programs to benefit the inmates would be eliminated as well as potential jobs. The Sheriff is just following the law and to be punished for following the law is absurd. The Sheriff's Office has a federal contract and cutting the budget would potentially affect the contract. The federal contract brings in 7.4 million dollars a year so to lose that contract would really hurt Alexandria. The Sheriff does not work with or collaborate with ICE. He is literally just following the law, which ultimately makes this beautiful city safer. I respectfully request you, city council members, to reconsider the retaliatory budget cuts over political beliefs and pressure from a very small group of Alexandria residents. The Sheriff's Office does a great job every day and to punish any of their hard workers is ludicrous.</p>
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>I am a city employee and I love working here. I'm very disappointed to see that Sheriff Casey is WILLINGLY collaborating with ICE and refusing to address public concerns about this. What he is doing is voluntary and would ask you to cut his budget.</p>
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>Greetings,</p> <p>I want to reach out because I'm concerned what ICE could do to me and my fellow Latines and I tried very nicely to talk to Sheriff Casey who says nothing but 'I just follow the law' when in reality, he follows a murderous cult group that consists of people like Jonathan Ross. Unacceptable for anyone especially a fellow Democrat to do. How come Arlington and Fairfax sheriffs know better?</p> <p>So I ask that you please cut our sheriff's budget until he *actually* follows the law and arrests those rowdy ICE agents like he promised. Or at least said that if they break the law they must be held accountable (which they break every day by the way). Don't believe me? ICE Out has it on video.</p> <p>Have a nice day.</p>
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>As long as Sheriff Casey voluntarily collaborates with ICE, he is putting Alexandria citizens in harm's way. Please cut his budget until he ends all voluntary collaboration with ICE.</p>
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>I live in the City of Alexandria. I support the sheriff and his staff. Please fully support their budget.</p>
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>Regarding funding for Sheriff Casey's department, I don't approve of spending our money to support his voluntary cooperation with DHS/ICE. My understanding is that Arlington and Fairfax County do NOT feel legally obligated to honor administrative detainers.</p>
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>I am an Alexandria resident and have lived here for the past ~5years (been in Virginia most of my life). Please - I am begging you to NOT use my tax dollars to subsidize ICE collaboration. Please cut this completely from the budget. We are so angry at the cruelty of this administration and Sheriff Casey's decision to work with ICE. These are OUR neighbors and people are illegally being discriminated against with these thugs. We want this to stop immediately - I implore you. We want ICE off our streets, neighborhoods, and to stop terrorizing innocent people and our community.</p>
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>My tax dollars should be going to free school lunch, not ICE and further brutalization of families and people!</p>
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>City council members:</p> <p>The budget of the Sheriff's Office needs to be tied to represent the values of Alexandria City. Sheriff Casey has to stop his constituents like idiots with his arrogance of hiding behind his own interpretation of the law. He has to stop his collaboration with ICE. The citizens of this city and the Governor of the state have been clear about NOT collaborating with ICE.</p>
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>No more dollars should go to the Alexandria Sheriffs until they end their collaboration with ICE.</p>

Date Received	Comment
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>Greetings!</p> <p>As a Christian and a long-time resident of Alexandria, I would like to express my outrage that the Sheriff Department continues to assist and cooperate with ICE. Immigrants are one of the things that makes us such a great community, and Jesus preached that we should welcome the stranger.</p> <p>I urge the City Council to stop allowing my tax dollars to be used to fund cooperation with ICE, by cutting the Sheriff Department budget until such cooperation ends.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention yo this important matter.</p>
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>I do not support my tax dollars supporting collaboration with ICE. I believe budget cuts should be made to Sherriff Sean Casey's budget until he ends his collaboration with ICE, as this is ruining lives and harming the community. Money from the sheriff's budget should be allocated to the Alexandria Public Schools budget.</p>
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>Please use all the tools at the Council's disposal, including the budget, to limit any and all activities that support ICE's efforts to detain "immigrants." Sheriff Sean Casey has continued to voluntarily collaborate with DHS, so please cut his budget until this stops.</p>
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>Please defund Sheriff Casey's budget until he agrees to stop coordinating with ICE. This is a horrible look for our community and is not what Alexandrians want or what they stand for. Despite where we come from, we are ALL Alexandrians now and no one who works, lives, or goes to school within our cities boundaries should live in fear. Please do not fund his budget until he stops cooperating with ICE.</p> <p>Thank you, Megan</p>
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>It is horrifying and unacceptable that our Sheriff's department is voluntarily collaborating with ICE. Please back up your statement from November of last year, that council wants the Sheriff to stop this collaboration, with actions.</p> <p>Cut the Sheriff's budget and let him know that Alexandria stands with our immigrant neighbors, and we will not tolerate ICE in our city.</p>
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>I have lived most of my life in Alexandria. Way back in the 1990s I staffed the Angels summer camp for at-risk girls with members of the police and sheriff's department and had the privilege of spending time with many law enforcement officers from our city. I am certainly not an enemy of law enforcement. But the sheriff's policy of collaborating with ICE does not build ties with our community. It does not make our community safer. ICE is a rogue agency that routinely violates constitutional rights. I urge the council to cut Sheriff Casey's budget until he stops collaborating with ICE.</p>
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>We urge to Cut Casey's budget, No more ICE collaboration !!</p>
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>I'm writing to urge you to restrict Sheriff Casey's budget until his office ceases to voluntarily cooperate with ICE. We can use this money to strengthen our community, not tear it apart</p>
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>Yo e vivido en arlandria por mas de 35 anos , y no estoy de acuerdo que ningun lider electo deberia colaborar con ICE voluntariamente. Porfavor prioritzar fondos en vivienda - y no en esta colaboracion entre el aguacil y la migra , gracias .</p> <p>I have lived in Arlandria for more than 35 years, and I do not agree that any elected leader should voluntarily collaborate with ICE. Please prioritize funding for housing — and not for this collaboration between the sheriff and immigration authorities. Thank you.</p>
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>We've all seen the horrific videos of violent ICE abductions, of their terror and of their executions. Imagine how much worse things get when there are no residents to witness and film their crimes.</p> <p>There are no videos from inside the cars that drive those abducted community members away.</p> <p>We had no video of them abandoning Nurul Amin Shah Alam a disabled and disoriented man in the buffalo Ny winter leaving him to die on the street like a stray dog. No videos in the centers where survivors recount worms in the food, sexual assault, medical neglect...</p> <p>2025 was the deadliest year to be in ICE detention in two decades. 2026 is off to a horrifying start.</p> <p>A 45 year old Ethiopian man died in ICE custody this year from a preventable HIV related death. Chaofeng Ge was found dead in a hogtie position supposedly having taken his own life. Emmanuel Damas died of an untreated toothache. The autopsy of Gerarldo Lunas Campos, shows he was murdered, asphyxiated to death, but the authorities are claiming he was violent and tried to take his own life. Luis Beltran Yanez-Cruz died of heart related issues. His family says he had felt ill for weeks but was only given aspirin. I could go on.</p> <p>I saw a newsweek article that says three people in 4 days have died in ICE detention.</p> <p>And yet, Sheriff Sean Casey continues to hand people in his custody over to this deadly agency. Are we ok with this? Are we saying, sorry, if you end up in an Alexandria jail, you might be sentenced to a slow and painful or possibly violent death. Are we ok with funding this medieval nightmare?</p> <p>The day she left her position, Kristi Noem herself explained that the federal govt is able to circumvent any kind of sanctuary policies in localities by "partnering with sheriffs." She said " We find a lot of progress working with sheriffs..."</p> <p>We already know that Casey is voluntarily collaborating with ICE. He told us himself. His policy is not a fluke. He and sheriffs across the country are a critical component in a US wide deportation machine.</p> <p>Cutting the sheriff's budget is your moral duty and you will have our support when you do it. The federal govt is not going to stop.</p> <p>As the most vulnerable in our community are being subjected to state violence and torn apart from their families, keep in mind: When we normalize this violence against our immigrant community members, against people transferred from jail, we bring ourselves closer to the same fate. A number of us because of our race, or background or political activism could be next.</p> <p>Please do the right thing. CUT CASEY'S BUDGET</p>
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>Please do the right thing and stop funding ICE! I do not want my tax dollars to be used for ICE collaboration. I demand that Sheriff Sean Casey's budget is CUT until he ends all voluntary collaboration with ICE. It is absolutely despicable that he is even collaborating with these kidnapers. We need to be spending out taxes on education, infrastructure, making housing more affordable, renewable energy, and taking care of our communities. Allowing an increase in Casey's budget, while knowing he is wilfully working with ICE would be abhorrent. ICE has already destroyed so many lives and separated families. I do not want my taxes to lead to more suffering. Please, do the moral and just thing, and cut his budget!</p>

Date Received	Comment
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>The budget for the Alexandria Sheriff's Department must be slashed immediately and remain so until Sheriff Casey ends his brazen and reprehensible collaboration with ICE. The city could instead be funding directing much-needed funding toward its public schools and libraries.</p> <p>Instead of continuing to reward the Sheriff for helping to keep the mass deportation machine running smoothly and our immigrant neighbors living in fear, Alexandria should redirect funds to meet the school board's requested budget increase (3.5% vs. the city manager's proposed 1.5%) to support teacher salaries and retention.</p> <p>We should furthermore be funding Rental Assistance Programs to help working-class families and immigrants afford rent and avoid displacement. This in addition to investment in the development of stable, low-cost housing for all Alexandria residents.</p> <p>Things will not change until those responsible for aiding and abetting ICE terror begin to face real consequences. There is a clear and present moral and ethical imperative for the council to do everything in their power to see that all collaboration with ICE ends as soon as possible. I sincerely ask that you take a stand and cut the Sheriff's budget in the coming fiscal year.</p>
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>Sheriff Casey's office is actively harming Alexandria's safety by voluntarily collaborating with ICE. Please consider reducing their budget as a clear message that their acting against the best interests of city residents is absolutely unacceptable.</p>
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>I believe that Sheriff Casey's budget should be cut because he has been collaborating with ICE and not keeping the community of Alexandria safe. If people act against the law and our community and are in leadership positions, there should be consequences for their actions. That is why I believe that Sheriff Casey's budget should be cut.</p>
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>I am writing as a private citizen who has been truly appalled in the last months about Sheriff Casey's conduct and his voluntary collaboration with ICE. As the Council has already expressed, Casey's actions are to be condemned.</p> <p>This voluntary collaboration is a conscious choice to cause harm to the very residents who he is meant to serve. It makes our neighbors of all citizenships unsafe. Cutting the Sheriff budget is not just a moral stand, but a true investment in the City's safety, by slowing the currently unfettered access that explicitly violent actors of ICE have to our residents and those who work, shop, and visit Alexandria. Allowing Casey to continue unimpeded puts the safety and economy - including the labor and tourism economy - at risk.</p> <p>The Council controls the purse, and continued inaction only sanctions violence here in our home.</p>
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>I am writing to urge the council and city staff to cut funding to the Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Casey is voluntarily working with ICE to help disappear our neighbors in the city, members of our community. I do not want city money going to an office that is helping ICE and federal agents abduct people. This is something council can, and should, act against at every opportunity to protect our neighbors.</p>
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>Please either restrict the Sheriff from using any appropriated funds to transfer prisoners to ICE, call ICE, or hold anyone long enough for ICE to get there, or cut his funding until Sheriff Casey voluntarily stops voluntarily collaborating with ICE! ICE has completely lost its legitimacy and Alexandria's budget should not pay for our local government to interface with them except when required by law.</p>
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>Good afternoon! I have two comments regarding areas where I'd appreciate our lawmakers providing further support - and one where I really do not feel comfortable seeing my local tax dollars going.</p> <p>These past few months, I have been using the pools at Chinnquepin and Minnie Howard, and checking out books regularly. I'd very much appreciate my tax dollars continuing to fund these institutions.</p> <p>On the other hand, I am very, very against continuing to fund our Sheriff; I am aware, from local news articles, that he is handing over residents of Alexandria to ICE. Although I understand (from reading some of the Sheriff's office's public responses) that they believe they're only complying to the extent they are legally required to, I have also heard from constituents and news articles that they are going beyond what they can/should be doing. I really do not feel comfortable supporting the Sheriff's office when they continue to act in this way. I would be very much in support of cutting their budget, due to the way that our Sheriff has been acting.</p>
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>Please support all of our neighbors in Alexandria living in fear and ensure our tax dollars go towards safety and not harassment. Please appropriate a level of funding to the sheriff's office that disallow them from voluntarily collaborating with ICE.</p>
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>I am writing to express my continued sadness and disapproval of Sheriff Casey's collaboration with ICE. I respectfully request that the Sheriff's office budget be constrained to only necessary duties until he stops this practice entirely. I do not approve of the use of the City Budget - supported by my tax contribution and that of many likeminded residents - to carry out practices that directly endanger and harm those who live in our city.</p> <p>With deep appreciation for the work you do.</p> <p>Ana Maria Kleyemeyer</p>
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>Dear Members of the Alexandria City Council,</p> <p>I am writing as a resident of Alexandria to express my deep concern about the current allocation of funds to the Sheriff's Office, particularly in light of its collaboration with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). I urge the Council to reconsider and reduce the Sheriff's budget in order to better align our city's spending with the values and needs of our community.</p> <p>Alexandria is a city that thrives because of its diversity. Our immigrant population is not only a vital part of our cultural fabric but also a cornerstone of our local economy. Many residents, including a large number of Afghan families who resettled here following the withdrawal of U.S. troops, contribute meaningfully to our neighborhoods as workers, business owners, and engaged community members. They are responsible, kind, and dedicated residents who deserve to feel safe in the place they now call home.</p> <p>However, cooperation between local law enforcement and ICE creates fear and distrust among immigrant communities. When residents are afraid that any interaction with local authorities could lead to detention or deportation, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or engage with public institutions. This undermines public safety for everyone and erodes the trust that is essential for a healthy, functioning city.</p> <p>Allocating taxpayer funds to support policies or practices that contribute to this climate of fear runs counter to Alexandria's values of inclusion and community well-being. By reducing the Sheriff's budget and reevaluating its priorities, the Council has an opportunity to invest instead in programs and services that strengthen trust, support immigrant families, and enhance public safety for all residents.</p> <p>I respectfully ask that you take these concerns seriously and act in the best interest of the entire Alexandria community.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely, Ken Kuchta</p>
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>I do not want a cent of my tax dollars to subsidize cooperation with ICE. I would like to see Sheriff Sean Casey's budget cut significantly until he ends his voluntary cooperation with ICE. Thank you for your time.</p>
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>No money for Casey's budget until he agrees to stop cooperating with ice!</p> <p>Harriet Hirsch</p>

Date Received	Comment
Friday, March 27, 2026	<p>City Council,</p> <p>If you truly do not support the Sheriff's collaboration with ICE, you need to show the residents by decreasing the budget that allows him to collaborate.</p> <p>We know the detention facilities are inhumane. No one should be treated with cruelty!</p>
Friday, March 27, 2026	I do not support my tax dollars being used to fund any collaboration with ICE
Friday, March 27, 2026	I do NOT want my tax dollars going towards assisting ICE. City Council should cut Sheriff Sean Casey's budget until he ends ALL voluntary collaboration with ICE. Please think about the safety of this community. There are better ways to make the constituents feel protected than giving more and more money to the police. Thank you.
Friday, March 27, 2026	I demand that Council cut Sheriff Sean Casey's budget until he ends his voluntary collaboration with ICE.
Friday, March 27, 2026	I ask that city Council please decrease Sheriff Casey's budget until he ceases to aid ICE in their arrests. I don't want my city tax dollars to subsidize Sheriff Casey's collaboration with this department of the federal government. Thank you.
Thursday, March 26, 2026	Please fully fund the Alexandria Sheriff's Office. The individuals detained there -- the majority who are persons of color -- deserve quality services to remain safe while in the jail and to subsequently return to our community healthy. In order to ensure such quality services are provided to detainees, the jail needs proper staffing levels. The City of Alexandria is fortunate to have a leader like Sheriff Casey because he values safety for inmates and staff. But he can only do so much without proper funding. I urge you to believe him when he tells you what budget is required to ensure a safe jail; please provide him that funding so he and his staff may do the hard work required in a detention facility. Thank you.
Thursday, March 26, 2026	<p>Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, and Members of Council,</p> <p>I am a member of Friends of Duncan Library, and I am writing to ask you to prioritize funding for Alexandria's libraries in the FY 2027 budget and maintain, at a minimum, the funding recommendation in the city manager's proposed budget.</p> <p>Our libraries serve 147,573 registered borrowers who last year borrowed over 1 million materials. At Duncan Library, the Friends group supported 650 programs last year that met the needs of Alexandrians from babies and infants all the way up through adults, including our popular infant story time and Dungeons and Dragons games for both teens and adults. These programs reached 30,000 participants in 2025.</p> <p>Our libraries matter to me because they're a vital third space in our community, especially for young people. Both of my children go there independently after school (they attend MVCS elementary and GW middle) to do school work and hang out with friends. The librarians know them by name and talk to them - not only about books, but about their lives and what they're up to. As Alexandria grapples with the challenge of engaging our youth and ensuring they have access to a variety of dynamic pathways to successful lives, few tools are more important than our libraries.</p> <p>I'm grateful for your continued investment in our libraries, which will allow them to continue to serve city residents of all ages and backgrounds and deliver programming that makes a positive impact on their lives.</p> <p>Thank you for your service to our city,</p> <p>Jesse</p>
Thursday, March 26, 2026	Proposed cuts to the Sheriff's Office should be reconsidered, as further reductions to an already tight budget would directly impact essential public safety services our community relies on. The Sheriff's Office operates the detention center around the clock, provides courthouse security, and enforces court orders—core responsibilities that support a safe and functioning justice system. In addition, the office offers education and reentry programs funded through inmate fees, not taxpayers, and generates significant federal revenue for the city. Reducing this funding would weaken public safety and undermine services that benefit both residents and city finances, making it critical to protect the resources that help keep Alexandria safe.

Date Received	Comment
Thursday, March 26, 2026	<p>March 26, 2026</p> <p>Dear Members of the Alexandria City Council,</p> <p>As a former volunteer with the Sheriff's Department (Jail) – teaching life skills to inmates – supporting those being released... I have been requested by Sheriff Casey to come back in – health challenges and caregiving responsibilities limits my availability...</p> <p>I write to express my strong and unwavering support for Sheriff Sean Casey and the Alexandria Sheriff's Office. As a committed member of this community (former business owner) and someone who has worked alongside many dedicated leaders and organizations in Alexandria, I have witnessed firsthand the positive impact the Sheriff's Office continues to have on public safety, community engagement, and the well-being of our residents. I respectfully urge you to reject any proposed budget cuts and to keep the jail in its current location.</p> <p>Under Sheriff Casey's leadership, the Alexandria Sheriff's Office has demonstrated a clear commitment to professionalism, accountability, and service. The Office's receipt of the National Sheriffs' Association's 2023 Triple Crown Award is a powerful testament to its excellence in law enforcement, corrections, and correctional health care. This level of recognition is not easily earned and reflects a standard of performance that should be supported and sustained.</p> <p>The Sheriff's Office plays an essential role in maintaining the safety and efficiency of our city. Its responsibilities - including operating the Adult Detention Center, providing courthouse security, serving legal processes, and transporting individuals—are critical to the integrity of our justice system. These services are foundational and must remain strong and well-supported.</p> <p>Equally important is the Office's deep and ongoing commitment to the community. I have personally observed Sheriff Casey's engagement with local organizations, faith leaders, and residents. Whether through outreach efforts, support for families, or participation in collaborative public safety initiatives, the Sheriff's Office has demonstrated that it values partnership and understands that true public safety is built on trust and connection.</p> <p>I am also encouraged by the Sheriff's Office's forward-thinking approach to accountability and care. The Adult Detention Center's achievement of federal PREA certification in 2024 reflects a meaningful commitment to safety, transparency, and dignity for those in custody. Additionally, the Office's efforts to address mental health challenges through partnerships with health professionals, academic institutions, and community stakeholders show a clear understanding of the complex needs within our justice system.</p> <p>Maintaining a local detention facility is both practical and necessary. Keeping the jail in Alexandria preserves important connections between individuals in custody, their families, and the support systems that are critical for successful rehabilitation and reentry. Relocating the jail would likely increase operational costs, create inefficiencies, and place unnecessary burdens on families—ultimately undermining the progress that has been made.</p> <p>At a time when many communities are striving to build trust and effectiveness within their public safety systems, Alexandria already has a model that works. Sheriff Casey and the Alexandria Sheriff's Office represent leadership, accountability, and a genuine commitment to the people they serve.</p> <p>Ladies and gentlemen, this decision is about more than budget considerations - it is about values, responsibility, and the future of our community. I respectfully urge the City Council to maintain full funding for the Alexandria Sheriff's Office and to keep the jail in its current location.</p> <p>Thank you for your leadership and your continued commitment to the City of Alexandria and your work in the DMV.</p> <p>Respectfully, s/ Fannie Allen City resident</p>
Thursday, March 26, 2026	<p>I'm deeply disappointed that some members of the City Council are considering cutting the Sheriff's Office budget. Sheriff Casey follows the law and genuinely cares about the community. These cuts will have serious consequences. Do these council members want Sheriff Casey to adopt policies like those in Fairfax County? Do they want a tragedy like the one in December 2025, when a criminal illegal alien, Marvin Fernando Morales-Ortez, was released due to sanctuary policies and then brutally murdered a resident in Reston, Virginia, just one day after being released?</p> <p>I'm proud to work alongside the dedicated men and women of the Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Casey was elected to run the office, and he should not be forced to worry about budget cuts because of policy disagreements. This feels like a political move—disagreeing with someone's stance, so you target their budget. (Remember DOGE?) The residents of Alexandria, the inmates, and the hardworking staff all deserve better.</p>
Thursday, March 26, 2026	<p>Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, and Members of Council,</p> <p>I am a member of Friends of Duncan Library and I am requesting that you continue to support funding for Alexandria Libraries in the Funding year 2027 budget and maintain, at a minimum, the funding recommendation in the city manager's proposed budget.</p> <p>Libraries are vital to our community. In addition to books, newspapers, magazines and internet access, they provide a variety of services and programs for citizens of all ages from infants to senior citizens. I live near the Duncan Branch and find great joy when I enter the library and see rows of baby strollers and hear the librarian animatedly reading a story to the children assembled there.</p> <p>My family has enjoyed activities from lego robotic competitions, to art projects, to "do it yourself" crafts to kid science programs to book discussion groups.</p> <p>Our libraries are an asset to our city and my family and I are grateful for your support.</p> <p>Respectfully submitted, Anne Curry</p>
Thursday, March 26, 2026	<p>Good evening,</p> <p>I would like to express my support for the Alexandria Sheriff's Office (ASO) and Sheriff Casey and encourage the City Council to refrain from any cuts from their budget. ASO provides an often overlooked but critical public safety service by maintaining a safe and secure environment for inmates while providing them access to medical and mental health care, job skills, and academic advancement opportunities. To me, what separates ASO from other agencies is its presence in the Alexandria community. Sheriff Casey is an Alexandria native, a TC graduate, and is someone who ensures his Deputies are engaging with the community. Whether it be at an elementary school, a community cookout, a senior center, or taking a meal to those in need, ASO is present. I've seen it first hand from shoveling the sidewalk of a senior citizen's home to delivering turkeys at Thanksgiving for those in need. These are the people we want to represent our City!</p> <p>What message does it send to the people of Alexandria to cut their budget?</p>

Date Received	Comment
Thursday, March 26, 2026	<p>I urge the City Council to reconsider any proposed cuts to the Sheriff's Office budget. Reducing this funding would not only impact operations within the jail and courthouse, but would also eliminate or weaken several critical programs that serve the broader community.</p> <p>Proposed cuts would mean fewer deputies and reduced protection for our City and its residents, as well as diminished security at the courthouse—both of which are essential to public safety and the proper functioning of our justice system.</p> <p>Programs like Project Lifesaver provide vital support to some of our most vulnerable populations, including children, individuals with disabilities, and those living with mental health conditions. These services save lives and provide peace of mind to families.</p> <p>Importantly, cutting the Sheriff's Office budget does not eliminate the legal obligations the City of Alexandria must meet under federal and state law. Instead, it strains the system, increases risk, and makes it harder to meet those requirements safely and effectively.</p> <p>Public safety is a foundational responsibility. Reducing resources for the Sheriff's Office ultimately makes our City less safe for those who live, work, and visit here. I respectfully ask that you maintain full funding to ensure these essential services and protections remain in place.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and full consideration on this topic.</p>
Wednesday, March 25, 2026	<p>Members of the City Council,</p> <p>I reach out to you as a deputy with the Alexandria Sheriff's Office—and as someone who has sacrificed time, energy, and personal moments to serve and protect this community.</p> <p>Every day, my colleagues and I show up to serve the City of Alexandria, often under difficult and demanding conditions. We work long hours and carry responsibilities that directly impact the safety and well-being of this community. These are not abstract duties, they are sacrifices we make willingly because we care deeply about the people we serve.</p> <p>This job asks a lot of us. It asks us to work long hours that sometimes doesn't end when they're supposed to. It asks us to show up exhausted, to push through stress, and to carry responsibilities that most people never have to think about. And we do it. Not because it's easy, but because this city depends on us.</p> <p>It asks us to miss the moments that matter most. Holidays spent away from our families. Empty seats at dinner tables. Missed birthdays. Time with our children and loved ones that we don't get to make up later. While others are celebrating, we are working. While others are home, we are out there making sure Alexandria is safe.</p> <p>Those are sacrifices. Real ones. And we've made them willingly, over and over again, because we believe in serving this city.</p> <p>So when we hear about proposed cuts to our department, it doesn't just feel like a budget decision—it feels like those sacrifices are being overlooked.</p> <p>Because what these cuts really mean is fewer people doing the same critical work. It means longer hours, more strain, and higher risk. It means asking the same people who have already given so much to somehow give even more.</p> <p>Reducing our funding does more than stretch resources—it puts public safety at risk. Because behind every cut is a person who is already stretched thin. It means fewer people carrying the same weight. Longer hours. More stress. More risk. It means asking people who have already given so much to somehow give even more.</p> <p>Please consider what these cuts will truly mean—not just on paper, but in the lives of the people who serve this community every day, and in the safety and well-being of the residents who rely on us.</p>
Wednesday, March 25, 2026	Don't cut sheriffs offices budget
Wednesday, March 25, 2026	I do not support cutting the sheriffs office budget.
Wednesday, March 25, 2026	<p>Please fully fund the Alexandria Sheriff's Office in this budget cycle. Any cuts will directly impact the level of service that currently supports safety and security in our great city. In fact, operations at the Office are in direct alignment with the City's vision of "A culture that supports each of us and inspires excellence". The Sheriff accomplishes this through all the great programs at the detention center focused on helping everyone achieve their highest potential. Cuts to the budget would also undermine what you are trying to accomplish as a Council. The great judgment of the constituency that elected you also chose the Sheriff and we expect you to follow through on fully funding the Sheriff's Office. Thank you.</p>

Date Received	Comment
Wednesday, March 25, 2026	<p>Dear Members of the Alexandria City Council,</p> <p>As Executive Director of the Concerned Citizens Network of Alexandria (CCNA), and as a deeply engaged member of this community, I write to express my support for Sheriff Sean Casey and the Alexandria Sheriff's Office (ASO) and strongly urge the City Council to reject any proposed budget cuts and to keep the jail in its current location.</p> <p>The Alexandria Sheriff's Office is not simply another city department. It is a vital pillar of public safety, accountability, and community trust. Under Sheriff Casey's leadership, ASO continues to distinguish itself through excellence, innovation, and integrity, providing clear and measurable value to the City of Alexandria.</p> <p>In 2023, ASO received the National Sheriffs' Association's Triple Crown Award, one of the highest honors in the profession and one achieved by only a select number of agencies nationwide. This recognition reflects accreditation in law enforcement, corrections, and correctional health care. It confirms that Alexandria is served by an agency operating at the highest professional standards.</p> <p>ASO's responsibilities are both substantial and essential. The Adult Detention Center houses approximately 300 individuals, while the Sheriff's Office also provides courthouse security, prisoner transportation, and service of court orders. These functions are fundamental to the operation of our justice system and to the safety and stability of our city.</p> <p>Just as important is ASO's commitment to the community. I have personally seen Sheriff Casey build meaningful partnerships with CCNA, the Lions Club, faith leaders, and other stakeholders across Alexandria. Through youth outreach, food and coat drives, and family support efforts, the Sheriff's Office has demonstrated that effective public safety is rooted not only in enforcement, but also in trust, collaboration, and service.</p> <p>ASO has also taken an innovative and compassionate approach to mental health challenges within the detention system. Through partnership with the American Psychiatric Association Foundation, Howard University Department of Psychology, CCNA, and local faith and community leaders, the Sheriff's Office has helped advance a model that integrates clinical expertise, research, and community-based support. This effort improves care, strengthens safety, and reduces long-term strain on public systems.</p> <p>Its commitment to humane treatment and accountability is equally clear. In 2024, the Adult Detention Center achieved its first certification under the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), marking a major milestone in transparency, safety, and protection for those in custody.</p> <p>ASO's rehabilitation and reentry efforts also deserve recognition. When people are given the support needed to successfully return to society, recidivism declines, public safety improves, and long-term costs are reduced. That is not only sound policy; it is a smart investment.</p> <p>Programs such as Project Lifesaver further demonstrate ASO's value. Reducing search and rescue times from hours or days to approximately 30 minutes saves lives and lessens demands on public safety resources.</p> <p>Relocating the jail would not be a prudent decision. It would increase transportation costs, require more staffing and overtime, delay court proceedings, reduce judicial efficiency, and place greater burdens on families. In the end, it would create new costs and new problems while weakening programs and partnerships that are already working.</p> <p>Alexandria should not dismantle or diminish a system that is producing results. This is a moment to protect what works, invest in proven leadership, and affirm our commitment to safety, accountability, and justice.</p> <p>I respectfully urge the City Council to maintain full funding for the Alexandria Sheriff's Office and to keep the jail in its current location.</p> <p>Thank you for your leadership and your continued service to the people of Alexandria.</p> <p>Sincerely, COL Jim Paige CCNA</p>
Tuesday, March 24, 2026	<p>Cut Sheriff Sean Casey's budget for voluntary collaborating with ice. It's so sad and disgusting to know this man is at fault for some people possibly waiting for their loved ones to come home but people like him are the reason.</p>
Tuesday, March 24, 2026	<p>Given that the School Board seems unable to live within the budget provided by Council over the last years, I strongly support the Council's response of splitting their budget into sections to help everyone better understand where the money the Council is providing is going. It is long past time for this Council to force the Board to solve its management problem that cannot live within its given budget.</p>
Tuesday, March 24, 2026	<p>Why do so many departments etc. have metrics to measure success but the Office of Climate Action doesn't appear to have any? There is a minor discussion under the City Manager's section of the budget and a few suggestions of what the OCA is to do, but there is nothing that I can see that measures success or lack there of. Why would the City declare a climate emergency and then not ask OCA to provide metrics to determine what they are doing, how much they are doing and whether they are succeeding or not each year? Are we headed for another situation where they don't spend all their funds because no one is really watching over their projects and spending? The City Manager has responsibility for too many things to also have to watch over OCA, but someone below him should be held accountable for what is on their docket for this year, the metrics on their successes or lack there of, and their spending timeline. Council needs to make clear this should happen. If we know the metrics of buildings that need to be upgraded or transportation issues that need to be addressed to reduce our GHG emissions by 50% by 2030, then who is making sure the money we are spending is going to these 2 highest priority targets vs. spending it on much easier to do City projects that don't move the needle? Just because it's hard to do, doesn't make it wrong; and just because it's easy to do, doesn't make it right. Let's stop spending money on reports and task forces, if we aren't going to actually implement the solutions they provide!</p>

Date Received	Comment
Tuesday, March 24, 2026	<p>I want to take a moment as an employee of the Alexandria Sheriff's Office, but as a person who takes pride in working hard to serve this community every single day.</p> <p>Budget cuts may look like numbers on paper, but for those of us on the ground, they translate into real consequences. They affect staffing levels, resources, training, and ultimately the ability to do our jobs safely and effectively. When those supports are reduced, the burden doesn't disappear—it shifts onto the shoulders of the people who are still here, showing up and doing the work.</p> <p>For me personally, this isn't just about a paycheck. It's about the commitment I've made to public service, to maintaining safety, and to being dependable for my colleagues and the people we serve. Budget cuts make it harder to uphold that commitment at the level this community deserves. They increase stress, stretch already limited resources, and can lead to burnout among employees who are already giving their all.</p> <p>As a hardworking individual, I take pride in what I do. I show up ready to contribute, to support my team, and to serve with integrity. But there is only so much any one person can do without the proper support and resources. When funding is reduced, it sends a message that the work—and the people doing it—are expected to do more with less, indefinitely.</p> <p>I urge the council and the community to consider the human impact behind these decisions. Supporting the Sheriff's Office means supporting the people who dedicate themselves to this work every day. Investing in us is an investment in the safety, stability, and well-being of Alexandria as a whole.</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to listen and for considering the real-life impact of these decisions.</p> <p>Deputy L. Covington</p>
Tuesday, March 24, 2026	NA
Tuesday, March 24, 2026	<p>Dear Mayor and members of City Council,</p> <p>I am writing you today as a long time City resident and tax payer. I must ask that you NOT make any cuts to the Sheriff's Office budget. They are a vital public safety agency for the City and should not be defunded in anyway. Also, their deputies should be paid the same as Alexandria Police Officers because they deserve it and so they stay for a full career at the Sheriff's Office. Thank you.</p>
Monday, March 23, 2026	I would like the Alexandria City Council to cut Sheriff Sean Casey's budget for voluntarily collaborating with ICE. Instead, I would like to see funding for stable affordable housing for working class immigrants and neighbors.
Monday, March 23, 2026	<p>Do not reduce the Sheriff's budget.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Monday, March 23, 2026	Sheriff Casey cannot continue to voluntarily operate with deportation officers in the city of Alexandria. Because of this, Casey's budget should be cut to make sure our funds go to measures that protect public safety rather than put innocent people in danger.
Monday, March 23, 2026	<p>Good morning. I am Donita Greene, a resident of Alexandria, Virginia and owner of Greene Funeral Home Inc. Law enforcement has always been important to me, both personally and through my family. I have a brother who is a retired police chief, a best friend who retired as a captain, and a niece and great nephew who currently serve in a local Virginia department, to name a few. Because of these connections, I make a conscious effort to stay informed and engaged in matters affecting law enforcement.</p> <p>To that end, last year I completed the Sheriffs' Citizens Academy to gain a deeper understanding of how the Sheriff's Office operates, and how individuals are treated within our local jail system.</p> <p>After speaking with professionals working in corrections, both locally and in other states, I firmly believe that our Sheriffs Office and jail system are among the best. The data supports this. Our Sheriffs office is one of only two in Virginia -- and one of just 51 nationwide -- to receive the National Sheriffs Association's "Triple Crown Award" recognizing excellence in law enforcement, corrections and correctional healthcare.</p> <p>In addition to its operational excellence, the Sheriff's Office plays a vital role in community engagement. Programs such as Project Lifesaver, and "away from home" checks, along with many other outreach efforts, help build trust and strengthen relationships within the community. These initiatives would be at risk if funding is reduced. Strong community ties are not optional -- they are essential. While "community policing" has become a common phrase, both our Police Department and our Sheriff's Office actively put those principles into practice.</p> <p>I am aware that some members of the community believe the Sheriffs Office is cooperating fully with ICE. That is not an accurate characterization. The Sheriffs Office operates within the requirements of the law and does not go beyond those mandates. I do not support ICE, and I strongly oppose the harm being reported across the country. However, it is important to distinguish between personal opinions and legal obligations placed upon local agencies.</p> <p>For these reasons, I strongly oppose any proposal to cut \$4 million -- or any amount -- from the Sheriffs Office budget. Such reductions would jeopardize a high-performing system that is serving this community well. Additionally, discussions about relocating the jail out of the city raises serious concerns. We already face challenges ensuring that individuals -- particularly those dealing with mental health issues -- maintain access to family support. Moving the facility far away would only worsen those challenges and create additional barriers to communication and rehabilitation.</p> <p>I respectfully urge you to maintain full funding for the Sheriff's office. There is meaningful, effective work being done, and there is still more to accomplish.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.</p>

Date Received	Comment
Monday, March 23, 2026	<p>Please make economic conditions part of your deliberations on all budget items. Residents have taken many financial hits in recent years: COVID lock-downs bankrupted businesses and their workers took that hit on their personal finances; government job cuts have affected many more in this area; housing and other living expenses (including some now due to tariffs) have risen, yet incomes have not increased to support these exponential increases. And, yet, city council continues to increase residential taxes and fund projects some might consider non-essential. When people are living paycheck to paycheck, they cannot afford many of these niceties they once could, and the city budget needs to be adjusted for the current conditions.</p> <p>Like most home budgets, the city budget should prioritize needs over wants. And serve the most residents and resident businesses, not the few. A particular glaring element of the budget (and a pet peeve of mine!) comes under Transportation and Environmental Services. A major issue for many residents, particularly on the west end, is the degradation of quality of life by the many measures you tout as being beneficial to our existence. It is hard to decipher how much of the budget is associated with implementing the vision zero and green initiatives of "smart transportation," but page 13.1 on this link for the "Livable, Green, and Prospering City" expenditures at https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2026-02/Section%2013%20-%20Livable%2C%20Green%2C%20%26%20Prospering%20City.pdf shows that over a whopping \$96 million is spent on this. (And before you pass it off as being funded by the state of Virginia, please note that it, too, is our tax money being spent!)</p> <p>My observation is that road diets/bike lanes, reduction of parking; reduction of speed limits and imposition of penalties associated therewith; and, the restrictions soon to be imposed on the gas-powered equipment which makes physical work more efficient is causing major stress for residents who already live paycheck to paycheck. Many are already working two and three jobs. And these city "initiatives" reduce - not improve - their ability to manage their lives. Families cannot use bicycles to transport children and disabled family members and to acquire household groceries and supplies. Workers still need their vehicles to transport their tools and materials to their jobs. There is currently no viable alternative being offered to serve these needs.</p> <p>Road diets, parking restrictions, bicycle lanes, and elimination of power tools are a construct of the "laptop class." People who perform the physical work to make your lives better and people with physical disabilities are struggling and need the city council to focus on providing relief to their stressors, not adding to them. (Was the Americans with Disabilities Act even considered by planning officials?) They aren't represented at your meetings because they are too busy working to make ends meet or attending to their health and family needs.</p> <p>Another consideration: Alexandria is looking to attract businesses which will bring jobs and boost the economy. Could it be that these road diets and parking restrictions make Alexandria a less attractive option for businesses? Accessibility for customers, employees, and efficiency of business operations are necessary conditions for an effective business operation. The absence of an efficient mass transit system in this city warrants an effective road system, not a reduction in its capacity.</p>
Monday, March 23, 2026	<p>Consider and approve the school board's request to increase funding by 3.5% instead of 1.5% to ensure we can pay a fair and competitive wage to teachers and cover cost of living increases. We have a 4th grader who has been fortunate to have great teachers at ACPS however all of his teachers have left ACPS for higher paying teaching positions after 1 year. We need to work on teacher retention and continuity.</p>
Monday, March 23, 2026	<p>Please cut Sheriff Sean Casey's budget for voluntarily collaborating with ICE. We want to fund stable and affordable housing for working class and immigrant neighbors. We do not want a single penny to go towards the deportation machine.</p>
Monday, March 23, 2026	<p>I'm very disappointed to see our city cooperating with ICE. I believe it's our moral duty to cut Sheriff Sean Casey's budget for voluntarily collaborating with ICE.</p>
Monday, March 23, 2026	<p>Good Afternoon, Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, and Members of Council,</p> <p>I am a member of Friends of Duncan Library, and I am writing to ask you to prioritize funding for Alexandria's libraries in the FY 2027 budget and maintain, at a minimum, the funding recommendation in the city manager's proposed budget.</p> <p>At the Duncan Library (and others), I personally make use of the Internet computers, attend public meetings and events, pick up forms, and, of course, look at books, magazines, and news periodicals.</p> <p>Our libraries matter to me because it is a shared space to foster community and in-person social interactions in our city across all groups.</p> <p>I'm grateful for your continued investment in our libraries, which will allow them to serve city residents of all ages and backgrounds and deliver programming that makes a positive impact on their lives.</p> <p>Thank you for your service to our city.</p> <p>Very respectfully,</p> <p>Tommy W. Lee</p> <p>Duncan Library in numbers and metrics:</p> <p>In 2025 Duncan Library welcomed more than 144,000 visitors</p> <p>Last year over 300,000 books were borrowed from Duncan</p> <p>The Friends of Duncan Library membership is about 350 people</p> <p>Last year FODL supported over 650 programs at the library including storytime for babies and infants, youth book clubs, an author consortium, after-school activities, Lego competitions, DIY craft classes, and Dungeons and Dragons for both teens and adults</p> <p>FODL programming served 30,000 participants in 2025</p> <p>FODL supports the purchasing of additional copies of high demand books, which reduces hold times across the library system</p> <p>FODL annually matches Duncan Library's funding from the city for purchasing new books</p> <p>Alexandria Library system in numbers and metrics:</p> <p>Number of programs hosted in 2025: 2,486</p> <p>2025 program attendance: 90,653 visitors</p> <p>Number of library visitors: 578,938</p> <p>Number of registered borrowers: 147,573</p> <p>Number of materials borrowed by customers in 2025: over 1 million</p> <p>Number of passports processed: 4,354</p> <p>Public library services satisfaction rate: 85.0%</p>

Date Received	Comment
Monday, March 23, 2026	<p>I would like to express my concern about the presence of ICE agents in Alexandria. I feel that this organization has shown across the country that they are respecting the rights of community members.</p> <p>I have a great deal of respect for the Alexandria police department and feel that they are the appropriate organization to serve and protect the peace and the people of Alexandria, VA.</p> <p>Sincerely, Deana</p>
Monday, March 23, 2026	<p>Hello Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley and Members of the City Council - I am very, very appreciative of the work you do day in and day out for our City. I'm especially grateful for your approach here in our City during such a horrible time in our country coming from this Administration. However..... I am deeply bothered and concerned about the treatment of our Sheriff and his office. Like you, I am very upset and bothered how ICE is operating. At the same time, I DO respect that our Sheriff is following the law. I completely understand that advocates want him to operate differently. And, I understand if you all 'feel' that way as well. Where I am very upset is any attempt to keep him from doing his job professionally and thus, treating him and his staff in an unfair and unprofessional manner. I hope it is just a rumor that there is some discussion of 'punishing' the Sheriff by reducing the Sheriff's Office budget. I suppose I wouldn't even know that if it were just a rumor. I believe there is so much wrong with such an approach. First, it would serve as a very serious & terrible precedent - to punish an independently elected official in that manner. I think we could all regret what doors that could open in the future. Second, I'm afraid that would be a terrible message to send to our children and our entire community that we are going to punish someone because he will not break the law. If we want a change in operation, then please let's work together to change the law! Finally - I know we find ourselves in difficult, unprecedented times to have such a cruel and chaotic Administration pushing ICE to carry out horrible acts. Nonetheless, as a City, we don't want to then carry out our own acts that hurt those who are performing incredibly important duties here in Alexandria.</p> <p>I understand the pressure you feel because of the vocal individuals who are trying to be supportive of our community members who are being treated so poorly. I ask that you weigh that with a Sheriff and his staff who are also doing all they can in ALL aspects of their work to treat people fairly.</p> <p>I urge you NOT to even come close to considering reducing the Sheriff's office budget as punishment. As I have said, you will set a terrible precedent and you risk our City being less safe and certainly less professional.</p> <p>Thank you for reading. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions. Diane Charles 571-722-2445</p>
Monday, March 23, 2026	<p>Im currently looking for assistance for rent and putting more money for my child to attend school and activities-</p>
Sunday, March 22, 2026	<p>Sheriff/jail funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Fund programs for recidivism/ mental health -Continue funding benefits & pay for officers -Fund processes that can contribute positive revenue for the community using overcrowded ex incarcerated individuals seeking work or actively incarcerated persons working. <p>Sources for example studies:</p> <p>Correctional Officer Recruitment & Retention Efforts - Alabama Commission on the Evaluation of Services. (2026, March 3). Alabama Commission on the Evaluation of Services. https://evidence.alabama.gov/publications/correctional-officer-recruitment-retention-efforts/</p> <p>Nesbit, R. (2022). The Role of Mandated Mental Health Treatment in the Criminal Justice System. ArXiv.org</p>
Sunday, March 22, 2026	<p>Cut Sheriff Sean Casey's budget. He is voluntarily collaborating with ICE and harming our community. Please fund things that help, not hurt, Alexandria like affordable housing.</p>
Sunday, March 22, 2026	<p>I reside in close by Fairfax County and shop quite frequently in Alexandria City. I can easily stop doing that is Sheriff Casey continues his collaboration with ICE.</p> <p>Budgets are moral documents. If the City Council values our immigrant neighbors and their rights, we can't continue to blindly fund a department whose policies are contrary to our values.</p> <p>The Trump administration is trying to bully localities into participating with mass deportation operations. Alexandria should not be helping ICE deport our neighbors by continuing to blindly fund a Sheriff's office that refuses to end its voluntary collaboration with ICE.</p> <p>"An estimated 70% of ICE arrests nationwide result from a detainer and transfer from another law enforcement agency". Ending the Sheriff's collaboration with ICE is an important step in disrupting the jail to deportation pipeline.</p> <p>Transferring people to ICE can be deadly</p> <p>2025 was ICE's deadliest year in two decades. 32 people died in ICE custody, and many of these deaths were a result of neglect and abuse.</p> <p>ICE's private detention centers, including Farmville in VA, have well documented violations of human rights that go back years.</p> <p>Continuing to fund any collaboration with ICE from the sheriff's office is one of the gravest threats to the safety of Alexandria's jail</p>
Sunday, March 22, 2026	<p>Stop bringing politics to public safety and fund sheriff office</p>
Sunday, March 22, 2026	<p>I support Sheriff Casey and the great work he does in our community. I attended the Academy at the jail and support him 100%. Please to not cut his budget. The work they do is very important.</p>
Sunday, March 22, 2026	<p>I urge you Not to cut the Sheriff's budget. As an attorney here in the city for 40 years , and as a volunteer with the Lions Club & CCNA ,I can personally attest that the outreach programs and trust that Sheriff Casey's department has worked so hard & successfully on, has made a huge impact in our community.</p> <p>Sheriff Casey understands the anxiety over ICE enforcement, and conversations with me and other community partners, he has indicated that his department limits its cooperation to the minimum legal requirements.</p>
Sunday, March 22, 2026	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am a long time City resident and I support the Sheriff and the Sheriff's Office. Please do not cut their budget. They need proper funding to provide important public safety services to our community.</p>
Sunday, March 22, 2026	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am a long time City resident. Please do not cut the Sheriff's Office budget. I support the Sheriff and his Office. They provide an important service to our community.</p>

Date Received	Comment
Sunday, March 22, 2026	<p>Hello,</p> <p>Mayor and members of City Council, I am asking that you do not cut the Sheriff's Office budget. I support the Sheriff and the Sheriff's Office. They have and continue to keep Alexandria safe. I ask again, please do not cut their budget.</p>
Sunday, March 22, 2026	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing to please ask City Council NOT cut funding to the Sheriff's Office budget. I am a long time resident of the City and the Sheriff's Office has and continues to keep our courts, jail, and community safe. Please don't cut their budget and put community safety at risk.</p>
Sunday, March 22, 2026	<p>Dear Mayor and members of City Council,</p> <p>I am a long time City resident and I am asking you to NOT cut the Sheriff's Office budget. The Sheriff's Office works extremely hard to keep our jail, courts, and community safe. They have always been their for my family and our community. Please do not cut their funding.</p>
Sunday, March 22, 2026	<p>Hello,</p> <p>Mayor and members of City Council, please do not cut the Sheriff's Office budget. They need the level of funding outlined in the FY27 proposed budget in order to run the jail properly, keep the courts safe, and help our community. Please do not cut their budget. Thank you.</p>
Sunday, March 22, 2026	<p>Mayor and Members of City Council,</p> <p>I fully support the Sheriff and the Sheriff's Office. I am asking all of you, as a long time City resident, to NOT cut their budget. Thank you.</p>
Sunday, March 22, 2026	<p>Dear Mayor and members of City Council,</p> <p>I am writing you today, asking you to NOT cut the Sheriff's Office budget. They provide a valuable service to our community and they need the proper funding to continue it. As a City resident and tax payer I ask again that you not cut their budget. Thank you.</p>
Sunday, March 22, 2026	<p>I would like the city to work with the water taxi to provide commuter routes back and forth to the wharf. Now it is just for tourists as there are no routes scheduled in the early morning. At one point during the metro shutdown the city supported the commuter route. It was an amazing 17 min ride between OT docks and Wharf. The docks are owned by the City. This should be leverage to use to incentivize a commuter route. Other cities do it. Believe me run it for a year and it will work!! This is a sustainable means of travel, supporting the residents , and celebrating the city's history as a water town. This should not just be for tourists!</p>
Sunday, March 22, 2026	<p>Please prioritize our tax dollars for housing, services and support for our immigrant friends and neighbors. I do not want a single cent being spent on helping ICE. Let's fund schools and social services instead of a militarized police force.</p>
Saturday, March 21, 2026	<p>It's disappointing to hear that city council may consider cutting the Sheriff's budget because your views do not align with his lawful actions. This action would punish the people who are the beneficiaries of Sheriff Casey's commitment to serve others.</p>
Saturday, March 21, 2026	<p>Dear Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley & Members of Council,</p> <p>This is a difficult email to write because I deeply respect your dedication to the citizens of Alexandria but I am so disappointed in the recent discussion by some of you to cut the budget of the Alexandria Sheriff's Office.</p> <p>For over 30 years, I have seen firsthand the tremendous outreach and community service to our city that the Alexandria Sheriff's Office performs each and every day. And that community service especially includes our neighbors in the Arlandria community. Each of you KNOW Sheriff Casey and how respected he has been in the community. What he is doing is following the law and what is legally and morally right. If it is a bad law, then instead of punishing both him & his dedicated staff, then CHANGE THE LAW - we now have the votes in the state. While the argument is Fairfax & Arlington are not following the law, look at what has happened when they didn't. Are you prepared to look at one of your neighbors or friends if they were to lose a child or family member as a result of someone being released that shouldn't have?</p> <p>Any cuts would be devastating. While I could describe all the critical services that the Sheriff's Office performs and the lives they are rehabilitating & changing, I know, you know that they are providing these critical services. You have attended the graduation programs, you have spoken to the inmates, I have heard you heap praises on the Sheriff's Office. So how do you turn your back on them now?</p> <p>I, personally am shocked & disgusted with the actions of ICE and every opportunity that has come up to support my neighbors in their fight against ICE, every protest in Arlandria, on Rt 1 & at Market Square, I have participated in & while I, and I believe almost everyone in our City vehemently opposes what ICE is doing to innocent neighbors, everyone that I have talked to does NOT support taking funding from the Sheriff's Office.</p> <p>Please do not let a vocal group that, while their heart in protecting innocent neighbors is right, I believe, is wrongly attacking our Sheriff's Office.</p>
Saturday, March 21, 2026	<p>I am calling on Alexandria City Council to cut Sheriff Sean Casey's budget for voluntarily collaborating with ICE. We want to fund stable and affordable housing for working class and immigrant neighbors. We do not want a single penny to go towards the deportation machine.</p>
Saturday, March 21, 2026	<p>Properly fund the sheriff's office</p>
Saturday, March 21, 2026	<p>The tax payers fund Sheriff Casey's office while voluntarily transferring people to ICE without judicial warrant. Mayor Gaskins has spoken out against this practice. Sheriff Casey's budget should be cut.</p>
Saturday, March 21, 2026	<p>Council should be ashamed to be planning to further cut the Sheriff's Office budget due to calls from a small irrelevant group of extreme activists. They do not represent Alexandria residents and our interests. Look at the math on the Sheriff's budget, you are already asking them to do more with less and have under funded that department for years. The numbers don't lie. Act like you care and stand up for your public safety agencies, which includes the Sheriff's Office.</p>
Saturday, March 21, 2026	<p>Dear City Council</p> <p>In my humble opinion it doesn't make sense to cut the budget of the Alexandria Sheriffs department. It's a great agency and that jail makes money.</p> <p>Don't let short term political winds damage an Alexandria institution.</p> <p>Very Respectfully,</p> <p>Tom Lacey</p>

Date Received	Comment
Saturday, March 21, 2026	<p>I support moving money from the Sheriff's office to support affordable housing, public transit, and other government services. While I appreciate Mayor Gaskins and the City Council's public statement against the Sheriff's policy to turn people over to ICE, I urge the City to put collective power behind their words. The majority of the Sheriff's budget comes from taxes paid by Alexandria residents. Sheriff Casey has used some of those funds to voluntarily collaborate with ICE.</p> <p>In a tight budget environment, we have so many priorities that deserve more support in our City. Affordable housing will help people stay in their homes. Public transit will help them travel, get to work, and visit friends. Even outside the context of the Sheriff's collaboration with ICE, I believe we should spend more to invest in our community, support our schools, and fund cheap public transit. Budgets are moral documents. If the City Council values our immigrant neighbors and their rights, we can't continue to blindly fund a department whose policies are contrary to our values.</p> <p>Thus, I urge the City to reduce the Sheriff's budget, and instead fund priorities that invest in our communities and our City more broadly.</p>
Saturday, March 21, 2026	Please continue to support the Sheriff and his staff. Maintaining the jail and keeping residents safe is of paramount importance.
Saturday, March 21, 2026	My neighborhood supports and appreciates the Office of the Alexandria Sheriff. Please DO NOT CUT the Sheriff's budget.
Saturday, March 21, 2026	I'm hearing there's a push to cut the sheriff's budget. It would be a shame to cut back the engagement they have in Del Ray. They keep our community safe.
Saturday, March 21, 2026	Law enforcement officers leave their homes to keep our homes safe. They deserve the pay and everyone's support especially our coty councils. Politics apart, these men and women deserve to be treated well if not better than their counterparts in neighboring jurisdictions to avoid brain drain and apathy.
Friday, March 20, 2026	<p>Continually raising property taxes by any and all means possible eventually drives longstanding owners to question their domicile choices. The City appears hell bent on development at the expense of quality with resulting unappealing denser population and increased traffic.</p> <p>Given the challenging affordability crises for younger buyers and the disillusionment of its elderly population the City would do well to reconsider its knee jerk expectation that existing residents will simply cough up more each year.</p> <p>Killing its golden geese will have intended and even unintended consequences that may just leave them high and dry when the quality of life is weighed against more palatable options.</p>
Friday, March 20, 2026	Alexandria needs a bigger non property tax base. We need more businesses preferable mom and pop shops. Having too great a reliance on property taxes doesn't seem sustainable approach to finance the city. Please explain how you make this work.
Friday, March 20, 2026	Alexandria needs a bigger non property tax base. We need more businesses preferable mom and pop shops. Having too great a reliance on property taxes doesn't seem sustainable approach to finance the city. Please explain how you make this work.
Friday, March 20, 2026	Soy un padre que a vivido en la ciudad por 6 años y quiere seguir viviendo en la ciudad de Alexandria . Pero se me hace difícil con el alto costo de renta y la falta de vivienda de bajo costo para familias como la mía que ganan el salario mínimo . Porfavor apoyen el programa de ayuda de renta Y el programa de subsidio
Friday, March 20, 2026	<p>MUY BENDECIDO DÍA ! YO PIENSO Q TODOS MERESEMOS LA MISMA IMPORTANCIA NO AHY DESTINCION DE NADA YO PERSONALMENTE APLIQUE POR AYUDA DE STAMP Y SIN PREGUNTAR NADA ME NEGARON LA AYUDA EN AMBITO DELA RENTA PEDÍ AYUDA Y PUEDO DECIR AHY UNA LINDA PERSONA Q SE TOMO SU TIEMPO Y BENDITO SEA DIOS Q ME AYUDO GENTES PORFABOR NO AGAN INSTINCION DE RAZA YO SOY MAMA Y PAPA YO TRABAJO PERO NO ME ALCANSA Y DEJO DE CRITICA AHY MUCHAS MUJERES EN ESA OFICIINA DE STAMP Q NO TRABAJAN Y ELLAS SI RESIBEN TODA LA AYUDA ! Lo ciento lo centi así Bendiciones. MASHALLA !</p>
Friday, March 20, 2026	<p>The Sheriff's Office does not serve the community base of on politics. Unfortunately, some of the groups being that are being listened to portray the Sheriff's Office as if deputies are out on the street working with ICE, which is simply not accurate.</p> <p>In fact, one of the main reasons ICE has maintained a limited presence in Alexandria is because the Sheriff is following the law as written. That adherence to the law should be supported—not criticized.</p> <p>We have all seen what can happen when situations escalate elsewhere, including recent incidents in Minnesota involving ICE operations that led to controversy, loss of life, and widespread unrest. Alexandria should be working to avoid that kind of outcome, not move closer to it.</p> <p>The question is: does the Council want that type of situation here?</p> <p>We should not penalize the Sheriff's Office for following the law. Decisions of this magnitude should not be driven by a small group of 30–40 voices, but by the broader community. The citizens of Alexandria deserve to be heard.</p> <p>It also raises concern that members of the Council may feel pressured by a particular group. Giving in to that pressure now sets a precedent—what will be demanded next?</p> <p>Let's stay focused on the law, public safety, and the will of the entire community—not politics or pressure.</p>
Friday, March 20, 2026	No funds for ICE collaboration! Defund Sheriff Casey's police.

Date Received	Comment
Friday, March 20, 2026	<p>I cannot believe that council is considering taking away the Sheriff's department money due to ICE. You want the Sheriff to break the law and be arrested for not performing his duties of the office. That department does better then you realize and they have important programs they run. As a parent who has a son with disabilities we count on the Sheriff's office the Project Lifesaver Program, our son was the first participant to the program. He was lost by his teacher while at Pentagon City doing job sampling. It was a nightmare as a Metro officers put him on a train into DC where he was found that evening exiting the Metro at the Benning Road station when a Metro officer got him and returned him to us at Pentagon City.</p> <p>If this program is discontinued, we are in serious trouble ourselves as many other participants would suffer as well.</p> <p>I know many have voiced their opinions of ICE then why don't you support finding a way that the Sheriff's office would not have to deal with all of this.</p> <p>I hope you really think this out before acting.</p>
Friday, March 20, 2026	Please do not fund the sheriff's office seeing as they are collaborating with ICE.
Friday, March 20, 2026	<p>This month, you are making decisions about what Alexandria's tax dollars should fund—and what they should not. Right now, our city budget is funding the Alexandria Sheriff's Office's voluntary collaboration with ICE.</p> <p>Since taking office in 2022, Sheriff Sean Casey has transferred 142 people from the Alexandria jail into ICE custody without a judicial warrant. In 2025 alone, that happened 54 times. These are not court-ordered transfers. They are voluntary decisions, and they could stop tomorrow.</p> <p>Yet Alexandria taxpayers are still paying for the system that makes them possible. This matters because Alexandria should be a place where our immigrant neighbors feel safe and are treated with fairness and due process. And to your credit, this Council has already said you oppose the Sheriff's voluntary collaboration with ICE. But right now, the budget still funds it.</p> <p>Alexandria spends roughly \$20 million in local tax money every year on the jail, and about 90 percent of the Sheriff's budget goes to incarceration itself. At the same time, families in Alexandria are struggling with rising rents and the threat of eviction.</p> <p>Budgets require hard choices. But leadership means choosing investments that make our community safer and stronger. So the question before you is simple: What actually makes Alexandria safer? Helping ICE detain our neighbors? Or investing in housing stability, rental assistance, and eviction prevention—programs that keep families rooted in this community? Housing keeps families stable. Jail cells don't.</p> <p>You have already spoken about your values. Now Alexandrians are asking you to align the budget with those values: Reduce the sheriff's funding until he stops collaborating with ICE. Invest in housing and stability for Alexandria families.</p>
Friday, March 20, 2026	I don't want any funding going to ICE in the new budget!!
Friday, March 20, 2026	I urge you to cut the Sheriff's budget. He's using Alexandrians' dollars to voluntarily comply with ICE. Cooperating with ICE is not the equivalent of partnerships with other enforcement agencies. Since October 2025, 23 people have died in ICE custody. The federal government has now been partially shutdown for 43 days entirely due to the fact that Congress agrees that DHS and ICE cannot continue to operate as they have. Usually, the Sheriff should have some discretion over use of funds but never before has this discretion supported a threat to the very lives of Alexandrians. The Sheriff's non-mandated choice to cooperate with ICE is at odds with his mandated role to protect Alexandrians and it is the City Council's duty to step in and prevent this harm by all means within their power.
Friday, March 20, 2026	Hello - Thank you for all that you're doing to help the City of Alexandria and beyond. However, please Do Not give any funds to the Sheriff's budget that supports ICE or additional funds that include supporting funding for any ICE implications in initiatives. This is a federal operation and should not be a part of our City or State. We need to protect our citizens from harm and abuse. I was at the City's budget talks on Wednesday, March 11, 2026 and heard first-hand that the Sheriff is trying to increase "his" budget to project more inmates, etc. It means that the Sheriff is hiding the fact that he is working with the federal government/ICE to house and increase the number of immigrants. This is unacceptable. We need affordable housing, Healthcare, etc. for residents. Please proceed with caution and use our budget wisely and frugally.
Friday, March 20, 2026	I understand that the Sheriff is coordinating with ICE - if he has budget for this, it should be rerouted to fixing our streets which were badly damaged this winter in particular North Henry.
Friday, March 20, 2026	I am writing to request that the city of Alexandria reduce funding to Sheriff Casey and the Alexandria PD. I strongly oppose Sheriff Casey's voluntary cooperation with ICE. His cooperation with ICE does nothing to increase public safety or public trust in the police department. In fact, it does the opposite. His cooperation increases fear and mistrust among the community. We should not be increasing funds allocated to someone who brings terror and mistrust into our community. As an Alexandria resident and taxpayer, I want my tax dollars allocated to community programs that increase housing availability and affordability and increase access to social programs for those in need. Please do not allocate additional funding to Alexandria PD. Prioritize our community and our needs.
Friday, March 20, 2026	The City Council should properly fund the Sheriff's Office. Stop cutting and taking away any benefits and funds.
Friday, March 20, 2026	I'm calling on you to cut Sheriff Sean Casey's budget since he is VOLUNTARILY collaborating with ICE. We should be funding things that improve our city, not working for the deportation machine that Donald Trump has created
Friday, March 20, 2026	<p>Please use our money to help our neighbors — including immigrants.</p> <p>Do not give the sheriff money to support ICE terrorizing humans.</p>

Date Received	Comment
Thursday, March 19, 2026	<p>Dear Mayor Gaskins and Members of City Council,</p> <p>I am writing to urge you to support, at a minimum, the City Manager's proposed FY2027 budget for the Alexandria Sheriff's Office.</p> <p>Recent public comments have suggested reducing the Sheriff's budget in response to concerns about inmate transfers to federal authorities. However, as Sheriff Casey has clearly stated, the Alexandria Sheriff's Office is not acting voluntarily or outside of community values. It follows well-established federal and state law. The Office does not hold individuals beyond their release date, does not act on detainers alone, and requires a valid federal warrant for any transfer. Addressing disagreements with federal law should occur through the legislative process, not by reducing funding for a local agency that is fulfilling its legal obligations responsibly and professionally.</p> <p>Beyond this issue, I believe it is critical to recognize the full scope of the Sheriff's Office's work and its direct impact on the safety and well-being of Alexandria residents.</p> <p>The Alexandria Sheriff's Office consistently goes above and beyond in proactive, community-focused policing. One example is the "Away From Home Check" program, which allows residents to notify the Sheriff's Office when they will be out of town so deputies can monitor their property.</p> <p>My partner and I used this program while we are away during the holidays. During our most recent travels, sheriff deputies came to our door more than 10 times while we were out of town over a two-week period. They checked to make sure the door was locked and drove around back to make sure our and our neighbors' homes were in good shape. This type of care makes a meaningful difference. Knowing that our home was being watched over provided a real sense of security and peace of mind. It is exactly the kind of thoughtful, resident-focused service that reflects the best of local government.</p> <p>Programs like this are not incidental. They are the result of a well-supported, properly funded Sheriff's Office that has the capacity to prioritize both public safety and community engagement. Cutting the Sheriff's budget risks putting these types of proactive services on the chopping block, ultimately diminishing the quality of life for Alexandria residents.</p> <p>The Sheriff's Office plays a vital role in our city, not only in operating the jail safely and in compliance with the law, but also in building trust, providing services, and protecting residents in ways that often go unseen but are deeply felt.</p> <p>I respectfully urge you to support the City Manager's proposed funding level and ensure the Alexandria Sheriff's Office has the resources it needs to continue serving our community effectively.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration and for your continued service to our city.</p> <p>Sincerely, Daniel Roth</p>
Thursday, March 19, 2026	<p>When was an audit of the school system performed? Seems as if the balance between administrative personnel and employees directly involved in teaching is skewed. Not a promising scenario for a small system with all 18 of schools conditionally accredited! 9 schools are off track, & 3 need intensive support!!! Throwing money (1/3 of budget) at this broken system will not fix it. According to most recent Brookings Institute economist, Alexandria has lost more private sector jobs than nearly any other jurisdiction in region in 2025. Home listings are up 46%; median prices are down 25% & bankruptcy filings are up 28%. Wake up & institute cost/benefit analysis for expenditures. The City hires far too many consultants and study groups to delay critical decisions being made.</p>
Thursday, March 19, 2026	<p>Please cut funding for the Sheriff and his department because he continues to voluntarily work with ICE. Also, if possible, restrict his budget so that he can't transfer money from different funds in order to pay for actions supporting ICE, CPB and other agencies discriminating against immigrants. Thank you.</p>
Thursday, March 19, 2026	<p>My name is Juana, I been in the city for 23 years. Today I write to ask the city to invest in working class communities and give more money for the rental assistance to help our families stay in the city.</p>
Thursday, March 19, 2026	<p>To City Council, please hold the Sheriff's office accountable to be fully transparent on their engagements with ICE. Please use the budget process and its effective role of oversight to pressure the Sheriff to end the voluntary practice of aiding ICE. Our taxpayer dollars should be spent on affordable housing, education, transportation, and other investments that strengthen Alexandria, including supporting our immigrant neighbors - not vilifying them and sending them to detention centers without due process. Thank you for your leadership.</p>
Wednesday, March 18, 2026	<p>Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, and Members of Council,</p> <p>I am a member of Friends of Duncan Library, and I am writing to ask you to prioritize funding for Alexandria's libraries in the FY 2027 budget and maintain, at a minimum, the funding recommendation in the city manager's proposed budget.</p> <p>In 2025 Duncan Library welcomed more than 144,000 visitors, myself included.</p> <p>Our libraries matter to me because they serve as a vital space for community members of all ages to engage, learn, and receive services.</p> <p>I'm grateful for your continued investment in our libraries, which will allow them to serve city residents of all ages and backgrounds and deliver programming that makes a positive impact on their lives.</p> <p>Thank you for your service to our city,</p> <p>Kaitlin Bell</p>
Wednesday, March 18, 2026	<p>Council should approve the City Manager's budget submission and not impose a tax increase. Property taxes are regressive because they do not adjust based on a taxpayer's ability to pay, meaning lower income households often pay a higher percentage of their income in property taxes compared to wealthier households. Additionally, assessments can be regressive when low-value homes are taxed at a higher percentage of their market value than high value homes. Studies have shown that property tax burdens disproportionately affect owners of the least valuable homes. Leaning heavily on property taxes and assessments is inequitable and unsustainable. For our city to remain financially stable, become more equitable, and thrive in the future, Council needs to take strong action now to broaden sources of revenue and decrease reliance on property taxes as the primary tool to fund city operations. Let the City Manager execute his budget. Diversification of revenue sources needs to be job one for Council!</p>

Date Received	Comment
Wednesday, March 18, 2026	<p>Thank you, Mayor and Members of Council, for the opportunity to provide public comment.</p> <p>As a citizen of the City of Alexandria, I am writing to express my strong support for fully funding the Alexandria Sheriff's Office in the FY 2026–2027 budget. Decisions about this budget should be grounded in the actual operational needs of the Sheriff's Office, not influenced by politically motivated efforts to reduce funding for an essential public safety agency.</p> <p>The Sheriff's Office is responsible for the safe and lawful operation of the detention center, court security, and the care and custody of individuals who are legally detained. These are non-discretionary functions that require adequate staffing, training, and systems to ensure safety, compliance, and professionalism. Funding reductions made for political reasons risk undermining these responsibilities and could create safety, legal, and operational challenges for the City.</p> <p>Budget discussions should focus on whether the Sheriff's Office has the resources necessary to meet its obligations effectively and humanely. Fully funding the office supports staff retention, reduces turnover, and ensures continuity of operations—outcomes that benefit detainees, employees, and the broader community alike.</p> <p>Policy disagreements or broader political debates should be addressed through appropriate legislative or policy channels, not through broad budget cuts that compromise core operations. The budget should reflect what is required to operate a safe, professional, and legally compliant Sheriff's Office for the residents of the City of Alexandria, Virginia.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration, and I respectfully urge Council to approve full funding for the Alexandria Sheriff's Office in the FY 2026–2027 budget.</p>
Wednesday, March 18, 2026	<p>My major issue with the budget relates to the fact that Sheriff Casey continues to collude with ICE by handing over our neighbors. He is not required to honor Administrative warrants from ICE since they are not signed by a judge. However, he continues to do so despite urging from the mayor and city council. If he will not listen to Alexandria leadership and the people of Alexandria, please consider cutting his budget so he needs to clearly understand we do not want to support a Sheriff's office that is working against the welfare of the people of Alexandria.</p>
Wednesday, March 18, 2026	<p>Alexandrians want a community for everyone, including our immigrant neighbors. Instead of funding ICE collaboration, we can fund affordable housing and essential services that serve our children, youth, and families.</p> <p>The majority of the Sheriff's budget comes from taxes paid by Alexandria residents. Sheriff Casey has used some of those funds to voluntarily collaborate with ICE. Our taxes are going to fund a department that continues to voluntarily collaborate with ICE, despite wishes from City Council and the majority of Alexandrians.</p> <p>ICE has a long history of abuse and disregard for people's rights. Our local elected officials should be protecting the right to due process, not doing ICE's dirty work by funding voluntary collaboration.</p> <p>If Sheriff Casey continues his collaboration with ICE, it means our friends and neighbors can be detained and deported from the United States without access to their due process rights (a lawyer, trial by jury, etc).</p> <p>Alexandria residents value fairness, equality, and our immigrant neighbors. Our local funds should reflect that.</p> <p>Budgets are moral documents. If the City Council values our immigrant neighbors and their rights, we can't continue to blindly fund a department whose policies are contrary to our values.</p> <p>The Trump administration is trying to bully localities into participating with mass deportation operations. Alexandria should not be helping ICE deport our neighbors by continuing to blindly fund a Sheriff's office that refuses to end its voluntary collaboration with ICE.</p> <p>"An estimated 70% of ICE arrests nationwide result from a detainer and transfer from another law enforcement agency". Ending the Sheriff's collaboration with ICE is an important step in disrupting the jail to deportation pipeline.</p> <p>Transferring people to ICE can be deadly</p> <p>2025 was ICE's deadliest year in two decades. 32 people died in ICE custody, and many of these deaths were a result of neglect and abuse.</p> <p>ICE's private detention centers, including Farmville in VA, have well documented violations of human rights that go back years.</p> <p>Continuing to fund any collaboration with ICE from the sheriff's office is one of the gravest threats to the safety of Alexandria's jail today.</p> <p>I call upon the city council to put the tax dollars where we say our morals are: dry up Sheriff Casey's funds until he complies with only judicial warrants and instead fund ACPS and the requests from the Tenants and Workers Union.</p>

Date Received	Comment
Wednesday, March 18, 2026	<p>I thank the City Manager and his staff in their work to put forth a thoughtful budget that makes difficult cuts and does not raise taxes. I especially appreciate the Mayor's interest in not raising taxes in next years budget. Many families are experiencing difficult times and this should not be dismissed. The City Manager asked that all departments keep their funding increases to 1.5% for next year. This request should not be ignored as many departments have made difficult cuts, however, ACPS has blatantly showed total disregard for this request.</p> <p>ACPS is a source of concern and needs to be reigned-in because of ACPS impact on COA budget and it's taxation of the citizens. ACPS has not communicated or been transparent with City Council and the community on several recent occasions. Most recently City Council and tax payers found out via a press release that ACPS approved in their budget with a \$12.7 million teacher salary increase which isn't even a multi-year agreement and will adversely impact future budgets. This "ask" leaves a \$5.65 million budget gap when the City Manager has asked to limit funding request.</p> <p>I believe City Council must restructure how they fund ACPS and hold them more accountable for the monies they receive. ACPS blatantly and decidedly ignores and does not work with the City Manager or the City Council. ACPS, recently (2023-2024) was not transparent about their budget. They approved a budget then randomly late in the process added an additional \$10 million of unbudgeted items. Amazingly, this was approved by City Council. BTW- none of the "asks" would do anything to raise test scores.</p> <p>Recently, the City Council was working in good faith to provide transportation and efficiency solutions for high school students by using the DASH bus. This seemed a practical solution to a problem that had staffing, funding and utilization issues however, ACPS suddenly and unilaterally decide they would no longer consider the option to utilize DASH services. This opportunity was shutdown without further consideration. ACPS sited that 52 drivers would see reduced hours and 34 would lose benefits. Yet, TransPar Group study states that only 60% of the systems overall bus capacity is utilized. This is not being fiscally responsible to COA and tax payers. Students have been using DASH bus for free even prior to 2020 when it became free for everyone. This was a missed opportunity for ACPS and the City to work together to begin to resolve some very real inefficiencies.</p> <p>Most recently, ACPS recommended making cuts to the Latin and Chinese language programs. First of all, ACPS is not a private school system. Financing and programs should meets the needs of the many. ACPS decisions should be supported by the numbers and cost. My understanding is there are about 72 kids participating in these 2 language programs. ACPS is a school system that has 4000-4500 students in their 9-12 grades. This does not meet the needs of the many and makes NO sense. My own children (2008 and 2011) participated in the Honors German foreign language program. I believe this was and is beneficial however, the current debate about the Latin and Chinese language programs are neither practical or make financial sense. We need a strong school system but we need to be diligent about meeting primary programs that prepare students across the board with the skills they need beyond high school.</p>
Wednesday, March 18, 2026	<p>Alexandria City leaders have strongly reiterated time and again that they welcome immigrants and value their contributions. And yet the Sheriff is using our tax dollars to collaborate with ICE. He is an outlier among regional sheriffs. Arlington and Fairfax sheriffs do not collaborate with ICE. Our sheriff, instead, chooses to funnel people into inhumane ICE detention rather than allowing them due process through the legal system. Individuals who get turned over to ICE never have the opportunity to defend their innocence in a court of law. Transferring people to ICE breaks up families and also endangers lives. Last year was ICE's deadliest year in two decades: 32 people died in ICE custody, many as a result of neglect and abuse.</p> <p>The City Council unanimously called on the sheriff to end his voluntary collaboration with ICE which has not happened. Now it is time for the City Council to use its oversight and budgetary power to hold the sheriff accountable. Now is the time to stand up for the city's values and make it clear that scarce city funds (tax-payer money) will not subsidize an unfair, immoral policy that separates families, denies due process, and subjects Alexandrians to the dangerous, inhumane conditions of ICE detention. It's time for the City Council to exercise the 'power of the purse' to hold the sheriff accountable for an unnecessary and inhumane policy that they have already clearly condemned. The Sheriff's budget should be cut! I leave it to the City Council to decide by how much, but the cut should be substantial enough to make it clear that Sheriff Casey's policy must change!</p>
Wednesday, March 18, 2026	<p>To the Alexandria City Council,</p> <p>I'm writing with concern for immigrants and working people. Sheriff Casey is a federal collaborator, and his willingness to transfer people to ICE is cruelty. We're in need of our elected representatives to do the right thing. Although Casey is funded with our taxes, and though the mayor and the council have condemned his actions, I worry our calls for justice will go unheeded. If you want to represent the will of people, our people, you need to slash Casey's funding. And if the sheer quantity of us asking for divestment from human trafficking isn't enough, maybe someone should resign from office. Take the sheriff's money and do something good with it. Affordable housing, public education, and robust public transit; each of these things are consistent with our values as a community. We might already know our own values, but it's time for the council to decide what it values, and slashing Casey's budget will show us you actually care.</p>
Wednesday, March 18, 2026	<p>My name is Lucia I been a city resident for 25 years. This is comment is to ask the city council to invest on housing programs that help working class families; We want to stay in Alexandria, we all need a home.</p>
Wednesday, March 18, 2026	<p>My name is Sandra, I been living here for 23 years, I'm writing this comment because as a working clase family we need the city to invest more in programs that help working class families stay in the city and not being displace by the high cost of rent</p>
Wednesday, March 18, 2026	<p>I have been a home owner in Alexandria since 1979 and at the age of 73 now/retired on a small pension, the property tax needs to be paid out of my small savings/451-457 account as my pension pays all the other monthly bills.</p> <p>The properties in my area have water problems under the homes (crawl spaces) and require huge \$\$ for repairs. The Real estate dept. dismisses these problems as minor while residents either pay huge bills or sell because it's unaffordable to continue to live here unless you have a six figure or more income. The city is running the middle class out and that leaves the wealthy and the poor.</p> <p>Our public schools have a poor rating compared to other jurisdictions and we spend TOO much on frivolous items , city wide.</p> <p>Cut the spending and balance the budget. Find new revenue OR stop the extra spending.</p> <p>The city is TOO dependent on residents' taxes and we are drowning.</p> <p>As it is, the city is over built-how much more. Just to bring in more revenue...this is a no end spiral because of the desperation for city revenue, in my opinion and it is ruining this city.</p>
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>As a resident of Alexandria and an employee of ACPS, I urge the council to fully fund the ACPS FY 2027 budget. Each of the programs and teaching positions on the chopping block are critical to the social-emotional well-being of our students and could be a key factor in increasing test scores. A budget speaks to the priorities of a district, and ACPS' priority is the health, safety, and education of our students.</p>
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, and Members of Council,</p> <p>I am a member of Friends of Duncan Library, and I am writing to ask you to prioritize funding for Alexandria's libraries in the FY 2027 budget and maintain, at a minimum, the funding recommendation in the city manager's proposed budget.</p> <p>Last year FODL supported over 650 programs at the library including storytime for babies and infants, youth book clubs, an author consortium, after-school activities, Lego competitions, DIY craft classes, and Dungeons and Dragons for both teens and adults.</p> <p>Our libraries matter to me because third spaces are so important for our community! I love what FODL does for the community, and the ability to use it for so many needs.</p> <p>I'm grateful for your continued investment in our libraries, which will allow them to serve city residents of all ages and backgrounds and deliver programming that makes a positive impact on their lives.</p> <p>Thank you for your service to our city, Alison Walters</p>

Date Received	Comment
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>Affordable housing isn't just a policy issue, it's a necessity for the stability and well-being of our entire community. In this area, wages simply have not kept pace with the rising cost of living, leaving many hardworking individuals and families struggling to secure safe and stable housing. People who contribute daily to our local economy, service workers, healthcare aides, teachers, and essential staff, are being priced out of the very communities they support.</p> <p>When housing becomes unaffordable, it creates a ripple effect: increased financial stress, longer commutes, displacement, and even homelessness. This is not sustainable. Prioritizing budget allocations toward affordable housing is not just compassionate, it's practical. It strengthens communities, supports the workforce, and promotes economic stability.</p> <p>Investing in affordable housing means investing in people. It means ensuring that individuals don't have to choose between rent and basic necessities. It means creating opportunities for families to thrive, not just survive. If we truly want a strong, resilient community, we must make affordable housing a top priority and direct resources where they are most urgently needed</p>
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>Estoy pagando demasiada renta 3500 con los viles al mes</p> <p>I am paying too much rent — 3500 with the bills each month.</p>
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>Estoy pagando demasiada renta 3500 con los viles al mes</p>
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>Buenos días este mensaje es para comunicarles que nesecitamos ayuda la renta está demacida cara la comida también necesitamos más viviendas a bajo costo más programas para abollar a la comunidad gracias feliz día</p> <p>Good morning. This message is to let you know that we need help. Rent is extremely expensive, and food as well. We need more low-cost housing and more programs to support the community. Thank you, have a nice day</p>
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>Estados Unidos</p> <p>United States</p>
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>Estamos muy preocupados por el alto costo de la renta Necesitamos vivienda a bajo costo Ya nosotros ni para la renta ajustamos Estamos preocupados porque los pueden desalojar y con nuestros hijos porfavor necesito que bajen la renta Todos los años le suben 100 y 150 Nosotros ganamos 13 dolares la ora Como vamos a pagar tanto</p> <p>We are very worried about the high cost of rent. We need low-cost housing. We can no longer even afford the rent. We are worried because they might evict us, and we have our children. Please, we need the rent to go down. Every year they raise it by 100 or 150 dollars. We earn 13 dollars an hour. How are we supposed to pay so much?</p>
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>Soy Diana residente de Alexandria por ya varios años, y como mi familia ahí muchas en la comunidad que sufrimos del alto costo de la , renta por eso les pedimos que inviertan más en los programas de ayuda de renta!! Muchas gracias</p> <p>I am Diana, a resident of Alexandria for several years, and like my family, many in the community suffer from the high cost of rent. That is why we ask you to invest more in rental assistance programs. Thank you very much.</p>
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>My name is Maura, I been in the city for 19th years. I'm writing this comment because as a working class person we need the city to invest more into housing programs that would help families like mine stay in the city.</p>
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>Hola buenas tardes keria aplicar para la ayuda</p> <p>Hello, good afternoon. I wanted to apply for the assistance.</p>
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>Buenos días señores de la junta concejales el motivo de este mensaje es para pedirle de favor que consideren necesario el presupuesto de la vivienda ya que cada día sube</p> <p>Good morning, members of the City Council. The purpose of this message is to kindly ask you to consider the housing budget, since it increases every day.</p>
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, and Members of Council,</p> <p>I am a member of Friends of Duncan Library, and I am writing to ask you to prioritize funding for Alexandria's libraries in the FY 2027 budget and maintain, at a minimum, the funding recommendation in the city manager's proposed budget.</p> <p>Last year FODL supported over 650 programs at the library including storytime for babies and infants, youth book clubs, an author consortium, after-school activities, Lego competitions, DIY craft classes, and Dungeons and Dragons for both teens and adults.</p> <p>As a parent, I LOVE Alexandria's libraries for all of this programming. I've met so many other parents and families at baby storytime and other kid-focused events. It has helped me build my community and provided my children with fun and educational experiences that foster love for reading, exploring, and creativity. All crucial for the developing brain.</p> <p>The Alexandria Library System also serves the community by being a passport application/processing center. Last year alone, it helped 4,354 people in the community obtain passports. And it's where my family obtained passports for both our children! They made quick and easy for us which is huge when you have babies and toddlers in tow.</p> <p>I'm grateful for your continued investment in our libraries, which will allow them to serve city residents of all ages and backgrounds and deliver programming that positively impacts so many lives.</p> <p>Thank you for your service to our city,</p> <p>Sarah Manning</p>
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>Vienda bajo costo</p> <p>Low-cost housing.</p>
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>Vienda bajo costo</p>

Date Received	Comment
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>Necesitamos que no eleven m el pr de la renta</p> <p>We need them not to raise the price of rent.</p>
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>Me gustaría que la ciudad invierta en programas de ayuda de renta para las familias de clase trabajadoras que están sufriendo el alto costo de la renta en la ciudad también en programas para aprender inglés ya que es muy necesario</p> <p>I would like the city to invest in rental assistance programs for working-class families who are suffering from the high cost of rent in the city, and also in programs to learn English, since it is very necessary.</p>
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>Buenas tardes me uno al ala sar la voz para solicitar ayuda para los programas de renta Tabien necesitamos programas de subsidio de viviendas Fondos para los programas del departamento de servicios humano Necesitamos ayuda para que sigan siempre con fondos para mantener esa ayuda que nos veneficia principalmente a madres solteras que necesitamos de estas ayuda en nuestra ciuda d alexandria</p> <p>Good afternoon. I join in raising my voice to request support for the rental assistance programs. We also need housing subsidy programs, and funding for the Human Services Department's programs. We need help so that these programs can always continue to receive funding, because they benefit us—especially single mothers who depend on this assistance in our city of Alexandria.</p>
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>Buenas tardes me uno al ala sar la voz para solicitar ayuda para los programas de renta Tabien necesitamos programas de subsidio de viviendas Fondos para los programas del departamento de servicios humano Necesitamos ayuda para que sigan siempre con fondos para mantener esa ayuda que nos veneficia principalmente a madres solteras que necesitamos de estas ayuda en nuestra ciuda d alexandria</p>
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>Necesitamos más fondos para los programas del departamento de servicios humanos . Y también ayuda para vivienda a bajo costo</p> <p>We need more funding for the Human Services Department's programs, and also assistance for low-cost housing.</p>
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>Mayor Alyia Gaskins, Vice Mayor Sarah Bagley, and Members of Council,</p> <p>I am a member of the Friends of Duncan Library, and I am writing to ask you to prioritize funding for Alexandria's libraries in the FY 2027 budget and to maintain, at a minimum, the funding recommendation in the City Manager's proposed budget.</p> <p>Duncan Library is a vibrant, welcoming space that reflects the full diversity of our community. It accomplishes this through both the materials and the programming it offers. From curated collections to creative outreach, the library continually finds ways to connect people with stories that resonate.</p> <p>Our libraries matter to me because of the simple, everyday joy they bring. During this particularly cold February, Duncan Library offered curated "romance in a bag" selections, including both heterosexual and queer romance novels. I picked one up on a whim, and "Red, White and Royal Blue" turned out to be the perfect bit of spice for a long stretch of cold days. That small but thoughtful offering is a powerful example of how the library meets people where they are by providing comfort, representation, and a sense of connection through books.</p> <p>I also deeply value the library system's incredible range of books. Whether I'm looking for something new, revisiting a classic, or exploring a different perspective, I know I can find it at Duncan. That breadth of access is truly special and worth protecting and investing in.</p> <p>I'm grateful for your continued support of our libraries, which allow them to serve residents of all ages and backgrounds and to deliver programming that enriches lives across Alexandria.</p> <p>Thank you for your service to our city,</p> <p>Daniel Roth</p>
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>Buenas tardes sería importante que la ciudad tenga esos programas ya que la renta está muy alta gracias</p> <p>Good afternoon, it would be important for the city to have these programs since rent is very high. Thank you.</p>
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>Mi nombre es felix y tengo 26 años de vivir en la ciudad de Alexandria. Les pido que pongan dinero para vivienda accesible para nosotros que ganamos poquito, pero somos mano importante para el desarrolló de la ciudad. Gracias</p> <p>My name is Felix, and I have lived in the city of Alexandria for 26 years. I ask that you allocate money for affordable housing for those of us who earn little but are an important workforce for the city's development. Thank you.</p>
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	<p>Muchos de Nosotros la comunidad la tina no corre tanta suerte como una familia Norte americana mi padre no tenia dinero para enviarme Ala universidad tenia 2 trabajos solo alcanzaba para la renta mi madre cuidaba ninos para Que tu vieramos comida nos vestia de ropa de segunda zapatos de Payless era una tienda Que mis padres podian compranos no quiero eso para mis hijos trabaja duro para tener lo basico techo y comida pero mi nina de 17 Quiere ir ala universidad y me da tristeza Que tampoco to podre ayudarle porque la renta esta suviendo como espuma</p> <p>Many of us in the Latino community do not have the same luck as an American family. My father didn't have money to send me to college. He had two jobs, and it was only enough to pay the rent. My mother took care of children so that we could have food. She dressed us in second-hand clothes, and our shoes came from Payless because that was the store my parents could afford. I don't want that for my children. I work hard to have the basics—roof and food—but my 17-year-old daughter wants to go to college, and it makes me sad that I also won't be able to help her because rent is going up like foam.</p>

Date Received	Comment
Monday, March 16, 2026	<p>Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, and Members of Council,</p> <p>I am a member of Friends of Duncan Library, and I am writing to ask you to prioritize funding for Alexandria's libraries in the FY 2027 budget and maintain, at a minimum, the funding recommendation in the city manager's proposed budget.</p> <p>I find myself at the Duncan Library nearly every other day. Most often, I am checking out physical books or trading puzzles with other community members but also find out about community events and resources during my short time visiting the library.</p> <p>I ask you to invest in the library because learning is a universal practice that should not be impeded by a lack of financial access to books or programs. Libraries help individuals exchange not only literature but also intangible knowledge, crafts, and other ideas and items that are then shared throughout the community. I see my local library as a pillar of my community and I ask that you both maintain it's pivotal role.</p> <p>I'm grateful for your continued investment in our libraries, which will allow them to serve city residents of all ages and backgrounds and deliver programming that makes a positive impact on their lives.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Rachel Miller Del Ray Resident</p>
Monday, March 16, 2026	<p>To Whom It May Concern: I would like to request a Departmental Review regarding my 2026 Tax Assessment. The property is located at 1250 South Washington St. (Unit 111).</p> <p>This property is located in a condominium building. Unlike some single family properties, condos generally do not experience a 19 percent increase in one year as is the case in my situation. Consequently, I believe the increase is excessive and deserving of a review to determine the basis for the large increase. The assessment remained the same in 2024 and 2025 yet there was a huge increase in 2026.</p> <p>It appears that the City took a few property sales, where the amount received was in excess of the property's true value, and used these sales to increase the assessment for all properties in the building rather than making assessments on an individual basis. Not all properties are of equal value and in large part depend upon the condition of the property. This condo building was built in 1984 and not all units have been rehabbed. Increases for the building ranged from 19 to 26 percent.</p> <p>Due to the large increase, some homeowners will no longer be able to stay in their homes due to mortgage payments and increases in HOA fees and tax assessments.</p> <p>Your consideration is appreciated and I am hopeful that there will be some relief on this issue.</p> <p>Respectfully, Jacqueline B. Campbell</p>
Monday, March 16, 2026	<p>I would like for my 2026 Property Assessment to be reviewed. I feel that my property has been assessed above the fair market value and is not equitable because by living in my condo building surrounding properties have also been assessed higher than they should be.</p>
Sunday, March 15, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Increase Alexandria teacher salaries to ensure high skilled teachers helping our kids learn and grow. -Reduce new build apartment and condo housing in Alexandria; it's becoming a very crowded city. Instead focus on a smaller number of single family homes to be unit for new families where applicable. -Ensure Alexandria has a sufficient infrastructure budget to fix the city's roads and bridges that are crumbling.
Saturday, March 14, 2026	<p>Dear Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, and Members of Council,</p> <p>I am a member of Friends of Duncan Library, and I am writing to ask you to prioritize funding for Alexandria's libraries in the FY 2027 budget and maintain, at a minimum, the funding recommendation in the city manager's proposed budget.</p> <p>Libraries are very important to me and my family. They helped both my children learn to read and given them valuable programming and activities in evenings and on the weekends. Taking out books to read for myself and my children is one of the great pleasures on living in our city.</p> <p>I'm grateful for your continued investment in our libraries, which will allow them to serve city residents of all ages and backgrounds and deliver programming that makes a positive impact on their lives.</p> <p>Thank you for your service to our city,</p> <p>Aaron Gilary</p>
Saturday, March 14, 2026	<p>As a concerned citizen and educator in Alexandria City, I am writing in regard to the city's budget. Specifically, the insufficiency of funds proposed by the city manager to retain and attract high-quality educators to our district.</p> <p>ACPS asked for a 3.5% budget increase compared to the city manager's proposed 1.5%, a disparity of \$5.7 million that helps to cover increased pay for licensed personnel and educational support staff.</p> <p>This is ACPS's first collective bargaining agreement for educators and support staff, and it is also still less than the increases given to other unionized city employees.</p> <p>Given the cost of living and proximity to DC, it is an embarrassment that, comparatively, Alexandria City ranks 7th out of 8 surrounding jurisdictions for the amount of its general fund used to fund schools' operating expenses.</p> <p>It is my hope that the city honors ACPS's funding request and sees it for what it is, an investment in our students through high-quality educators.</p>
Saturday, March 14, 2026	<p>EAA said to fill out this form. I dont know what this form is or what I am supposed to exactly write about. Could you perhaps share more information with me about the budget and CIP?</p>
Saturday, March 14, 2026	<p>Please provide the funding for the ACPS request. The students, families, ans community depend on ACPS maintaining adequate staffing to meet the demands of public education. Also, ACPS must provide a compensation package that is comparative to neighboring divisions. Too often, the trend is that ACPS is losing valuable staff for better salary opportunities.</p>

Date Received	Comment
Saturday, March 14, 2026	<p>Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, and Members of Council,</p> <p>I am a member of Friends of Duncan Library, and I am writing to ask you to prioritize funding for Alexandria's libraries in the FY 2027 budget and maintain, at a minimum, the funding recommendation in the city manager's proposed budget.</p> <p>I am one of 350 members of Friends of Duncan Library because we are a family of readers. Getting our library cards was one of the first things my husband and I did when we moved into Del Ray. We love going to the library programming (especially book sales!). Having our son means even more frequent trips because he loves checking out new books, coloring at the kids section, or attending music/story hours. When he needed his first passport for a special trip, we went to the library to get his passport.</p> <p>Our libraries matter to me because they truly represent a special place in our communities. Library cards are free and open up a nearly limitless world of opportunity and knowledge. As a kid the library was a place to enter reading challenges for cool prizes, study, and endless access to books that helped shape me. Since graduating college, I've used libraries for access to WiFi when my house had no power, taken classes on interesting topics, picked up tax information, taken refuge in hot weather, studied for nursing school exams, borrowed recent best sellers when I didn't have the money to buy a new hard cover, and countless other things. The library is a reliable, steadfast presence that is temperature controlled, doesn't care about socioeconomic status, age etc, and just feels like a safe place when you enter. Our wonderful librarians make this space magical with their knowledge, understanding, and kindness to all who walk through the doors. It is little wonder that Duncan was voted the Heart of Del Ray.</p> <p>I'm grateful for your continued investment in our libraries, which will allow them to serve city residents of all ages and backgrounds and deliver programming that makes a positive impact on their lives.</p> <p>Thank you for your service to our city,</p> <p>Caroline Cheek</p>
Saturday, March 14, 2026	<p>Please continue to support the ACPS school budget, so that quality education can continue in all 18 schools.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
Saturday, March 14, 2026	<p>Teachers are vital in the development of our next generation. They deserve the pay raises proposed by the school board, which has asked the city council for a 3.5% funding increase for next year. Our children deserve to have teachers that feel valued and respected — pay is an indicator and recognition of the respect for the profession.</p> <p>Prioritizing teacher pay raises will also address staffing shortages and improve retention. Recent legislative actions across the nation have resulted in significant salary increases for educators, reflecting a growing recognition of the importance of competitive compensation in the teaching profession. The City of Alexandria must take action to ensure our teachers remain committed to the profession. Our children deserve no less.</p>
Saturday, March 14, 2026	<p>Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, and Members of Council,</p> <p>I am a member of Friends of Duncan Library, and I am writing to ask you to prioritize funding for Alexandria's libraries in the FY 2027 budget and maintain, at a minimum, the funding recommendation in the city manager's proposed budget. [Share a talking point about Duncan Library or the library system in general].</p> <p>Our libraries matter to me because [share a personal anecdote about what you love about Duncan or public libraries in Alexandria more generally].</p> <p>I'm grateful for your continued investment in our libraries, which will allow them to serve city residents of all ages and backgrounds and deliver programming that makes a positive impact on their lives.</p> <p>Thank you for your service to our city,</p>
Saturday, March 14, 2026	<p>Our public libraries are vital to our community. Their programs do so much for us. Please support funding for our libraries in the 2027 budget.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Saturday, March 14, 2026	<p>Funding our libraries is so integral to providing resources to our community. My children and I visit the library on average 2-3 per week. Keeping librarians like Ms Venetta is so vital. We need them to stay funded and supported, especially with the nonsense and anti-intellectualism floating around the federal government. If we're going to allow all of these condos to be built, we need to make sure we are funding an appropriate amount of resources for the influx or new Alexandrians.</p> <p>Thank you, Julie Rukavina</p>
Friday, March 13, 2026	<p>I would like a review of my property assessment for 2026, since it represents an 18.86% increase over 2025.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Friday, March 13, 2026	<p>Members of city council and the school board: Please work together to find enough funding for the teachers' collective bargaining agreement.</p> <p>Neighboring school districts pay their educators more than we do. And the reality is that most ACPS employees don't live in Alexandria.</p> <p>One of my son's instructional assistants makes her daily commute from Stafford — that's at least 50 minutes in the car each way. What's to stop our kids' teachers from accepting a higher-paying job in another district with a shorter commute?</p> <p>As the PTA president at Jefferson-Houston for the past two years, I have seen how teacher and staff turnover negatively affect our kids' academic progress. Raising salaries is a powerful way to reduce turnover.</p> <p>I humbly urge you to prioritize funding for teacher raises so we can retain this invaluable workforce.</p> <p>Setting a city budget means naming your community's priorities, and as a 21-year resident of Alexandria, I want us to stand for equitable educator pay.</p>
Friday, March 13, 2026	<p>Fund the library budget!</p>

Date Received	Comment
Friday, March 13, 2026	<p>Hello. I am writing to voice my opposition to providing any additional funding to ACPS for FY 27.</p> <p>I am a 30+ year resident and homeowner, co owner of an Alexandria-based small business, an ACPS employee, and a member of the EAA Board of Directors and Collective Bargaining Committee.</p> <p>As an elementary homeroom teacher in a Title 1, west end school, I am more likely than most to feel the effects of any change in class size cap or staff reduction. But I still cannot support an increase in funding at this point.</p> <p>From where I sit, ACPS has not made a good-faith effort to cut unnecessary costs. Why do we need a professionally produced video for everything? Why do entire administrative departments go to conferences each year?</p> <p>Our students deserve for every single penny to be focused on them and their learning. ACPS has a lot of work to do to prove to the residents of Alexandria that they also agree with that statement. Thank you for your time.</p>
Friday, March 13, 2026	<p>Please support Duncan Library! I continue to use that as my 'main' library, although I moved to Carlyle/Eisenhower east about 3-4 years ago. Duncan Library is a 'Main Stop' as I visit the Y and various restaurants in Del Ray.</p> <p>Duncan Library is extremely important to my quality of life in Alexandria!</p> <p>Elizabeth Talian</p>
Friday, March 13, 2026	<p>As a 22 year veteran ACPS educator, I implore you to fully fund the ACPS budget. All staff deserve to be appropriately compensated for the hard work we do educating, guiding, and helping safe the children of Alexandria.</p>
Friday, March 13, 2026	<p>Dear Mayor Gaskins, Vice Mayor Bagley, and Members of the Council,</p> <p>I am a member of the Friends of Duncan Library, and have been a proud library patron since moving to the city in November of 2022.</p> <p>I am asking you to prioritize funding for Alexandria's libraries in the FY2027 budget and maintain, at a minimum, the funding recommendations in the city manager's proposed budget.</p> <p>Our libraries matter to me. Especially with the cuts in hours to other recreational facilities and programming, it is important to maintain the accessibility and programming that our city's libraries provide to patrons of all ages, backgrounds, and interests. Our libraries provide a wealth of information and programming to individuals who may have nothing else in common but their library membership. Beyond the programming and materials to check out, the libraries also provide a safe and warm space for people to work, study, read, and reflect.</p> <p>Funding for the libraries will also help purchase additional books or licenses to electronic books (of personal interest to me, as I am currently patron #122 of 228 for one particularly popular title, having placed that hold more than two months ago).</p> <p>I am grateful for all previous investment in our libraries, and wish for continued investment into these programs, resources, and facilities, that make a positive impact on our community.</p> <p>Thank you, Allison Foley</p>
Friday, March 13, 2026	<p>I would like city council to understand how difficult it is to retain teachers! Study show that this career is 26% lower than it's been in the past. When I went to teaching in the 90s I put on a waiting list because that how popular education careers were in the past. I think it's imperative that we remind people in Virginia that if you want good education you will have to pay for it! Young adults are graduating from college and making more money than teachers who put over 20 years in a job! Why would you go into a career where you can't make past \$120,000? I think everyone needs to wake up and realize that taxes need to be raised for teachers to be paid what they deserve in an area that is so expensive your teachers can't even afford to live. I feel like cutting teachers is the last thing we should be doing. We also want inclusion in public education but we don't want to pay the teachers that have to do the hard work to keep the CSL program in the school. I hope we can come to a good solution that teachers do not get cut!</p> <p>Thank you!</p>
Friday, March 13, 2026	<p>How does city council plan to address a huge mortgage increase for ACPS teachers? Our income comes indirectly from the city, who is unsupportive of ACPS collective bargaining efforts, so how are we to remain citizens of the city we service if we are unable to afford our mortgage? As a person who's family has lived in this city for 60 years, it's shameful how Alexandria is treating our teachers and their families.</p>
Thursday, March 12, 2026	<p>Greetings,</p> <p>As a member of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, Alexandria should join its neighbors in Arlington and Fairfax counties to levy a commercial real estate tax. According to estimates contained in the City Manager's proposed budget, this tax would yield \$10.3 mil in additional revenues for FY2027, and would free up funds from the General Fund currently committed to transportation.</p> <p>This \$10.3 million should then be used for the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fund the \$5.6 million ACPS budget shortfall. 2. Revive and fund the small business resiliency grant program from 2024 to offset the impact for locally-owned businesses that contribute to placemaking goals detailed in the ALXForward plan. The amount and number of recipients should be based on an assessment by staff to determine need and impact. 3. Any remaining funds should be allocated to the Housing Trust Fund. <p>When there is a budget crunch, the City must ensure it is taking full advantage of all revenue opportunities authorized by the General Assembly. Levying a commercial real estate tax, as our neighboring jurisdictions do, will fully fund our schools while leaving enough leftover to offset the cost to the locally-owned small businesses that make our city a great place to live.</p> <p>Thanks,</p> <p>Peter Carlson</p>

Date Received	Comment
Thursday, March 12, 2026	<p>Dear Mayor Gaskins and Members of Council,</p> <p>Having previously served the City of Alexandria as Fire Chief, I understand firsthand the responsibility Council carries in balancing community priorities with sound fiscal leadership.</p> <p>As you consider the FY27 budget, I urge you to take a measured approach to additional school funding. Alexandria already spends among the highest amounts per student in Virginia, yet our academic outcomes and statewide rankings do not consistently reflect that level of investment.</p> <p>ACPS enrollment has remained relatively stable in recent years, while operating budgets have grown substantially over the past decade. In recent years, the budget process has also followed a familiar pattern in which the School Board proposes funding levels well above the City Manager's recommendation, and Council ultimately closes much, if not all, of the gap.</p> <p>During my tenure as Fire Chief, and as someone who managed a major city department budget, funding was tied directly to measurable performance and service outcomes. If I had returned year after year requesting increased funding while performance indicators moved in the wrong direction, Council would have rightly questioned both the request and the management of the department. Your recent vote to require category-based school appropriations, rather than a single lump-sum transfer, is a positive step toward improving oversight and public accountability.</p> <p>Alexandria residents strongly support public education, but continued investment must be accompanied by transparency, measurable improvement, and responsible stewardship of taxpayer resources. Council ultimately holds the responsibility for those resources, and this budget presents an important opportunity to reaffirm that principle.</p> <p>I respectfully encourage Council to ensure that future funding requests, and any increases, are tied to clear performance benchmarks and measurable academic progress.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Robert C. Dubé Resident and retired Fire Chief, City of Alexandria</p>
Thursday, March 12, 2026	<p>Please prioritize ACPS teachers in this year's city budget. I know there are many competing priorities and these are not easy decisions but please find a way to pay our teachers more.</p> <p>As a principle, teachers deserve pay equal to the enormous value they bring to our community. But investing in teachers makes sense from an economic and practical sense as well. Investing in recruitment and retention of exceptional teachers is the surest way to improve our schools. When schools improve, our tax base increases and children achieve greater educational, social and economic outcomes. This benefits not just parents but all of Alexandria. The long-term benefits may be further down the road but they far outweigh the costs.</p> <p>One idea for efficiency is to consider shared city/school services. Departments like human resources, facilities/groundskeeping, finance, or IT services could potentially be shared between the city and the school at potential cost-savings.</p> <p>Thank you your attention and your hard work for Alexandria.</p> <p>Best,</p> <p>Erin Miller Parent of an ACPS first grader</p>
Thursday, March 12, 2026	<p>I understand that middle school sports are going to be cut for the next school year. I just want to say sports in school have a tremendous impact on student achievement, attendance and test scores. It is a motivating factor for many students who are not otherwise motivated to work hard. I encourage you to review the data and look at the impact the sports programs have had on student achievement, attendance and test scores. I'm positive that you will see growth, so imagine how much time and money you will have wasted if we quick now and imagine how many students will be impacted due to a lack of motivation. Just some food for thought!</p>
Thursday, March 12, 2026	<p>Mayor Gaskins and Council Members:</p> <p>On behalf of the Alexandria Community Services Board (CSB), I would like to thank you for the opportunity to participate in the budget process for the 2027 fiscal year. First, we want to register our appreciation for the strong support that the CSB has received from you over the past two years, particularly the additional funding approved by the Council to meet service needs and help address the high number of staff vacancies. While a very competitive job market continues to prevent us from reaching all our hiring and retention goals, the funding has enabled us to make substantial progress in filling needed positions and reducing the vacancy rates affecting services.</p> <p>We recognize that the City is in a difficult fiscal position this year and that City agencies have been asked to submit proposed budgets including spending cuts. DCHS staff have thoroughly analyzed the data on CSB's operations and discussed options with CSB members during this process. Based on this, DCHS staff have developed and submitted a proposed list of budget adjustments that we think will meet the need for cost savings while preserving our ability to provide high quality and essential services to the residents of Alexandria.</p> <p>We urgently request that you accept these proposals and keep the CSB's budget otherwise intact. In the current environment, the need for the behavioral health, substance use disorder, and developmental disability services that the CSB provides is greater than ever.</p> <p>I appreciate your thoughtful consideration of this matter. For additional information, please contact Kate Garvey, the Director of DCHS and Acting Executive Director of the CSB.</p>
Wednesday, March 11, 2026	<p>Dear Mayor and Members of City Council,</p> <p>My name is Jesse, and I am the parent of a student at Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy in Alexandria City Public Schools.</p> <p>I am writing to respectfully ask that City Council fully fund the School Board's FY2027 budget request. The proposed funding gap of approximately \$5.6 million may seem small within the overall city budget, but the potential impact on students is significant. As presented in recent discussions, closing this gap through reductions could lead to larger class sizes, fewer classroom teachers, and fewer student support services.</p> <p>As a parent, I want my child and every student in Alexandria to learn in classrooms where teachers have the resources and support they need to succeed. Adequate staffing, reasonable class sizes, and access to student support professionals such as counselors and social workers are critical to creating a healthy learning environment.</p> <p>Alexandria's students deserve stability and opportunity in their schools. Fully funding the School Board's request will help ensure that students continue to receive the high-quality education and support that our community values.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and for your commitment to Alexandria's students and families.</p> <p>Respectfully, Jesse Alexandria Parent</p>

Date Received	Comment
Wednesday, March 11, 2026	As a community member for 20 years I ask the city to reinvest funds from other institutions into housing programs for working class communities
Wednesday, March 11, 2026	This is a budgetary priority, even if it means increasing local taxes
Wednesday, March 11, 2026	Please give the ACPS budget to the requested 3.5% increase in funding for next year. Without this the teacher in our district will not get the raises that they absolutely deserve. Our ACPS teachers play a vital role in shaping the future of city by educating the next generation. Competitive salaries not only attract and retain high-quality educators, but also recognize the significant time, effort, and dedication teachers invest in their students. Additionally, better compensation can help alleviate financial stress, allowing teachers to focus more on delivering effective instruction and supporting their students' academic and personal growth.
Wednesday, March 11, 2026	Teachers in American are the one of the most underappreciated professions. Seeing that Northern Virginia is one of the most expensive areas to live in America it would be only right to pay the teachers the right pay. This would help them be able to live in the city of Alexandria, many teachers have insane commutes ranging from two hour to three hours daily. I know multiple teachers who live in cheap rooms and have to have a house in the tidewater area of Virginia or even North Carolina. Its really insane teacher should not have to have multiple residences to save money or have to commute up to three hours daily just to reap the benefits of their pay. Many teachers work very hard and they should be paid more.
Wednesday, March 11, 2026	I believe that ACPS spends a significant amount of money on wasteful contracts with outside consultants (https://www.acps.k12.va.us/academics/prek-8-analysis) that could be better dedicated to priorities like increasing funding to classroom teachers and school social workers. I appreciate City Council's effort to help ACPS allocate it's funds most effectively.
Wednesday, March 11, 2026	I am a teacher within ACPS - we deserve a better salary. We shouldn't be struggling to live.
Wednesday, March 11, 2026	Please pay our teachers more!!! They do a very important job and need to be paid to reflect that, more than just COLA.
Wednesday, March 11, 2026	I highly encourage the City Manager and Council to increase the budget for teacher salaries. Our school district will not stay afloat with underpaid teachers who bend over backwards for families and children to make their school world better.
Wednesday, March 11, 2026	We support raising teachers salaries! 1.5% is not enough to cover the cost of living or inflation adjustments; please revisit the city councils request to raise it by 3.5%. We need our teachers to feel supported by the administration in order to focus on education and our children's best interests. They cannot do this if they are concerned on how to pay for basic needs or have to commute from far away since they cannot afford to live near the school. The requested 3.5% is the minimum amount we should be giving them and I would argue should be higher.
Wednesday, March 11, 2026	I am an ACPS parent and volunteer. My step-daughter has attended ACPS schools since Kindergarten, and is now in 8th grade at Francis C. Hammond. We have largely had a great experience with ACPS so far. My step-daughter has had enormous personal and academic growth through the dual-language program, arts enrichments, school sponsored after school activities, and more. She personally has benefitted from a number of incredible teachers, nurses, and school social workers who heavily invested in her and supported her development. However, we have also seen the enormous stressors that the school district is under. Class sizes are too large in many cases, and schools are overcrowded. There are often no substitute teachers available when teachers are out, which forces even more students into each classroom when teachers have to provide coverage for other classes. There are enormous needs for students with special needs, English language learners, and recent immigrants who have experience significant hardships before entering ACPS, and yet resources to provide these extra supports are being proposed to be cut. Enrichment activities like after school sports that are offered by the schools for free are a gift to students whose families may not have the time or financial resources to provide them on their own, and these are also potentially on the chopping block. I hope that the city of Alexandria understands how much value our schools provide to local families and the community overall, and chooses to provide financial supports to one of our city's greatest assets: our schools.
Wednesday, March 11, 2026	Hi, I would like to advocate for a 3.5% pay raise for teachers. Additionally, I'd like to advocate for removal of all virtual learning days in the event of inclement weather. If a school day is cancelled, it should be made up in person. I believe that many important learning opportunities were missed this year with the significant number of holidays and teacher work days. Please get back to basics and keep the days of education in the classroom maximized! COVID taught us the importance of face-to-face learning. Thank you. Best, Seth
Wednesday, March 11, 2026	Teachers have a HUGE responsibility in preparing our children for the future. Let's match that HUGE responsibility with a HUGE increase in pay. If anyone deserves a raise it should definitely be our ACPS teachers. Show them the MONEY!!!
Tuesday, March 10, 2026	This testimony is shared on behalf of ACT for Alexandria, our city's community foundation. At ACT, we amplify the work of the community by bringing people and resources together. I would like to start by thanking the City Manager, City staff, the Mayor, and members of City Council for listening to and incorporating feedback from nonprofit partners throughout this budget process. We are grateful to see many of these priorities reflected in the FY27 budget, including investments that recognize the critical role nonprofits play in supporting Alexandria residents and strengthening economic mobility and well-being as the City continues to invest in economic development and growth. Alexandria is feeling the effects of a changing landscape—from layoffs in the federal workforce to rising costs of living. At the same time, changes in federal policies may mean more residents become ineligible for programs like SNAP or face new work requirements tied to Medicaid. When that happens, the pressure on the local safety net increases. Alexandria's nonprofits are often the first-place neighbors turn when they need help with housing, food, childcare, healthcare, or navigating a difficult moment. They are on the front lines responding to these gaps, which is why maintaining a strong safety net is so important. We appreciate the City's investment in the nonprofit sector through the Alexandria Fund for Human Services and the proposed increase in funding for survival services. We also encourage continued attention to keeping these investments in line with inflation. As we shared previously, funding that was \$1.9 million several years ago would need to be about \$2.7 million today to have the same impact. Ensuring these resources keep pace with rising costs helps equip nonprofits to respond to evolving community needs. ACT is proud to partner with the City and with nonprofits across Alexandria to strengthen this ecosystem of care because we know investing in our city's residents is critical to Alexandria's growth and prosperity. We are grateful for your trust and investment in ACT, which allows us to mobilize additional philanthropic resources and support nonprofit organizations doing critical work every day in our community. Thank you for your leadership and continued partnership as we work together to ensure Alexandria is a just, vibrant, and equitable place where all who live and work here can thrive and feel they belong.
Tuesday, March 10, 2026	Homeowners need real estate tax relief!! It does not matter that the real estate tax rate did not go up. My home was assessed \$100k over last year which equates to a substantial tax increase. I see from the budget that real estate tax revenue is going up \$15 million. The budget should be reduced by \$15 million and homeowners should get relief if their tax assessment went up a certain amount. This is not sustainable for homeowners who probably receive the least in city services.

Date Received	Comment
Monday, March 9, 2026	<p>As a long-time Alexandria resident and caregiver for my adult son with schizophrenia, I am writing to express my strong support for the continued funding for the TRAILS (Transitioning Adults into Living Successfully) program. It's operated by the Community Services Board and offers specialized, multidisciplinary care for residents aged 15–30 experiencing their first episode of psychosis. First-episode psychosis (FEP) in Virginia and nationwide typically affects individuals aged 15–25, with an estimated incidence of 86–107 per 100,000 in this age group.</p> <p>TRAILS provides critical, evidence-based psychiatry, therapy, and recovery support to enable continued participation in school, work and independent living. The positive support of TRAILS has resulted in my son taking his medication for over 1 1/2 yrs, with no hospitalizations since 2022. The ongoing services from TRAILS have helped him resume employment and recover from homelessness.</p> <p>The 2025 Inova Alexandria Community Health Assessment identified Mental Health and Substance Use as a top health issue with unmet needs. The services provided by TRAILS are essential to filling gaps in our current, often overloaded, mental health system. In 2025, TRAILS provided weekly intensive outpatient support to 42 clients with almost 20% of them achieving school enrollment. Early treatment significantly improves long-term health outcomes. Without continued funding, our young Alexandria adults with untreated psychosis are at high risk of suicide, incarceration, chronic homelessness, persistent unemployment, and drug use.</p> <p>I strongly urge you to continue funding TRAILS to ensure the sustained mental wellness of our community.</p> <p>Sincerely, Cynthia Webster</p>
Monday, March 9, 2026	<p>I am writing to urge the City Council to fully fund Alexandria City Public Schools in the upcoming city budget. Our public schools are a vital part of our community, and ensuring they are adequately funded demonstrates that we value our educators and are committed to supporting the success of the next generation of Alexandrians.</p> <p>It is essential that the budget fully supports teacher salaries and planned pay increases so that Alexandria City Public Schools can continue to attract highly qualified educators and retain the talented teachers already serving our students. Competitive compensation reflects the respect our educators deserve for the critical role they play in shaping our children's futures and helps ensure stability and continuity in our classrooms.</p> <p>Teacher compensation in neighboring school divisions is expected to increase between 4.5% and 7.5% in FY 2027, making it critical that Alexandria City Public Schools sustains competitive salaries to attract and retain high-quality educators in Alexandria.</p> <p>In recent years, I have observed a concerning trend of teachers leaving their positions at James K. Polk Elementary School and Hammond Middle School, often for neighboring school districts that offer more competitive pay. This pattern underscores the importance of investing in educator compensation to retain experienced teachers and maintain strong learning environments for our students.</p> <p>I urge the City Council to fully fund the Alexandria City Public Schools budget and demonstrate that Alexandria is committed to supporting its educators, strengthening its schools, and investing in the future of our entire community.</p>
Sunday, March 8, 2026	<p>Saludos quisiera ver si pudiera tener apollo con arriendo atrasado Soy madre de tres hermanos niños y me encuentro sola.</p> <p>Agradecería bastante el apollo si se pudiera</p> <p>Greetings, I would like to see if I could get assistance with overdue rent. I am the mother of three young children and I am on my own. I would really appreciate the help if possible.</p>
Sunday, March 8, 2026	<p>The Alexandria Commission on Aging has supported the paratransit program for many years. The proposed budget does not appear to reflect the use of money from the contingency fund in FY26 to support the program. We urge that that amount of money be reflected in the FY27 Budget as well. Specifically,</p> <p>Page 13.41 includes the overall budget, including actuals from FY25, FY 26 Approved (which does not reflect the updated amount after council approved release of the contingency), and the FY 27 proposed (which is the same as the reduced amount from FY 26).</p> <p>Page 13.42 includes text about the budget amount and references the contingent reserve from FY26, which does not seem relevant to this year's budget, but nevertheless included.</p> <p>We would appreciate a clarification or a reconciliation of this discrepancy.</p> <p>Sincerely Michael Schuster Co-Chair, Commission on Aging</p>
Sunday, March 8, 2026	<p>Please invest in short, medium, and long term housing solutions for Alexandria's housing crisis.</p> <p>The most vulnerable Alexandrians require immediate relief through rental assistance and a continued rental subsidy pilot program.</p> <p>Medium term, as debt becomes available, we should use our bonding authority strategically to unlock our pipeline of unfunded affordable housing.</p> <p>Long-term solutions require increased housing supply, which can be pursued by repealing wasteful parking mandates, allowing more housing near transit, and pursuing authority for a land value tax structure in Alexandria at the 2027 General Assembly.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Saturday, March 7, 2026	<p>Why has the city not enacted a Commercial and Industrial tax like our surrounding neighbors?</p>
Friday, March 6, 2026	<p>hola por este medio les pido la ayuda</p> <p>Hello, through this means I am asking for help.</p>

Date Received	Comment
Friday, March 6, 2026	<p>Personally, I support an increased tax rate. Keeping the current rate amounts to an increase of just over \$40 per month for the average house owner - nothing compared to the equity gained by these properties in the last year, or to the rent increases faced by most Alexandrians.</p> <p>Most homeowners have a fixed rate mortgage, essentially rent control for people who could afford a down payment. With that built in stability, there should also be an expectation of contribution to the community through taxes that may increase over time.</p> <p>I understand that a rate increase is something to consider carefully and has impacts beyond personal & family budgets, and that increases are harder for homeowners on a fixed income. Fortunately we have relief programs for low income seniors. We should also continue encouraging flexible housing options so neighborhoods can evolve to meet changing needs, particularly given our aging population.</p> <p>The burden of rising costs should be shared, including by homeowners like me who tend to be wealthier Alexandrians. Restricting that burden to the vulnerable among us, by cutting services or staff pay and raising fees, without asking homeowners to do more goes against the city's stated values on equity.</p> <p>If money is available, with or without increased rates, I strongly support investments in local housing voucher programs that cannot be wielded against mixed status families in the way that federal programs are. Using the city's bonding authority to help unlock our pipeline of approved but unfunded affordable housing should also be a priority.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
Friday, March 6, 2026	<p>As a long time community member, ask city council to invest more on housing programs that help working class communities stay housed in Alexandria.</p> <p>Emma Bruce St</p>
Thursday, March 5, 2026	<p>Si me gustaría. Nos apoyen con más presupuesto ya que tenemos todo super incrementado. Actualmente y nuestros sueldos son super bajos tenemos mucha necesidad con presupuesto para renta. Salud nuestra comunidad está sumamente afectada actualmente por esta amistrasion tenemos mucha necesidad en un. Recurso pa dentista en nuestra comunidades y. Salud. Espero nos apoyen pronto para que nuestras comunidad cuente con más recursos y. Mil gracias bendiciones para todos. Y recuerda pueblo. Unido jamás será vencido gracias espero nos apoyen</p> <p>Please support us with more budget since everything has become extremely expensive. Right now our salaries are very low, and we have a great need for funding for rent. Health in our community is extremely affected right now because of this administration. We have a great need for a dental resource in our communities and for health. I hope you support us soon so that our community can have more resources. Thank you very much, blessings to everyone. And remember: a united people will never be defeated. Thank you, I hope you support us."</p>
Thursday, March 5, 2026	<p>Si me gustaría. Nos apoyen con más presupuesto ya que tenemos todo super incrementado. Actualmente y nuestros sueldos son super bajos tenemos mucha necesidad con presupuesto para renta. Salud nuestra comunidad está sumamente afectada actualmente por esta amistrasion tenemos mucha necesidad en un. Recurso pa dentista en nuestra comunidades y. Salud. Espero nos apoyen pronto para que nuestras comunidad cuente con más recursos y. Mil gracias bendiciones para todos. Y recuerda pueblo. Unido jamás será vencido gracias espero nos apoyen</p>
Thursday, March 5, 2026	<p>I am writing today to urge you to fully fund Alexandria City Public Schools in the city's upcoming budget.</p> <p>Our schools are a vital part of our community and every student should have access to a safe environment, quality instruction and any academic supports that are needed. Fully funding ACPS demonstrates that our children matter and their future as the next generation of Alexandrans are important to us as a community.</p> <p>In particular, it is critical that the budget fully supports teacher salaries and planned pay increases so Alexandria can attract quality educators and retain the great educators we have. Competitive compensation shows respect for the people who are instrumental in shaping our children's futures and helps ensure stability in our classrooms.</p> <p>I've noticed a troubling trend of teachers leaving Polk Elementary School the past few years, often for other school districts with more competitive pay. My daughter is in 3rd grade and not one of her prior teachers remains at the school. Her amazing first grade teacher left Northern Virginia entirely to teach in a less expensive area of the state because it was difficult for her to live off an ACPS teacher's salary.</p> <p>The one caveat to my support for full ACPS funding is my complete lack of confidence in ACPS management. I was troubled by the redistricting process, which gives no indication it will alleviate the crowding issues at the poorest schools in this district. A couple examples of current inequity, to illustrate my frustration:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The importance of 'community schools' in the redistricting process, yet the vast majority of students living on the western side of the city, who happen to be some of the poorest in the city, are not afforded that luxury and there are no conversations about new schools for these communities, despite the development on the west end on top of already crowded, large schools (700-900) that already do not provide the same experience to their students as smaller schools in other parts of this city. 2. Class sizes. It's gotten better, but this still remains an issue. For example, George Mason Elementary's average Kindergarten class is currently 11 students (34 total students) and 2nd grade is 15 (44 total students), while Patrick Henry Elementary's average Kindergarten class size is 24 (120 total students) and 2nd grade is 25 (124 total students) - 13 more students per K class and 9 more students per 2nd grade class at a school with 2x the poverty rate of the other. Patrick Henry has 1,000 students, with 80%+ of students coming from economically disadvantaged households - some from extreme poverty and/or unhoused - and as recent as a year or two ago, ACPS thought one social worker was sufficient to serve those 1,000 students. <p>Most recently, I was disturbed to read the superintendent's recent statement that without full funding, "23 teachers, social workers, psychologists" positions would be cut. Not one central office job title on that list, which says a lot to me. Teachers and professionals who directly support our students should be the LAST positions cut, not the first. I think that Alexandria government, as a major funder of ACPS, and the ACPS school board should demand some accountability for the amount of funding directed to central office and perhaps suggest the position cuts need to come from there, if anywhere.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Thursday, March 5, 2026	<p>As a working-class constituent of Alexandria City, I would like for City Council to invest in more affordable housing programs and policies.</p>
Thursday, March 5, 2026	<p>I have been a resident of the City of Alexandria for 17 years. During that time, I have participated in many budget processes and have spoken with members of the Council several times when they visited our community in the West End.</p> <p>For many years, we have been having the same conversation about the need for deeply affordable housing and the importance of investing in programs that help working-class families stay stable in their homes. These investments are critical for families who are doing their best to work hard, support their children, and remain part of this community.</p>
Thursday, March 5, 2026	<p>I have lived in the City of Alexandria for 10 years and during that time I have seen how much the cost of housing has increased for families like mine. Many working families are doing their best to keep up with rent, but it becomes harder every year as prices continue to rise while our incomes stay the same.</p> <p>Housing programs such as rental assistance and rental subsidies are very important because they help families stay in their homes and avoid displacement. These programs provide stability for parents and children who want to remain part of this community.</p> <p>I respectfully ask City Council to continue investing in housing programs that support working families and help keep Alexandria an affordable place to live.</p>

Date Received	Comment
Thursday, March 5, 2026	<p>I have lived in the City of Alexandria for 16 years. Like many working families, I struggle with the high cost of rent. Housing has become more expensive every year, and it is getting harder to keep up.</p> <p>I ask City Council to continue investing in housing programs like rental assistance that help families stay stable in their homes. These programs are very important for residents who want to continue living in the community.</p> <p>Jose West End community member</p>
Thursday, March 5, 2026	<p>Programas de ayuda de renta programa de subsidio de vivienda fondo para los programas del departamento de servicios humanos</p> <p>Rental assistance programs, housing subsidy program, fund for the programs of the Department of Human Services</p>
Thursday, March 5, 2026	<p>My name is Nely and I have lived in the City of Alexandria for 8 years. Like many working families in our community, the high cost of rent makes it very difficult to stay stable. Every year the rent continues to increase while our incomes do not grow at the same rate.</p> <p>I am asking City Council to invest more in housing programs like rental assistance and the Pilot Rental Subsidy Program. These programs help families like mine stay in our homes and avoid displacement. Our community needs more support so working families can continue living in the city.</p> <p>Nely West End resident</p>
Thursday, March 5, 2026	<p>My name is Edson. I have lived in the City of Alexandria for 11 years. My wife and I both work and we have three children. Even though we work hard, the cost of rent keeps going up and it is becoming harder for families like ours to keep up.</p> <p>I ask City Council to invest in housing programs like rental assistance and the Pilot Rental Subsidy Program so working families like mine can stay in the city and have stability.</p>
Thursday, March 5, 2026	<p>My name is Marvela. I have lived in the City of Alexandria for 8 years. Like many families in this city, the cost of rent keeps getting higher and it is becoming harder to keep up.</p> <p>I ask City Council to invest in housing programs like rental assistance and the Pilot Rental Subsidy Program so families like mine can continue living in the city and have more stability.</p> <p>Marvela West End resident</p>
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	<p>Hola buenos días necesitamos que nos ayudes con su apoyo para poder para renta porque está muy cara la renta cada ves me pone peor la situacion bendiciones</p> <p>Hello, good morning. We need you to help us with support so we can pay the rent because the rent is very expensive. Every time the situation gets worse. Blessings.</p>
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	<p>BENDICIONES , YO PIENSO , que en algún momento Dela vida todos tengamos a tener NESECIDAD , YA SEA POR DESEMPLEO ENFERMEDAD O ETC PIENSO Q LA IGUALDAD DE OPORTUNIDAD ES LO MEJOR PIENSO Q SI PEDIMOS AYUDA ES CUANDO EN VERDAD AUNQ Q QUISIÉRAMOS NO PODEMOS SOBRELLEVAR LA CITUACION EN MI OPINIÓN. DECEO DE CORAZON Q PUEDAN DARNOS A TODOS LOS Q APLICAMOS O PEDIMOS AYUDA PUEDAN DARNOS OPORTUNIDAD DE SER ESCUCHADOS BENDICIONES !</p> <p>Blessings, I believe that at some point in life we all experience need, whether because of unemployment, illness, or something else. I think that equal opportunity is the best. I believe that if we ask for help, it is because truly, even if we wish we could, we are not able to handle the situation. In my opinion, I sincerely hope that all of us who applied for or requested help can be given the opportunity to be heard. Blessings!</p>
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	<p>One question and one proposal</p> <p>QUESTION: The city manager's claim that he is not proposing a tax increase strikes me as disingenuous.</p> <p>As long as property appraisals increase, additional tax revenue will occur</p> <p>Consequently, I want to know if he is proposing more or less spending.</p> <p>And by how much.</p> <p>But if it's more, then how much more and why?</p> <p>PROPOSAL: Require each year the city manager identify candidate services that can be privatized and paid by their recipients rather than by all taxpayers.</p> <p>Rationale: Private service providers will be more attentive to citizen-client needs. Unlike unionized city employees, contract renewal s of private service providers depends on citizen-client satisfaction.</p>
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	<p>If the city cares about youth success, it must care about housing stability. Stable homes help us succeed in school and in life.</p> <p>Please invest more in housing stability.</p> <p>9th grade Minnie Howard</p>
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	<p>.</p>
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	<p>When families are struggling with rent, young people feel it too. We need leaders to show that youth matter by investing in housing stability in Alexandria City.</p> <p>David 7th grade GW middle school</p>
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	<p>Hi my name is Nicole and I'm in 7th also I attend George Washington middle school. Young people notice when families are stressed about money. It creates fear and anxiety. Please expand housing support so youth can feel safe and secure.</p>
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	<p>My family works hard, but rent keeps going up. We need support so we can stay in our community.</p> <p>Héctor 7th gw</p>

Date Received	Comment
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	We talk about building a better future for youth, but that starts with stable housing. Without a safe home, it's hard to dream big. Franco 6th jefferson houston
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	I have live in this city for 26 years, rent increases affect working class like mine and have displaced many of us, please invest on housing programs to help families like mine stay in Alexandria city.
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	As young people, we carry a lot of stress when our families struggle with rent. It's hard to focus on school when you don't know if you'll have to move. Please invest in housing programs that keep families stable 11th grade Alexandria City High School
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	Housing instability affects our grades, our mental health, and our future plans. We need leaders to make sure families can stay in their homes. It is bad to raise high prices of rent when the quality of our housing is bad. People can get sick from mold, infestations, and its hard when people do not have health insurance to be able to get healthy.
Wednesday, March 4, 2026	We need more investment in housing programs that help working class familias stay in the city of alexandria, we received high rent increases but our salary is not increasing at the same rate.
Tuesday, March 3, 2026	We need the school budget to be FULLY funded. I am very disappointed that the Alexandria City Manager ONLY put in a 1.5% budget increase for ACPS. This, DESPITE a 3.5% increase in revenue for the city due to property values going up. DESPITE all the data coming out of how Virginia has long underfunded schools and set them up to struggle. 1.5% DOES NOT cover a step increase and 1.5% increase (which is what city employees are getting). Also, this WILL NOT cover the collective bargaining agreement being negotiated. I care about our public schools. I have two children currently attending Alexandria City Public Schools. I need all of our city's children set up for success during their time in ACPS in order to ensure success post-graduation. I also need our veteran teachers to stay in our schools - teacher retention is a huge indicator of public school system health and directly impacts LEARNING. I need our class sizes to stay reasonable - In spite of the redistricting, we STILL have overcrowding across ACPS, continuously impacting historically disadvantaged communities the most. We ALL NEED our schools to be FULLY funded. Especially in light of the fact that Alexandria City receives only 68% of the per student in state Standards of Quality (SOQ) funding, marking the lowest per-pupil state funding amount of any school division in Virginia (Fairfax county received \$5,484 per student, state average was \$6,978/student). There is no reason why we shouldn't fund our schools adequately to provide commensurate compensation for teachers and student resources relative to Fairfax, Arlington, and other nearby localities. Strong successful schools grow community and ensure Alexandria remains vibrant. We need YOU to ensure that our city manager FULLY funds our schools!!
Tuesday, March 3, 2026	Necesito alluda para mi eenta I need help with my rent
Tuesday, March 3, 2026	Im need helado to my rent I need help with my rent
Tuesday, March 3, 2026	1: we need a rental assistance program . 2:housing subsidy program . 3:funding for the department of human services programs.
Tuesday, March 3, 2026	1: we need a rental assistance program . 2:housing subsidy program . 3:funding for the department of human services programs.
Tuesday, March 3, 2026	Soy una persona con desempleo y deseo la ayuda "I am an unemployed person and I need assistance.
Monday, March 2, 2026	I have 2 boys at Samuel Tucker Elementary. This year the class sizes are so large that the teachers do not have enough time or bandwidth to pay attention to all the children in their classes. My first grader is very bright and reading above grade level. Because he isn't in a "crisis" he gets little to no attention unless it is for redirection and focus. This leaves him feeling like he is "always getting in trouble" even though he is bored because he completes his work before the other students around him. His teacher has too many students to be able to devote her attention to him until he is causing a disruption. He is not being challenged. This is being made more apparent by the fact that one of the first grade classes was dissolved 6 weeks into the school year adding 5 additional students to each of the first grade classes. Now my student falls through the cracks because he isn't a "problem." My 4th grader really struggled as a military transplant going into such a large class with kids that have been mostly together since Kindergarten. The school is unable to provide him the support that he needs because there are students with more significant needs than his, and he gets lost in the crowd because he isn't a "problem" but that doesn't mean he isn't struggling with understanding how things function and expectations even though his teacher does her absolute best. What can someone expect from a teacher trying to stay on top of over 25 students needs?
Saturday, February 28, 2026	I believe we should give ACPS all the money that it is asking for. I think it is absolutely essential that we fully fund our public schools. We cannot leave more than 14,000 youth underfunded, especially with the districts around us becoming more competitive. We cannot drive teachers away. We absolutely might fully fund public schools and I think it is ridiculous to even suggest a 1.5% increase when we know it will harm collective bargaining for ACPS staff, knowing well that city employees will be getting an increase in their pay.
Saturday, February 28, 2026	Dear Alexanderia City Staff: Request to increase the frequency of the #32 bus service on Eisenhower Ave on weekends.
Friday, February 27, 2026	I think the schools need a bigger budget increase. Especially in the West End, where there is already a lot of overcrowding and only getting worse.
Friday, February 27, 2026	I am writing to express my strong support for our public schools and to emphasize how deeply I care about the success of our students. I want our children to be set up for success after graduation. I also want our veteran teachers to remain in our schools. Their experience, dedication, and mentorship are invaluable to student achievement and to maintaining a stable, high-quality learning environment. Finally, maintaining reasonable class sizes is critical. Our students deserve individual attention and meaningful engagement in the classroom. I urge you to prioritize policies and funding that protect and strengthen our public schools.,

Date Received	Comment
Friday, February 27, 2026	<p>Please fulfill the ACPS request of a 3.5% increase in budget. Our public schools are the foundation of our community. My two daughters benefit daily from the passionate educators in ACPS schools.</p> <p>A 1.5% increase does not even cover a step increase for our under compensated educators. I want veteran, highly qualified teachers to remain at ACPS like Ms. Goodlin, who inspired both my girls to greater academic achievement in the 7th grade English classes at Hammond, and Mr Fox who inspired both of them to do amazing history day projects.</p>
Friday, February 27, 2026	<p>Hello, With the city's revenue increase I would like to see more of that revenue go into our schools. Currently, the 1.5% increase won't cover salary increases and other needs to keep our classroom sizes small and retain experienced experts, including teachers. Teachers deserve the salary increase just like a city employee. In fact, teachers are critical to ensuring the city's children become strong contributors once they graduate. Please increase the budget for ACPS. If the city cannot afford it, I suggest they find creative ways to raise the funds, including gathering ideas from its citizens.</p>
Friday, February 27, 2026	<p>As a resident and parent of an Alexandria Public Schools student, more money should be directed to educating our children.</p>
Friday, February 27, 2026	<p>Why do we treat our teachers like second class citizens? It has always amazed me that we under appreciate, under fund and under pay the very people that are shaping the lives of our future generations.</p> <p>Good teachers leave for for better pay in adjoining school systems for this very reason. Don't be apart of that drain. Fully fund the school and pay our teachers!!!</p>
Friday, February 27, 2026	<p>Funding to support the middle school athletic programs should be prioritized. The positive impact athletics have reaches beyond just improved test scores, but social emotional development of this population. These programs are JUST gaining momentum and we should prioritize keeping that momentum going.</p>
Wednesday, February 25, 2026	<p>I am writing as a city resident and ACPS parent of 3, including one child at Hammond and two at Polk. As a resident of the city, I have come to understand and appreciate the many competing needs of the city that is struggling with limited funds. However, I nevertheless feel strongly that the city should do everything in its power to meet the proposed budget presented by ACPS to the extent possible.</p> <p>Public education is more important now than ever, and we risk losing our best educators and staff if we continue to ask them to do more with less. My children attend overcrowded schools with teacher-to-student ratios that make me want to cry. Moreover, an overwhelming number of students in the classroom require additional support, making the work of managing a class of 24 children feel twice as hard. We are faced with cutting invaluable language programs, and balancing the needs to of rebuilding crumbling schools with other schools that are far too overcrowded. At the same time, as a parent active in my children's schools, I see firsthand how hard the staff work every day to keep all of our students healthy and on track to be successful humans.</p> <p>And shouldn't the creation of successful humans be at the top of our priority list as a city? I recognize the many other funding needs the city faces but we will fail as a city in the long run if our future residents are not successful adults. I constantly hear that ACPS is viewed as "less than" neighboring schools systems and that this is why many friends, colleagues, and acquaintances did not consider moving here when it came time to buy a home and build a family. While I do not agree with this take on ACPS, I do not think we can ignore the fact that if we want to create a world-class city that attracts business and investment, we have to consider that the reputation of our schools, deserved or not, plays an important role in the process. We should be digging into ensuring that all Alexandria students receive an education that is considered to be on par with the surrounding districts. We must set the bar higher.</p>
Tuesday, February 24, 2026	<p>As a parent of a second grader at Samuel Tucker Elementary, I am concerned that our schools do not have sufficient funding to support students effectively. Neighboring jurisdictions can offer higher teacher salaries, and strong educators have options. Large class sizes are also a concern.</p> <p>Where we put our money shows what we prioritize. If education is truly a priority, our budget should reflect that commitment.</p> <p>Will you commit to increasing funding for our schools so we can remain competitive and provide students with the support they deserve?</p>
Monday, February 23, 2026	<p>How much does it cost the city to administer the residential parking program? How much revenue does that program bring in?</p>
Monday, February 23, 2026	<p>This is what you get for electing democrats.</p>
Monday, February 23, 2026	<p>Hello!</p> <p>I would love the city to explore a pedesetrian signal at commonwealth from Ancell to Mount Vernon Ave. Many of us from Warwick Village use that as a key space to cross commonwealth and during rush hour, it can be impossible to get cars to stop (even with a stroller).</p> <p>Thanks, Kate</p> <p>Prior Submission:</p> <p>Your Comments: Hi! Would it be possible to install a pedestrian signal that flashes to get traffic to stop while crossing commonwealth from Ancell to mount vernon ave? Not a huge problem in the day, but at night especially in the winter cars don't see people. Would especially be helpful during rush hour.</p> <p>Staff Comments: Kate,</p> <p>Thank you for contacting the City of Alexandria with your request for flashing pedestrian beacons stop signs at the intersection of Commonwealth Avenue and Ancell Street.</p> <p>The City takes mobility, access, and traffic safety very seriously and has several plans and programs in place to enhance safety for all roadway users, such as the Vision Zero Action Plan, Complete Streets Program, and the Alexandria Mobility Plan.</p> <p>At this time, staff resources and funding are currently committed to other priority projects for this fiscal year. However, staff appreciates you taking the time to share your suggestions and will take your request into consideration as they plan future safety improvements.</p> <p>Thank you again for contacting the City of Alexandria with your concerns. Should you have any additional questions, do not hesitate to contact us.</p> <p>Bryan Hayes Complete Streets Coordinator</p>

Date Received	Comment
Sunday, February 22, 2026	<p>As a parent of students in our public schools, I urge you to prioritize funding for our city's schools in the FY 2027 Operating Budget at this critical moment. We must remain competitive in attracting and retaining high-quality teachers, and that means ensuring they feel valued, supported, and fairly compensated so they are not forced to leave our community. We are at a pivotal time when supporting the whole child — academically, socially, and emotionally — also means supporting their families. Many of our students are at risk and deserve the same access to strong learning opportunities, enrichment, and resources as their peers. We cannot continue placing the burden of closing opportunity gaps on our teachers and parents, who are already giving so much. While we are continuing to advocate at the state level for additional resources, we know that change there will take time. In the meantime, we are depending on you. Your investment in our public schools is an investment in our city's future workforce, safety, and economic stability. The decisions you make today will determine what our tomorrow looks like as a community. We cannot do this alone! We need you to stand with our students and families now. Please incorporate the school board approved budget into your budget plans to ensure we have a fighting chance. Thank you.</p>
Saturday, February 21, 2026	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When the original budget was presented in January a slide said that \$11.44 million was set aside for an approximately 5% raise for employees 2. The City of Alexandria advised the superintendent and school board they would only approve an additional 1.5 budget request. The superintendent asked for an additional 3.7 percent 3. Michelle Reif stated that if the city did not approve the full 3.7 % request staff would not even get a step increase. What happened to the reserve set aside for a 5% average pay raise, especially considering increased health care costs led to a decrease in take home pay for staff last year? 4. year 5. ACPS is being surpassed in salary enhancements by just about every district (last year neighboring districts provided staff with 5-8% salary increases and are providing the same this year) <p>The school board and superintendent are playing politics with the City of Alexandria regarding the livelihoods of staff. ACPS will blame the city for a lack of salary enhancements if the city refuses the 3.7 increase when the city provided budget guidance of approving 1.5 from the beginning. ACPS needs to cut funds from a multitude of sources, including an over bloated Central office staff and a building nobody works in, in order to provide those who serve students IN PERSON on a daily basis a fair and equitable salary that is comparable to surrounding districts.</p>
Saturday, February 21, 2026	<p>I am a parent at James K. Polk Elementary School, and school funding is extremely important to my family. My child depends on ACPS not only for academic learning, but also for a safe and supportive environment every day.</p> <p>Strong funding ensures smaller class sizes, dedicated teachers, and essential programs that help students grow both academically and emotionally. Budget cuts would directly affect my child and many other students in our community.</p> <p>Please prioritize full and strong funding for ACPS so our children can continue to receive the quality education they deserve.</p>
Friday, February 20, 2026	<p>Hello - I am the parent of a second grader at Samuel Tucker Elementary School.</p> <p>I am concerned that our schools do not have enough funding to meet the needs of our students. I understand that City Council determines the funding level for Alexandria's schools, and your decisions directly impact the quality of education our children receive.</p> <p>We know that neighboring jurisdictions can offer higher teacher salaries, and strong teachers have choices about where they work. Retaining great educators should be a priority. I am also concerned about large class sizes and how they affect student learning and teacher support.</p> <p>Our students deserve the resources, attention, and opportunities needed to succeed. Can we count on you to prioritize education and increase funding for our schools?</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>
Friday, February 20, 2026	<p>In order to retain and recruit talent in ACPS, salaries need to be competitive. Please include funding to support ACPS staff's collective bargaining in your annual budget.</p>
Friday, February 20, 2026	<p>Hello, I am writing to express my support for ACPS funding. Our school system faces many challenges, including overcrowding especially at many of the elementary schools and all the middle schools. Without funding for teachers, our students will receive a sub par education. I also support turning one of the elementary schools into another middle school or building a new middle school on the west end, to make the middle school environment safer for our children.</p>
Thursday, February 19, 2026	<p>I am Vice President of the Patrick Henry PTA.</p> <p>I am writing to express my support for an increase in the funding allocated for ACPS schools, specifically for staffing. We remain uncompetitive with surrounding school districts (Arlington and Fairfax) and the proposed budget indicates we will continue to be so, resulting in attrition and teacher turnover. Retaining talented teachers is particularly important for us, given that many of our teachers are asked to manage very large class sizes. Providing this sort of stability should be an absolute priority for us, given the many challenges faced by ACPS students and families in light of the many changes due to redistricting.</p>
Thursday, February 19, 2026	<p>Please fully fund ACPS. It is critical that we keep and attract the best teachers. Fully funding ACPS is a step in the right direction to keep Alexandria competitive for top talent in the region. Strong schools lead to strong communities. Fund ACPS.</p>
Thursday, February 19, 2026	<p>I would like to see two things:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A significant improvement in the ratio of teachers to administrative staff, and 2. A significant reduction in the amount of laptops and tablets that are purchased and used for instruction at the elementary level.

Date Received	Comment
Wednesday, February 18, 2026	<p>I would like to see the ACPS school budget prioritized in the FY2027 city budget, to be presented next week. I acknowledge that this is (yet again) a tough budget year. However, I am disappointed that the conversation around the budget continues to be "what can we cut" rather than "how can we increase revenue." Years without tax increases and without revenue investments have contributed to the schools being underfunded and repeatedly having to beg for adequate funding to meet the ever-increasing population and need in the city. It is clear based on recent research and data that at the state level, the recommendations and funding levels do not meet the need of any school across the commonwealth. However, until strong advocacy and a motivated General Assembly can change how Virginia schools are funded generally, it is the responsibility of this city to fund our school system. Claiming that we are adequately funding ACPS when we are not only adds to the problem. When you compare the percentages of funding that surrounding jurisdictions provide their public schools, all of them are higher than Alexandria, despite the fact that we educate a population with a higher percentage of need. We need more resources for our kids, not less.</p> <p>For a sadly large number of children in Alexandria, their schools are one of the safest places in their lives, and the primary source of positive adult interactions outside of the home. Many families don't have the extra funds to participate in travel sports (or any sports outside what is offered at ACPS), or extra theater classes.</p> <p>Many of our teachers are truly magicians to be able to give what they give to their students. You see that when you walk into a kindergarten class at the start of the year and see students that can't write their full name or accurately identify all the letters of the alphabet. Return in May, and you will find them sounding out words. Come to the schools. See special education teachers give up their lunch break to work 1:1 with their students to make sure they "get their wiggles out" before joining their class for encore classes. Walk into a middle school science classroom and find students bringing to life a flying robot for the science fair during their lunch break, constructively working with their teacher (even middle school students who won't talk to their parents).</p> <p>These magicians deserve to be paid fairly for the extraordinary work they do each every day so that our children graduate ready to be contributing citizens in our city. Teachers and administrators deserve to be paid at a level that acknowledges their years of service, their investments in their educations, and the truly impressive outcomes that they manage to produce on a shoestring budget. Retaining excellent, experienced teachers is key and unfortunately in Alexandria the pay gaps between us and the neighboring jurisdictions gets higher each year.</p> <p>We all watched as every collective bargaining unit came to the city and had their requests fulfilled this year, DESPITE the tough budget year. Funding the ACPS budget at a 1.5% recommendation will not allow that to happen for our teachers-not when nearly 80% of the budget is salaries. We can do better in Alexandria. And we have to. The kids are counting on us, and on you.</p> <p>Catie Brownback</p>
Wednesday, February 18, 2026	<p>I request that the budget includes a dedicated line item for non-technology curriculum materials — such as workbooks, printed homework packets, pencils, pens, paper, ink for printouts, and other hands-on learning tools for elementary and middle school students.</p> <p>Children are not yet mentally mature enough to consistently keep themselves on task or safe when using technology without constant supervision. Extensive screen use can make sustained attention, focus, and deep thinking more difficult for young learners, because digital media often delivers rapid, highly stimulating content that competes with slower, more thoughtful tasks (research shows screen exposure is linked with shorter attention spans and difficulty concentrating).</p> <p>Balancing technology with traditional, non-screen learning materials supports stronger cognitive development, real-world problem-solving, and foundational skills like handwriting, reading comprehension, and memory.</p> <p>I also ask that parents be given the option to opt their children out of learning through iPads, Chromebooks, or computers, so that families who prefer traditional, non-screen instruction for developmental or educational reasons can choose that path.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Ruth Leiva</p>
Wednesday, February 18, 2026	<p>I support the FY 2027 budget's focus on recruitment and retention of high-quality educators. Competitive teacher compensation is essential to attract and retain top talent and sustain instructional excellence across ACPS. The inclusion of salary reserves and recruitment/retention resources is a positive step; however, continued investment is necessary to ensure ACPS remains competitive with neighboring districts and supports long-term teacher stability.</p> <p>I also strongly encourage ACPS and City Council to expand access to high-quality, nutritious meals. While universal lunch programs are helpful, meal quality matters. Breakfasts should minimize added sugars (especially for elementary school children) and offer balanced options, and lunches should emphasize fresh, nutritious, whole-food ingredients. With more than 40% of students qualifying for free or reduced meals, food security and meal quality directly impact academic performance and overall well-being.</p> <p>Arts education and after-school programming must remain strong priorities. These programs are foundational to a well-rounded education and are not optional enrichment. Music, visual arts, theater, academic clubs, and extended-day programs support engagement, equity, and student development across all grade levels. Dedicated funding ensures these programs are protected and accessible to all students.</p> <p>Finally, as ACPS navigates school boundary changes and redistricting, I urge the inclusion of explicit resources to support impacted families. While staffing adjustments are included in the proposed budget, families would benefit from dedicated transition support such as transportation assistance, counseling resources, multilingual communication, and community-building opportunities at receiving schools. Proactive support will help maintain stability, trust, and student well-being during transitions.</p>
Thursday, February 12, 2026	<p>I'm a 30+ year resident of the City and 17 year ACPS veteran teacher. Our salary increases do not come close to keeping up with the rate of inflation, and many of my colleagues are leaving the district for Fairfax, Arlington or Falls Church for more money.</p> <p>I am currently in the position of needing to make a decision of whether or not I want to do the same. I am coming up on my last 3 years of work before retirement, and it would be in my best interest to switch districts to maximize my VRS post-retirement income.</p> <p>I'm keenly aware of the budget issues facing Alexandria but I strongly urge you to consider the future of our educational system and our City's children.</p>
Thursday, February 12, 2026	<p>I am a 3rd-grade teacher at a title 1 school on the west side of Alexandria. With the cost of living in Alexandria, I am barely making enough to get by. I am working paycheck to paycheck just to afford rent and groceries. I am also still using my own money to fund resources in my classroom to give my students an exciting education. Teachers' salaries need to be raised to match the expense of living in our beautiful city! I do not want to leave this city, both living and working, but I may have to if our school budget and teacher salaries are not increased!</p>
Thursday, February 12, 2026	<p>Hello I am a city resident and a ACPS staff member for 20years. *I would like for the city council members to know that ACPS has one of the lowest pay salary in this area. The support staff members (bus drivers, cafeteria staff, office staff and paraprofessionals) work the hardest to make sure schools are ran in a great manner. Yes I could maybe should be going to our school board members. I will not waste my time.</p>

Date Received	Comment
Wednesday, February 11, 2026	<p data-bbox="373 134 730 155">Dear Alexandria City Council and City Manager,</p> <p data-bbox="373 172 1995 318">Thank you for all that you do to make Alexandria City such a wonderful place to live. This is a welcoming, diverse, vibrant community because the people here believe in creating that kind of place. I know that it requires careful planning and balancing to make our budget meet the similarly diverse needs of a city like Alexandria. As a parent with two children in elementary school in ACPS, I believe that our schools are regularly called on to do a lot with not nearly enough resources. Because Virginia uses a staff-based model to assess educational costs and because of an unfair Local Composite Index formula, Alexandria City must shoulder an unreasonable portion of the expense of running our schools. I encourage City Council and the Mayor's office to press our state elected officials and leaders to address this situation. In the meantime, I ask that you do all that you can to meet the needs of our schools. Already, our schools are tightening budgets in painful ways for next year while grants that flowed freely in more prosperous times dry up. At Mount Vernon Community School, we are aware that our 3-5 grade after-school tutoring program for next year is unfunded thanks to budget cuts. For many complex reasons, ACPS will have a tough time meeting all the financial demands next year. A new collective bargaining agreement, inflation, and capital improvement demands are challenges that I know you are all aware of. I ask that you do everything you can to fund ACPS's budget, knowing that it is far, far from being funded to the level of its true needs.</p> <p data-bbox="373 334 485 355">With gratitude,</p> <p data-bbox="373 371 470 393">Evan Wilson</p>