

From Kristin Burns, July 4, 2020 To Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, with copy to the Governor and my Virginia representatives in the House and Senate, and Melanie Meren, the Hunter Mill representative of the Fairfax County School Board

1. Making Written Testimony Public Related to the Budget Process

Thank you for considering the lengthy 21 pages of feedback (in the program I wrote and copied from to the email I sent, it was 21 pages) that I submitted to the Board in response to the FY21 Budget Proposal. I sent a subsequent email to Chairman McKay and Supervisor Alcorn, my district supervisor. I had been told by staff at the Clerk's office that, although the Board welcomed citizens to submit written testimony this year during the virtual budget meetings, written testimony would not be uploaded to your Web site for public review.

I asked in that email for Chairman McKay and Supervisor Alcorn to ensure that written testimony is updated to your Web site. I did not get a response. I hope in response to this email you can affect publishing written testimony, if you have not already, and that you can provide a link for all the written testimony received by the Board during the budget process this year. I would like the opportunity to read what other residents submitted to the Board during the Budget approval process.

My personal testimony submitted to the Board during the budget process relates to heartbreaking failures in this community to prevent domestic, family, and community violence. That should not need to be in the public purview. I should be able to work back through county agencies easily to affect a safer outcome for me and for my children. Crime victim and witness rights in Virginia, both statutory and constitutional, protect my and my children's privacy. Yet, while the policies and practices I have brought forward are systemic, more than just me and my family have been harmed by them.

As a community, we have not been working together to effectively change policies and practices in our shared interest. For that reason, I accept that other residents should be able to see the written feedback I have submitted to the Board regarding the FY21 Budget. I understand those residents will include county employees. I am confident that many county employees do not find fulfillment doing the jobs they are doing, in the ways they have been doing them, so that they might have living wages and benefits. I imagine there are many county employees who are also interested in improving our shared quality of life, and willing to question and to change some of their standard practices in that interest.

I do not want this community, including the Board, to minimize the threat my children's father poses to our community's safety beyond his unrelenting threat to me, my children, and our fundamental parent-child relationships. A man who will commit chronic violence and cruelty against his own children, and the mother of his children, is generally a threat to the health and safety of children and women in our community. A man who, for years, has been willing and able to manipulate government agencies and the courts to protect himself from being held accountable for committing crimes against his own children is a threat to the health and safety of our community as a whole.

I also do not want this community, including the Board, to minimize the threat that county agencies pose when they misuse their positions of trust, especially when they cause harm, instead of preventing it, through community violence. Here in Fairfax County that community violence includes systemic policies and practices that prevent the achievement of the good missions and intentions for which our county agencies were created.

2. The FY2021 Budget Proposal

It is not responsible leadership to condone community violence within our government agencies with either verbal or monetary rewards, rather than take the time to coordinate effective changes in policies and practices with input from citizens who have been harmed by practices that should change. I would like to be able to share a higher quality of life with employees of county agencies, contractors, and non-profit organizations. We cannot do that while FCPS, CPS, FCPD, DVAC, and other organizations continue to refuse to take responsibility for the preventable losses and violence my children and I have suffered, and have not taken an interest in effectively restraining chronic domestic and family violence by one man over more than an 8 year period.

My understanding is that a budget is not the same as an appropriation. The board may need more time during these quickly changing circumstances to understand that our economies will not solve our current real problems, particularly if the dollars are misplaced and do not support our shared quality of life.

As you have passed the budget as it stands, I hope that how the county budget is appropriated during our current state of emergency will be fluid as we redefine some of our priorities in support of our shared safety and security. I also hope that county employees who have been taking this time off from their jobs will be willing and interested in re-defining what their roles and jobs might be moving forward.

While we are in a declared state of emergency, having to take extra time and energy to try to figure out how to manipulate our budgets and economies to support the real work and real changes we should be making becomes an extra obstacle to more efficient use of our time and energy.

3. Our Acknowledged State of Emergency - COVID-19

I don't have Internet access where I live, but I read on MSN a few weeks ago that in the United States we've had about 1.5 million cases of COVID-19, and we have lost about 80,000 lives to the virus. While there seem to be different ways of gathering and interpreting the data, if I am doing my math right, according to those numbers more than 5% of people who get the virus are not surviving it. That is up to 1 out of 20 people who are not surviving COVID-19. There are many elective surgeries that would be done less often if they resulted in those kinds of documented fatalities.

With a national population of over 300 million people, I do not believe nationally we can risk returning to our lives as we were living them. With a local population of about 1.5 million people in Fairfax County, I do not think locally we can risk returning to our lives as we were living them. Yet, in mitigating COVID-19 and recognizing the fragility of our lives here and now, we might discover a new normal that includes a willful sharing of a higher quality of life.

In the absence of the changes we made to mitigate the spread of the virus, the reported numbers indicate that we could have lost up to 80,000 lives in Fairfax County alone. That ought to give us pause before deciding how to move forward from here, and from trying to go back to the ways we were living. In reviewing some of the numbers published by the Board, the fatality rate had also been documented to be between 3-5% in the DC, Virginia, Maryland area.

We cannot let our mitigation of COVID-19 mutate into a denial that the virus was, and likely will continue to be, a real threat to our shared health and safety. Just a few weeks ago, I learned of five confirmed cases from people in the community in Loudoun County where I work. Prior to that I was aware of only one probable case. A couple months ago, a mechanic in the shop attached to the parts store where I work was sick and out of work for about 30 days. He was not tested for COVID-19. The first couple of days of his illness were horrible enough that he doesn't remember them, and he described the symptoms as just continuing to come back.

I only learned of the more recent confirmed cases because I asked how everyone was doing at a couple of the shops I deliver parts to. Otherwise, people in general are not proactively talking about confirmed or probable cases of the virus. Some people wear masks in the community, and everyone abides by social distancing for the most part.

Still, a mechanic at one of the shops I deliver to had to quarantine for 14 days because his wife had the virus. He commutes from Maryland. A shop owner was aware of a pharmacist in Maryland who also contracted the virus. A mechanic at another shop was quarantining for 14 days because he tested positive. Another mechanic had a friend who tested positive, and suffered flu-like symptoms. Another shop has a mechanic who works in Manassas who, as a military veteran, said the virus was the most painful experience he had been through in his lifetime. Just last week the counter-woman at another shop told me she had started to wear a face-mask after two of the mechanics at the shop got sick.

As I also mentioned in my prior email, another shop owner knows a nurse who works treating severe cases of COVID-19, who told him that the nurses have so far not contracted the virus. However, the nurses are taking medications to try to prevent contracting the virus. Medications over the long term can cause their own health problems over time, and we should not risk the health and safety of those professionals by abandoning effective mitigation of the virus to the best of our abilities.

An example I could think of to share with another parent in our community is how we teach children to ride a bicycle. We teach our children to wear helmets, particularly while they are learning. If a child with a helmet on falls and bumps his or her head on the sidewalk but does not get seriously injured, we don't use that as a reason to suggest a child stop wearing a helmet. We make sure the child understands that wearing a helmet prevented injuries that could have been much worse without having a helmet on.

Accidents do happen. We should not undo the changes we have made to mitigate the severity of COVID-19 for the sake of growing "economies" that risk our actual health and safety. Since my first attendance of the budget process (I think in 2014), I have been trying to get the Board to understand that when accidents happen we should acknowledge them, make repairs as best we can, and work out together how to avoid a similar one. Not doing so, which sometimes appears to develop from a fear of legal liability, only increases the actual liability by not preventing the next accident more effectively. It does not contribute to our shared health or safety.

Within the unknowns of COVID-19 specifically, it is important to recognize that we live in the reality of the threat of unpredictable viruses. From reading the news over recent

months, on top of naturally occurring viruses, it sounds like at least Russia, China, and the United States research viruses in a military context. I heard that one military lab in the United States had to be shut down years ago for breaches in security. Medical labs and universities also do virus research behind closed doors for the sake of keeping their work proprietary or protecting potential profits. Within all of that research behind closed doors, accidents can happen. Until we globally recognize that we are actually one peoples, which COVID-19 has reminded us, and that we should be looking out for each other's health and safety, the risks will not be alleviated.

With medical research that is published, it is not always clear how we should apply it to our daily lives. Managing our insurance and health industries to dollars further muddies the waters. There have been publicized examples in the news or in legislative hearings of people not being able to access drugs that are available and known to be effective for particular diseases they suffer from because they simply cannot afford them.

At the same time, a medical practice earns more income by providing more services to more people. There are significant dollars spent as a result of the 60% herd immunity theory of vaccinations. That doesn't mean that widely providing vaccinations is not effective in preventing disease, but the private and government dollars that are spent on vaccinations can influence both the direction of research and what is published to us about the effectiveness of vaccines. With such large numbers of vaccines being manufactured and distributed globally, there are a lot of places in the processes where errors can happen.

I personally remember as a child suffering a notable reaction to one of the vaccines I was given. I remember my arm felt like it weighed 50 pounds, and I fell asleep in a hammock outside. With my own children, I wanted to do my best to care about their health, and I took the medical advice given to vaccinate them on recommended schedules. On the premise of “do no harm”, I stopped vaccinating my children after my youngest child's one-year vaccinations. That year, both of my children seemed to be harmed by the vaccines. A regression in health and well-being that my son experienced after his MMR vaccine a couple of years prior no longer felt coincidental.

After their father obtained a sole custody award of my children, he began vaccinating them again. When I sought out medical reports, I was able to confirm that a significant rash I witnessed on my daughter during Skype calls one week happened after a round of vaccinations. Her father told me my daughter had a sunburn, but a sunburn does not usually last for a week.

Expecting our economies to meet our real needs and to improve our shared quality of

life, instead of working towards our real shared needs for health and safety, hurts us overall. During our mitigation of COVID-19, our struggle to ensure proper protective gear has been available for our medical personnel, and to ensure availability of face masks, hand sanitizer, and toilet paper for the general public, are just two examples of how having the money for a need does not guarantee we will be able to meet the actual need.

Within the unknowns, it feels like we should follow the advice that has been given to us by medical professionals to mitigate the spread of viruses and diseases. We should continue to keep public gatherings to a minimum, maintain social distancing, and maintain sanitation efforts. We should continue to put activities on hold that do not contribute to our shared health and safety. We spend a lot of time doing jobs that do not improve our quality of life beyond the wages and benefits that we hope will help us improve our quality of life. It makes more sense to have extra manpower on standby and available when real needs surface, and it makes more sense to be more deliberate about doing the shared work that will improve our quality of life.

We should prioritize activities that can mitigate other threats and challenges to our shared health and safety that our within our control, while continuing mitigation of COVID-19. We should also try to keep the majority of our activities local. From a point of shared access to reliable water, healthy food, and safe shelter, we could move forward to ensure that our water is clean to the taps in our homes and facilities, and that the air quality in the buildings we live and work in is safe.

We should also ensure that adequate medical care is available locally to serve the needs of residents, not just those who have money or insurance, or who qualify for other health care programs. Medical care should be available within our local communities so that local environmental problems that cause health problems can be recognized and alleviated.

For example, within each school district we could determine the health care needs of the community, and ensure the right facilities and providers of care are established if they need to be. From there, maybe we could trial allowing uninsured people to pay what they are able to. If the facility or providers run short on what they need to keep the practice functioning and meet their own needs, they could note any shortfalls on a sign at the entrance. People with insurance, or organizations such as local churches with money to spare, could make donations towards any shortfalls. That would be a more efficient way of helping a neighbor than donating to a non-profit that might set up a couple of facilities that are out of the school district. Sharing the same medical practice could also provide peace of mind that the donation is going towards quality care.

Within our current dis-jointed provision of medical care, people with health insurance tend to gravitate to certain providers, and people without health insurance tend to gravitate towards others. It is not common for people in a community to share the same providers of medical care, and many people are required to travel a distance from where they live in order to see a provider in their specific health care plan. That prevents us from more easily recognizing problems that can stem from an environmental problem in a local community, or from more easily getting to the source of an outbreak of COVID-19 that could help us prevent another one.

As I mentioned in my earlier email, I tested negative for COVID-19 when suffering through flu-like symptoms. More recently, I am pretty sure that what I have been suffering from has been chronic low-level carbon monoxide poisoning from an older gas stove where I have been living for more than a year. Initially, my sleep was disrupted and I had trouble getting up and staying up in the morning. Over time, my breathing and heart rate were effected.

With piecemeal medical care, a doctor's visit to a private practice to get medicine for a recurring eye infection last summer resulted in a recommendation for me to go asap to the emergency room because my blood pressure was high. I had to sign a waiver that I was not going to the emergency room. I could not afford it, and my blood pressure has historically been higher at the doctor's office than when I test it at home. I paid for the same practice to do standard blood-work, which in hindsight was indicative of potential carbon monoxide poisoning. However, because the counts were only slightly off, and not in the direction that would typically be a concern to health care workers, the practice did not take much notice of it.

If I remember correctly, it was when the ADC brought me to the emergency room in leg shackles back in November of last year (because my blood pressure was high and I would not take medication at the ADC that had not previously been prescribed for me), that the ER recorded my oxygen levels to be lower than they had been before. The ER also ran blood-work, which was still off similar to the prior blood-work.

When I finally realized my symptoms could be related to the stove and turned off the gas, I started feeling better, having more energy, and being able to get up more easily and stay awake in the mornings. I am still not back to my normal more than a month later, and I have not taken the time and money to re-check my blood-work. As a part of the COVID-19 test, my oxygen level was tested, and back up to 98.

Those are the kinds of risks to our shared health and safety that local health care, and

having continuity of care, would be more able to help us alleviate. Recommendations to put me on blood pressure medication, rush me for testing of my heart's functioning, or to consider quitting smoking after more than 30 years, would not have ultimately alleviated the problem. Because different people at different practices were involved in my care at different times, there is no realistic way for me to circle back with the practitioner's involved in my care to suggest they ask environmental questions.

Our communities in Fairfax County have often been built around the same time by the same builders. If a gas stove in one town-home ages to the point of replacement, the gas stoves in the neighboring town-homes probably also need to be replaced. If the water pipes in one home age and cause problems with the water between the hand-off from the water company and the taps, all the homes in the community probably need to replace pipes.

Sometimes we learn that a material for a pipe that we thought was safe causes health problems over the years. If a community has had such pipes in place, medical personnel can be proactive about seeing if those health problems are occurring in the community. If we are more aware locally of what our infrastructure includes (both public and private), we are more able to efficiently fix problems that risk our health or safety.

Local health care, and continuity of care, can help us identify problems that we need to fix to improve the quality of our lives. Actually fixing problems once they are identified would be easier if we have a base of unemployed people in the community ready to be trained and to help fix real problems when they arise. Those are the kinds of skills I would like us to teach our children, so that they have the skills (physical, social, trade, and academic) to maintain a higher quality of life for themselves. The best way we can teach those skills is through example, and including are children in the process when it is appropriate.

I do not want us to risk preventable illnesses, deaths, violence, or suffering. I have heard a heartbreaking pattern that COVID-19 has caused in different places globally. According to news articles, when the virus spikes, medical staff are overwhelmed by the number of suffering people who are brought to them for care. Medical personnel witnessed suffering from the virus without being sure how to treat it. Doctors and nurses make their best decisions based on their training and experience.

It sounds like emergency care professionals went through losing more patients in a short period of time than they had witnessed before. If they ran out of protective gear, they could then find themselves in short order treating, or being treated by, their co-workers for the virus. Our medical professionals have shared with us that they have been afraid

to provide the comfort they normally would to suffering or dying patients, and they are heartbroken watching families unable to be with their loved ones as they suffer or die.

I heard testimony on a call-in radio show from a nurse who witnessed first-hand the devastation and suffering of COVID-19. I believe she was American. One of her coworkers, after watching the suffering of people with COVID-19, chose to take her own life when she was diagnosed with the virus. The nurse said that she and her other coworkers continue to be traumatized by what they went through.

Until we can provide our front line medical professionals a measure of assurance they will not have to go through that again, that trauma is likely to linger. Just a few weeks ago, it was reported that Brazil medical professionals were going through similar circumstances. More recently, it is being reported that in states that have relaxed restrictions in the United States, there have been spikes that are again threatening the capacity of our ICU units.

I have also read recently in the news that States that have loosened protective restrictions have seen rises in cases, and those cases are affecting younger people. We should not be considering a return to the way we were living our lives before COVID-19. We should be considering ways to restructure our community and society, to put unnecessary jobs on hold, to meet the real needs of all of our residents, and to focus the jobs we do on improving our shared quality of life.

We can put up as many thank you signs, and say as many thank yous over the radio and Internet, as we want. A thank you is at least an acknowledgment that front line medical professionals have suffered trying to mitigate the threat of COVID-19. Those professionals, like our disabled or traumatized military men and women, need more than our verbal thank yous. They need us to do what is within our control to prevent the spread of diseases, and to prevent unnecessary violence, so they can count on a more predictable measure of safety and security moving forward. They need us to help them achieve the shared quality of life that was likely a part of their intentions in becoming medical professionals or joining military service.

I do not want us to lose our momentum to continue to move forward willfully in order to do what we can to improve our shared quality of life. There have been good natural repercussions of our shared care for one another, locally, nationally, and globally. Our roads have been safer. Some of our overall shared stress levels were reduced by taking pauses from unnecessary activities. Our air quality improved. Homicide rates were reduced in some areas.

Locally, I am seeing many families enjoy spending time together without the stress of working around our public school system and daily commutes. I am hearing children in my local community laughing more than I have heard them laugh in a very long time.

There are exceptions to the good natural repercussions, and that is where we need to be vigilant to meet basic needs, and ensure we are effectively restraining people who are chronically violent. We have the real resources right now to ensure reliable access to water, food, and safe shelter in the short term. We have the real resources we need to ensure we are effectively, but not maliciously when possible, restraining chronic domestic, family, and community violence.

We should not be asking ourselves how we can maintain lower carbon emissions and safer roads as we consider going back to commuting to and from unnecessary jobs. We should recognize that we have found a solution to lowering our carbon emissions and to making our roads safer. We should be asking ourselves how we can preserve and build upon some of the predictable quality of life improvements we have been blessed with. We should not be asking if there are other ways to keep our roads safer.

We should be asking how we can extend a higher quality of life to everyone in our community.

The proper appropriation of our budgets, including any federal funding we receive, will be incredibly important while we are still working within economies. That proper appropriation needs to be based on our real shared needs, and our real shared human, natural, and infrastructure resources. If we continue to make a concerted effort to put our unnecessary jobs on hold, and as a community re-purpose the infrastructure and manpower we are using to do those jobs, I believe we could see improved quality in our lives in the short term.

It is in that good shared interest that I have taken the time to submit additional input to the Board after receiving Chairman McKay's email to me last month.

4. Our Economic Crises

It is being acknowledged locally, nationally, and globally that after a period of months mitigating the corona virus that we are in an “economic crises”. Maybe we can recognize from a pause from wasting our resources and energy doing unnecessary jobs to the detriment of our basic needs, that we care to acknowledge we are in the best position we have been in a long time to alleviate a lot of preventable health and safety

threats, and to improve our shared quality of life moving forward. We could abandon our faith in economies for our faith in an achievable and real shared improvement to quality of our lives. We could do so while continuing our mitigation of COVID-19.

As I stated in my initial input to the budget process, we have the laws and resources in place to more effectively restrain domestic, family, and community violence by making some changes to systemic practices by organizations we trust to help us restrain violence. Reasonably restraining chronic violence through protective orders whenever possible, proactively enforced by law enforcement and the courts, could significantly reduce both preventable stress, and preventable injuries in our community. While restraining violence, protective orders would also prevent the risks that are inherent to prisons and detention centers, which include the spread of diseases.

In the absence of our current constraints of economies and finances, we also have the real resources we need locally to ensure each of us has dependable access to safe water, healthy food, and safe shelter. From that measure of shared safety, we can together make better decisions as a community for how to further improve the quality of our lives band by working towards local sustainability for those needs.

We might globally recognize that the economic crises we face could be an important turning point. Instead of putting unnecessary stress on ourselves competing over jobs that do not need to be done, we could start to do the necessary work to ensure we can sustain our own needs and live the lives we share with dignity and quality. We could realize that all of the time, energy, and resources we have expended to do jobs that don't contribute to our health and safety have not only caused us unnecessary stress, but have actually jeopardized our ability to sustain our basic needs over time.

5. Local Sustainability of Agriculture

I remember learning in public school that back in the days when our populations were sparse enough for us to live by hunting and gathering, the time we spent doing actual “work” each day averaged about 4 hours. I remember asking at the time why we changed to where people were having to work 40 or more hours a week in the hopes of affording our basic needs. The answer I was given by the teacher was “progress”.

Hunting and gathering days had their own inherent risks and heartaches, and we cannot undo our global population growth. We can change how we define “progress”, and redefine “progress” in terms of our ability to improve our shared quality of life.

With our technological advances and our increased capabilities in transportation, connectivity, and communications, we could significantly reduce the man-hours we need to expend to meet our real basic needs fairly quickly locally, nationally, and globally. We could put our unnecessary projects and jobs on hold, and work fewer hours a day, fewer months in a year, or fewer years in a lifetime. Making those changes could in turn significantly reduce the stress in our daily lives, which is its own threat to our health and safety. When an emergency or an accident happens, we will have rested people available to be a part of responding efficiently to them.

Becoming locally sustainable doesn't mean that we abandon established food supplies and processes. It means that we will not be as reliant on them moving forward. That could take the pressure off of, and improve working conditions for, the people who have been doing the labor of maintaining our food supplies and processing foods safely for us. It could also give us an opportunity to recognize that the animals, fish, and vegetables that contribute to our food supply deserve to have their own quality of life in season.

We seem to have a shared understanding that better tended animals make for healthier meat, fish, milk, and eggs on the other side of their seasons. In my personal experience, I have found that the meat from grass fed cows, wild caught salmon, and the eggs from free-range chickens seem to be much healthier. When we can financially afford it, many of us will spend more money on higher quality foods, partially because we understand that the animals and fish often have a higher quality of life before becoming food for our sustenance.

Becoming locally sustainable, and keeping unnecessary jobs on hold, would also allow us to be more prepared, as neighbors, to share with one another in season. If a natural disaster or a significant loss in our food supply occurs, both of which are often reported in the news in recent years, we would have the real human, infrastructure, and food resources to share healthy food, restore clean water and power supplies, and help our neighbors re-establish their local agriculture.

Last fall I visited the “Settler's Museum of Southwest Virginia” on my way back from visiting my aunt in Florida. She had suffered a second stroke, which sadly ended up taking her life. The Settler's Museum was a beautiful non-working farm, and is a testimony to the skills that western European settlers brought with them to establish and sustain themselves here in Virginia.

Looking at the 1890's home, outbuildings, and fields made my heart want to see the gardens, orchards, and livestock restored. The folks I met who maintained the museum

also had a desire to see the gardens, orchards, and livestock restored. They did not have the manpower to do so, and many of the people who recognized the importance of the land no longer had the physical endurance to establish and maintain it as a working farm, like people have been able to do at Mount Vernon.

I saved a map of the museum from my visit, which shows how the settlers managed the land around their home to grow hay, grains, vegetables and fruit to meet the needs of themselves, their family, their horses, and their livestock. The settlers cured their own meat and pickled their own vegetables. They had a large wood burning stove for cooking. They had a shop to repair their own wood, leather, and metal equipment. They grew flax and wove it into clothing. They had a well spring to keep things cooled, and another special outbuilding that kept things at predictable temperatures.

There was also a local granary for milling buckwheat and wheat into flour, and excess eggs and butter were traded.

The self-sufficiency of maintaining their own needs, and the 67 acres of farm it required, was impressive. At the same time, it was a small amount of land that they used in comparison to the 275 acres included in the settlement. It seems like they let much of the woodlands and wildlife around them remain as it was.

As with hunting and gathering, the lifestyle of settlers also came with inherent heartaches and risks. I would guess that settlers sometimes lost their livestock to wildlife. I would guess that an illness or injury could jeopardize the health of the entire family, the gardens, and the livestock.

While Virginia has such a rich history of both hunting and gathering by Native Americans, and of agriculture by Settlers, today we cannot undo the buildings and infrastructure we have already built. Because of our growth in populations and in buildings, we simply don't have access to the kinds of lands needed to support either lifestyle overall.

From our position of “progress”, and some of the comforts we have achieved, I'm pretty sure we also would not desire to go back to either lifestyle. Within that recognition, both lifestyles provide us with a perspective on how much we have lost by sacrificing our lands and waters to “economies”, and a perspective on our actual ability to sustain ourselves locally, nationally, and globally.

I hope I am getting across that we have the knowledge, the capability, and the duty to provide locally for our own needs. There are some things unique to where we live that

we will still share with one another nationally and internationally. There will be times when we will share because of a natural disaster or other unpredictable threat to our local sustainability. We will share with each other when we are not in our local growing season.

Our duty to make the transition towards local sustainability is particularly necessary within our current state of emergency mitigating the spread of the corona virus, within a recognizable season of climate changes that has brought us some recent extreme fires and floods globally, and within an ongoing global war against terrorism which perhaps we could globally choose to win. As we recognize ourselves more to be the one global population that we are, and abandon miss-directions in our shared war against “terrorism”, we might actually win that global war and achieve an honest season of peace.

Today, we have the technology to grow vegetables or trees in fields, in greenhouses, in botanical gardens, hydroponically, and indoors with grow lamps. I understand that astronauts are growing vegetables in outer space. At a church that welcomed me to learn to garden in their established garden, a coworker and I were able to keep some cold weather vegetables growing through the winter in 2018-2019 by covering them when the weather got too cold or we got significant snow. That idea was given to me by people in my work community whose families came from eastern Europe.

A story that I believe the news could have done a better job appreciating during our mitigation of COVID-19 was that a car manufacturing plant re-purposed itself to make ventilators for the medical community in response to the crises. Tooling is one of the larger up-front costs of manufacturing, and is also what provides for efficiencies in manufacturing. A facility does not easily go from making one product to making another one, particularly when you are talking about the complexity of an automobile.

The skills and knowledge to make that kind of a transition in a car manufacturing plant in a short period of time should be noticed. Often manufacturing plants are abandoned when the demand for the products they make fades out. Being able to re-purpose manufacturing facilities to meet new demands will save some of our global lands for other good purposes.

The engineering, technical, and organizational skills at our manufacturing facilities could allow us to efficiently make products that could help us re-institute local sustainability, ensure clean water supplies to our taps, and come up with solutions for harnessing renewable human energy for some of our power needs.

I worked for about a semester during my university education on a quality improvement team on a manufacturing floor for wings for aircraft. I recognize that there are few places where you find the kind of gathering of knowledge and skills that allow us to create a complex aircraft that flies reliably. Maybe by re-purposing some of those gatherings of skills and training, we can redirect ourselves to a higher shared quality of life. If we get our focus off of economies, we might find we have enough cars and airplanes in the short term to do the jobs that are important to do.

Disney has an ongoing internship program at their hydroponic garden. I believe the university in Charlottesville has an agriculture program with livestock on campus, and that Virginia Tech has agricultural programs. At the garden I live alongside, I met a young woman a couple years ago who attended a school called Warren Wilson. The school is in another state, but is still fairly local. My understanding is that Warren Wilson teaches the management of both agriculture and waters. On the other side of her education, she found herself to be a laborer in gardens both overseas and locally. Given the opportunity, it may be that some of the graduates of those kinds of programs could be a part of leading our efforts to restore local sustainability, nationally and globally.

In the meantime, there is work being done to widen route 7 near where I live. In our mitigation of the corona virus, traffic along route 7 was significantly and noticeably reduced. Route 7 is a hotbed of financial institutions and the sale of cars. It may be that if we continue to suspend jobs and commutes that don't contribute to our shared quality of life, the widening of route 7 could be work that would not be necessary. It is hard work. It is also work that takes skills and knowledge that most of us do not have.

I admire a well-paved road as much as the next person. Having safe roads for transportation is a safety issue on more than one front. That being said, when I asked a gentleman recently if he would rather do the same work to prepare the ground for a garden or a pasture, his face lit up. He was commuting from West Virginia to do the hard labor of flattening out hills, filling in valleys, removing trees, and designing roads that consider flood prevention here in Fairfax County. Maybe for the same income (or an abandonment of our economies), and a shorter commute, he would rather see a garden growing, or a pasture for livestock, on the other side of his labor.

I do not have much personal experience with agriculture. I don't know how to process the soil for different types of crops, or how to sow a new pasture or manage an existing one. I also learned from the road crews that there is a spot in Loudoun County that they bring excess dirt to. I believe most of the downed trees are converted to mulch. Maybe some of the dirt gathered from the road projects in Loudoun County could be prepared for crops in raised beds on some of our remaining open land.

The biggest challenge for us to transition to local-sustainability locally is addressing the financial cost. To make just one 4x6 raised bed costs a lot of money for just wood, trellising, soil, seeds, and seedlings through a home improvement store. At the same time, we are mid-season for some of our traditional summer crops. If we wait until we figure out how to make the economies support what we should be doing to meet our real needs, we will only continue to sacrifice our real needs.

One of the suggestions I made on-line to the White House was to institute volunteer services as a part of the Department of Agriculture and the Army Corps of Engineers. Similar to our military, people who volunteer could be assured of having their basic needs met. In exchange, they could be trained, or share the knowledge they have, to help us create local-sustainability and solve problems that risk our health and safety, nationally.

People in the agriculture service could provide free labor to established gardens and farms or to facilities that prepare and package foods in our traditional food chains. They could also create solutions for new agricultural sites in our local communities. One of the customers I deliver auto parts to provides water-proofing on flat roofs. In recent years, they have been incorporating both plants and solar power to their water-proofing solution. The plants are intended to improve air quality, and don't require much soil to grow. Some of the sprouts are supplied in rolls the same way sod is.

Many high rises and schools have flat roofs. Many of the new buildings put up in Loudoun County also have flat roofs. If we can come up with a solution for the buildings to support the additional weight, we could have greenhouses, gardens, or fruit and nut trees growing above us. Some of the newer construction in Reston that came along with the metro includes living trees near the top of high-rises.

Growing agriculture on rooftops would also eliminate the threat of most wildlife getting into the crops. We could also plant some gardens on the edges of the woods specifically to support different kinds of wildlife, like deer. With foxes being inhabitants of Virginia, we might find a way to set up a hen-house on a rooftop with appropriate cooling and grazing for chickens.

People in the Army Corps of Engineers could ensure that our existing infrastructure is maintained and safe, and help us ensure that our water is clean to the taps. I have a coworker who has family in the Flint, Michigan area. They still have not been able to replace the pipes that were damaged when unsafe drinking water flowed through them. We can do better than that.

If we continue to put our unessential jobs on hold, we have a strong workforce to solve some of our real problems with good leadership, support, and direction. With unessential jobs on hold, and keeping the work we do more local to where we live, we may find that there are some roads, such as route 7, that do not actually need to be widened. Perhaps the state dollars for that project could be moved to other roads in Virginia that are in need of repair for safety issues, or to pay the same crews to prepare lands for local gardens, pastures, or orchards.

I read on MSN today that significant percentages of Americans in many states are moving to other states. They are seeking satisfying jobs, incomes that support housing and taxes, proximity to family, or a higher quality of life in retirement. Ironically, I learned that the larger employers in some bigger cities are financial institutions. Maybe we could recognize that forgoing debt collection for the sake of doing work that contributes more to our real needs locally, nationally, and globally would be better use of our time. If we can nationally help our local communities become more effective at meeting basic needs locally, we might be able to share a higher quality of life in any city or state we live in, and not feel the need to seek better circumstances elsewhere.

The Army Corps of Engineers might also be interested in finding ways to harness our renewable human energy for some of our power needs. During the shut down of gyms, I have spoken with people who are accustomed to exercising for significant time daily who could not meet the same health need without the help of the equipment that is available at the gym. Finding ways to also harness that energy for power could feed two birds with one seed, so to speak.

6. Our Public School System Infrastructure

As I stated in my prior feedback to the Board, our public school system lost its place as the primary educator and caretaker for our children before the threat of COVID-19. Within the risks and unpredictability of viruses like COVID-19, it is even more apparent that we cannot put our children, or school staff, at risk of the over-crowding that has taken place in our public schools over the years through mandatory public schooling laws.

The public school system is the highest budget item in Fairfax County. Yet, with its budget, the public school system had become more of a burden on the lives of our children, their families, and school staff than a contributing force to our shared health and safety.

While public schooling should not be mandatory anymore, there is still public schooling that the county should provide for working families or single parents who are more comfortable having their children educated by trained teachers. That education and care should be established in each school district around the unique schedules of working families. Children should not regularly have to spend most days in several different social settings, i.e. home, at a neighbor's house, on a bus, at school, and then at an after-school care center.

For the safety of children, and reduced stress on staff, a policy, such as requiring two adults (staff and/or volunteer assistants) in a classroom at all times, could be instituted based on best agreed practices between public, private, and religious educators. Child to teacher staff ratios could be drastically reduced to protect social distancing and maximum occupancy in a room, which is something we have desired to see for a long time. We should also ensure the public school has flexibility of welcoming children into classrooms on a temporary basis in the case of a family illness or emergency.

I have heard that up to 40% of families who had not considered homeschooling their children, are interested in trying it after seeing the reduction in stress from taking a break from public schooling. I heard from one parent in Loudoun County that they like the way the distance learning is working. The students only spend about an hour or so twice a week on-line with their class and teacher, and the rest of the week they work on given assignments and activities.

Children will still attend schools, especially those who do not have parents or family at home with them during the days. In order to maintain no more than 10 people in a setting, it may be that within each school district, private school, public school, child care, and after-school care providers will need to develop stronger relationships to ensure we are able to accommodate the needs for every child in the school district as locally as possible.

As has been done already at some public schools for students and families, curb-side lunches could be provided to anybody in the district who needs them. With smaller class sizes, it could be that teachers could more easily accommodate children sharing their lunch in the classroom, rather than overwhelming kitchen staff or the cafeteria. For children with special dietary needs, access to a refrigerator and microwave could be available for foods brought from home. With smaller classes, it should be easier to accommodate unique needs of particular students, to include identifying health care staff who should be regularly available at each particular location.

Rather than continue to re-define how our children are doing at school through different types of testing, we could have end-of-year requirements that mimic those for children who are currently in home instruction programs. Every state has a standard. In Virginia, to pass second grade, my son achieved the required score on CAT5 standardized testing in language and math skills. If a child is disabled, developmentally delayed, experiencing personal challenges, or otherwise going down a non-standard path of education, proof-of-progress can be submitted to the public school as an alternative to standardized testing.

Public schools and learning centers can administer standardized testing. Public schools could administer standardized testing that is agreed upon by the local school district. Both enrolled and homeschooling families could be notified what testing will be administered by the public school, what skills children are expected to have at each grade level, and where to find curriculum designed to help children achieve those skills. Instead of waiting until the end of the year, the tests could be offered when a child seems to have achieved the skills needed to pass any grade level at any age, or during any period of the school year.

If parents chose to, they can have an alternative standardized test administered through a learning center to accommodate a different curriculum they might choose. Parents and teachers can come to agreements between them on how to document proof-of-progress in lieu of standardized testing. In general, both teachers and parents would be held to the same bar for ensuring our children are learning basic academic skills and developing to their abilities and interests.

Local school districts can work together to decide availability for specific courses, such as AP courses or trade skills, that typically require several layers of coursework to achieve. School districts can also decide together what trade, service, and local-sustainability skills they want to teach our children, and also tailor them to children's specific talents and interests.

It sounds like sharing on-line advanced coursework already set up by community colleges and universities is being looked into. For some math and science, there is no way around the standard memorizing of equations and chunking through mundane processes. That is coursework that is better suited to text books with answers in the back, or on-line classes. Sitting in a classroom with a couple of hundred students to watch a teacher go through that kind of teaching, as many do at university, is not a good use of our time or our teachers.

Some unique classes may require scheduling out of a school district. I am thinking

about classes that are better taught with labs or other special equipment, like chemistry, physics, and biology. Good labs and experiments might not be set up in each school district, but may be set up in a nearby school district or shared by colleges for small groups. Our teachers and local professionals could spend their time helping students apply what they have learned in the real world to solve real problems.

With smaller classes, families and children could be given more choices about classmates. Thinking about our mitigation of COVID, it might be that siblings share a classroom, children who are neighbors and friends, or children of different ages but similar interest.

One of the biggest challenges I suffered through when I started to provide home instruction for my children was their three year age difference. That age difference, along with their different interests and temperaments, actually was a strength for both of their learning and development. So, for example, my son was considered to suffer delays after three years in the public school setting, and did not have a lot of interest in reading, writing, drawing, or math. He liked keeping physically active, and challenging himself on his bicycle or pogo stick. My daughter, on the other hand, was interested and excited to learn new things. Between the two of them, my son became more interested in academics, and my daughter was also interested in being able to do things that her older brother could do as she got older.

With smaller classes it may also be that relevant field trips could more easily be accommodated with volunteer drivers to keep ridership to a minimum. Rather than open to the general public, science and art museums, sites with active agriculture, suppliers of water and power, manufacturing and food processing sites, and sites for waste disposal or renewing, etc., might schedule small field trips relevant to the age of the children and to what children are learning in home instruction or schooling programs. That would help children apply what they are learning, understand how we are doing things now, and improve their own futures. One of the things that hurts children in both public school and home instruction programs is the sense of competition between the two choices for education our children.

Children in public school don't get to learn about alternative ways of learning or subjects they might be interested in. Children in home instruction programs are typically not allowed to participate in public school. Adding some flexibility there could benefit both groups of children.

We have seen locally, nationally, and globally, some improvements to our shared quality of life come from our efforts to protect our health and safety from the threat of COVID-

19. I see families enjoying each other's company much more often. I have heard children laughing and playing much more often. There is more kindness between strangers in our community. Without the steady flow of school buses and daily commutes, we recognize that our carbon emissions have been reduced, improving the quality of our air. The hustle and bustle of getting our children to and from school, while getting ourselves through our other commitments, has been relieved some. I have seen and heard fewer car accidents, and heard fewer emergency sirens interrupting our peace of mind.

With just the suggestion of returning to life as we were living it, and re-opening our “economy”, more people are honking their horns at one another, more emergency sirens are blaring, and traffic has become more challenging.

Sirens can be blaring because there is an emergency warranting them, or because emergency personnel are being dispatched to non-emergency situations. When I was growing up, sirens typically were only sounded for emergencies. Otherwise, lights might be turned on while on the road and turned off at the destination, but sirens were not blaring. That has not been the case here in Virginia in recent years. Either way, the return of preventable stressors and stresses should be teaching us something about making better choices moving forward.

I recently appreciated an email I received from Supervisor Storck's office. As a new grandchild was born into his family, he recognized the importance of our public schools. They are important as they change with our changing circumstances, and re-focus on improving our shared quality of in our communities.

I will say again that our public schools are not at this time suited to be the primary educators or caretakers of our children, particularly with the unpredictability of COVID-19. Even in the absence of the COVID-19 threat, our communities and our children have been suffering an undue amount of stress to comply with compulsory public schooling as it exists. Scheduling alone puts stress on our families because it does not accommodate the schedules of working families. That results in latch key children, or additional costs for child care.

I have read that teenagers require additional sleep for their health and well-being, particularly during the changes they go through in puberty. The schedules of middle schools do not accommodate those real needs. To sleep deprive a teenager, and then expect them to be alert and attentive to learn and muddle through the complexities of a school day is simply not fair.

Within a school day, a teacher in middle school or high school might have up to 80 students coming in and out of a classroom. For children, the number of people they share their personal space with on any given day has also been extraordinary, particularly when you include the lunchroom.

On the flip side of that, our public schools take more than half of the county's budget. If I remember correctly, it costs the equivalent of \$1,250 per pupil. For two children, that is enough money to cover rent or a mortgage for a family. The same money spent there, while providing resources for family's to educate their own children through distance learning, could actually provide much more safety and security for many of our community's children and their families.

If we are going to continue to talk in economies and budgets, we cannot sustain the public school system as it is. FCPS personnel, facilities, infrastructure, and contractors take up more than half of our county's budget. We spend that money as a community because we want to ensure the safety and security of our posterity, as our constitutions have intended.

Yet, beyond the financial burden, the reality is that FCPS personnel and contractors have not kept our children safe and secure, and they have not taught our children the values and skills they need to sustain their health or their basic emotional, social, and physical needs. Worse, as brought forward in my initial feedback regarding the FY21 Budget, in my family's case, FCPS put my children at risk of chronic child abuse and neglect in order to take them out of a home instruction program that was benefiting them and force them into the public school setting by obtaining an unsafe custodial situation for them through the courts. FCPS put my children through years of preventable suffering, and participated in a complete suspension of my relationships with my own children and of my parental rights.

I have read that the attempts so far to create on-line shared learning experiences have been hit or miss in Fairfax County. As a previously homeschooling parent, there are ample resources available inside and outside of the public school system for teaching academics. Trying to mimic a classroom on-line really doesn't make sense, and again can interfere with the schedules of families trying to adjust to some of the changes we are experiencing.

If we want to turn our conversations to sharing a higher shared quality of life, I did notice in the overview of the FCPS 2020 Virginia General Assembly Post Session a recognition that the infrastructure of our schools is important to support. The School Construction & Modernization Commission was established.

On the flip side of that overcrowding of our schools in and of itself creates risks for both children and staff. Those risks include health risks, social risks, and emotional risks. When I was in the first and second grade I lived in a small town. Maybe 10-12 children would graduate from the school each year. We learned in class, and we played on the playground. Going into 3rd grade I moved to a larger town, where 250 or more children would graduate each year. While there was some playing, too, kids fought and used cuss words with each other. I remember there being more than 20 children in a class. Some kids were able to learn, and some simply were not.

While public schools are not conducive to our mitigation of the corona virus, it is irresponsible to send our children back to them. That is particularly true while they have not been healthy places in general. I did a review of the 2020 Virginia General Assembly Post Session put together by FCPS. Overcrowding our schools, and then trying to alleviate the risks that are natural repercussions of that overcrowding, eventually becomes financially and realistically unsustainable. Ineffectively addressing student discipline, implementing school resource officers, maintaining lock down drills, and mental health and counseling should not become accepted standards of living for our children's daily lives.

Between the natural world, our global militaries, and medical research, I imagine risks such as the corona virus will continue to come and go. It seems to be recognized that past pandemics have affected us in multiple disease waves, and while experts disagree on what the corona virus will do moving forward, it is irresponsible to return our children and public school staff to the public school system as it existed.

Instead we can redesign how we educate our children, and model to our children how we will together improve our shared quality of life, with that shared quality of life defining what "progress" is. In doing so, we might avert more than one potential crises, as we re-purpose our public school infrastructure moving forward to meet the real needs of residents within each school district. Again, I believe those real needs include clean water, healthy food, safe shelter, safe power supplies, and available medical care when we need it. From that measure of initial safety we can work towards local sustainability and further improvements to our shared quality of life.

The Dual Enrollment and Work Based Learning Options legislation seems to also recognize that our schooling needs to be more flexible if our children are to learn the skills they need moving forward. That legislation allows students to substitute high-quality work-based training, or advanced coursework, and still meet graduation requirements.

I liked the student goals that Supervisor Storck's values. They include academics, essential life skills, and responsibility to the community. I believe it is time for the adults in our community to model those skills for our children, rather than continue to try to institute them in a public school system that is inherently not designed to accommodate them.

Our public school infrastructure in the meantime, can help us avert more than one potential crises that we face county-wide, state-wide, nationally, and globally.

As adults, we do actually need to recognize that academics, essential life skills, and responsibility to the community are our responsibility, and what we are to model for our children. Actually doing that, in the absence of the corruptions we have been tolerating instead, could make good of our own, and our children's resiliency. Resiliency is not a skill we want to practice, or make a value of. It is a skill we want to use forcefully and effectively now, so that we are less likely to need to use it again.

It was resiliency-fatigue that finally prompted me to initiate a legal separation from my children's father back in 2011. I didn't want my children or myself to have to continue to be resilient. It seemed that it was often just as we were “rezilled” and moving forward with some good things, their father would find another act of domestic or family violence to throw our way. 9 years later, not having been able to spend a day with my own children since 11/9/11, and with the community violence my children and I have endured on my reasonable request for their father to live under a separate roof from us until he could be consistently safer, I am beyond resiliency-fatigue. I am struggling to just keep moving forward, and my health is notably suffering.

In the meantime, I think we know that children educated in the public school system these days have also had their fair share of practicing resilience. Many of them, despite a teacher calling them out for one reason or another in front of an entire classroom, get back on the bus the next school day. Many of them practice resilience getting through the lunch hour each day. Many of them practice resilience every time they enter a classroom where a fellow student has bullied or mocked them for being too good at academics, or not good enough. Many of our children have been hurt on their walk home to an empty house, and at the end of the school day they make that walk again hoping to get the door locked behind them before that harm is repeated.

As adults, we need to stop accepting abuse against our children in the strange hope that they will solve whatever went wrong in our own lives. We need to take this opportunity to exercise our experience and resilience forcefully in the interest of our shared quality

of life. Let's give our children an opportunity to exercise a measure of basic safety and security that they can rely on now, and carry forward with them dearly.

Within that intention, I read in the Fairfax Times that you are hiring community members in the Springfield and Hunter Mill Districts for the Facilities Planning Advisory Council, having asked for applications by June 19. Is there a way for me to reach out to that council directly?

7. Meeting Real Needs More Efficiently

We currently have the resources we need to restore or achieve reliable access to water, food, safe shelter, and medical care for everyone in our county. Once that is completed expediently, our focus, from a good measure of shared safety, should be on improving our shared safety even more by creating local-sustainability with clean water and air, safe shelter, healthy food, renewable energy, appropriate medical care, and proper disposal and renewing of waste in the short term. We should also ensure that we have extra shelter available for displaced people. I heard on the radio that Louisiana is being hit by another hurricane. Those are the kinds of needs we should be prepared to respond to, not scrambling to meet ineffectively.

Once we are able to achieve those goals locally, nationally, and globally, we might consider what other activities we want to return to within the constraints of mitigating other threats, like COVID-19, to our shared health and safety.

Re-purposing our public school infrastructure still seems to be the most efficient way to achieve those goals. Servicing the real needs of the community with local public school infrastructure as the epicenter for each school district could be an expedient way to meet our real needs quickly locally, nationally, and globally.

I understand that we, in Fairfax County, are a county of about 1.5 million people. Nationally, the news reported about a month ago that we have about 34 million American's who have filed for unemployment, and that up to 43 million Americans could lose health insurance. While I am sure there is variance from state to state, that might equate to more than 650,000 people here in Virginia, while Fairfax County is one of the more densely populated areas.

While we were not successfully mitigating homelessness prior to COVID-19, we are not successfully mitigating it now while the shelters are at reduced capacity. I have met a few people just in my daily life who have needed help with food, or living outside

because they are unable to find shelter as they have lost their incomes and housing.

I read in the Fairfax Times from 7/2/2020 that “Governor Northam announced \$10.3 million in Affordable and Special Needs Housing loans for 14 projects across the Commonwealth, creating or preserving 790 affordable housing units for low-income and very low-income Virginians.” “The projects will support new construction and rehabilitation of affordable housing and permanent supportive housing for vulnerable populations and will leverage over \$181 million in additional federal, state, local, and private lending resources.” (underlines mine)

If I am understanding correctly, that equates to about \$13,037 for each of the 790 affordable housing units that is being taken out on loan for creating or preserving affordable housing units. If we imagine that only $\frac{1}{4}$ of the possible 650,000 people who filed for unemployment are unable to return to the jobs they lost, that would equate to 162,500 people losing housing and medical care. While the intent is good, the 10.3 million dollars, even with additional \$181 million from federal, state, local, and private lending resources would not adequately meet such a real need. The dollars only equate to about \$1,169 per person if there are only 162,500 people affected across the state of Virginia. And that would perhaps get them through another month.

I understand that the 650,000 is a guess to begin with, but I have also met a man unable to get into the shelter in Reston. I overheard him on the phone later with the contractor he worked for, and he was having difficulty to get the paperwork he needed from his employer to even file for unemployment. Another man I met in the Reston area was going to be evicted at the end of the month, and Coordinated Services was unable to provide him with any options. In short, the unemployment filings may be an underestimate of the numbers of people losing their employment, housing, and medical care.

I am hearing that within the threat of COVID-19, many of the people whose jobs have been scaled back are unlikely to get those jobs back. We have seen in other states that as we try to go back to some of our previous activities and ways of living, the virus has spiked. While we don't currently have the options of enlisting into a department of agriculture or the army corps of engineers, that money might help more if it were given directly to the folks who need it in the short term. It is still monies that are expected to be paid back. I am not sure what the solution. As we continue to rely on dollars to solve our real problems, we will continue to see that the dollars are not sustainable.

Yet, we still have the real resources to do work that could improve our quality of life, without sacrificing our neighbor's livelihood. One idea I have to transition away from our faith in dollars is the pay-if-you can I discussed previously. That could allow us to

have a bit of reliable food and shelter locally, without having to travel from place to place to try to meet our basic needs, or funnel money through several hands before it arrives where it is needed. That could also show us the places, people, and resources we value to maintain moving forward. In the short-term, maybe the dollars that the governor has announced could be sent directly to meet any real shortages at the places documenting provided to people who are unable to pay in the food, lodging, and housing industries. Those real shortages might reflect any shortages in their ability to operate, rather than lost revenue. We might find, if we together do this process honestly, that many of those places of business would find themselves doing better than expected, minus lost profits.

On the medical side, about a month or so ago I tried to set up an appointment with HealthWorks. Although I am enrolled in the program, I missed their initial return call. When I tried to call again, their voicemail said they are busy, and I have not heard from them after leaving a second voicemail.

This is not a new problem. At one point in time in recent years, I remember not being able to enroll in county health care, even though I qualified. They told me they did not have the bandwidth to take new patients. I was referred to a Loudoun County program. I read back around the budget process that Loudoun County has had to withhold about \$73 million from their public school system to cover their own budget downfalls. We cannot rely on a neighboring county to fill in the gaps for us. We need to work towards filling in the gaps and being ready to provide for a neighbor who is unable to.

In short, if Fairfax County was unable to efficiently meet our local health care needs before our mitigation of the corona virus, it is unprepared to meet our current needs without changing how it provides basic needs for people who lose their health insurance or their financial ability to do so.

I continue to believe local school districts are good places to begin to build healthier relationships between us. As the local school districts identify their needs, the Board of Supervisors can help to work through solutions that might meet those needs over multiple school districts. Personnel and infrastructure from county, non-profit, and religious organizations within the local school districts can be a part of meeting those real needs. In addition, local restaurants and grocery stores might institute the “pay if you can policy, donate if you can” policy. That could save some time and energy of collecting and distributing food to those who cannot afford it, hoping we will have it in the right place at the right time, and that it will be the right food while many people have dietary restrictions for their health.

Other needs can be brought to the attention of the local schools, so that solutions to meet them can be determined. We can work through which medical care services are available locally, and how to extend care to both those with and without insurance, while still meeting the needs of our healthcare workers. While most of the families I have spoken with have been able to work out child care, there are still working families who need good and safe solutions that accommodate their schedules. Again, that seems easier to do locally within a school district, and avoids extra commuting time.

I still believe the safety of water at our taps is a more important issue than we recognize. Even those of us who don't drink water straight from the tap often make our coffee or tea with it. A relative of mine who lived in Saint Louis for some years suffered a lead build-up in his blood that was only relieved by letting his blood periodically. While it was perceived as a mysterious health problem at the time, I remember it resolving when he moved from the building he had been living in. The water company can revisit the EPA guidelines, determine if there are any additional concerns based on the kinds and ages of pipes in different buildings, and help us test throughout each school district.

I continue to believe that re-purposing our public school system would be a more efficient way of meeting needs with less effort on the part of people trying to help their neighbors, and less stress on the part of those who have lost their ability to maintain their basic needs.

Even on unemployment, my understanding is that the money only partially covers lost salaries, and does not include health insurance. The stimulus checks have helped, but with the cost of living many people do not have financial security. COBRA and ObamaCare tend to be expensive on a reduced salary, and can quickly become unaffordable.

I also read that there are 1,300 affordable housing units the Board has already made available. That will only solve our problem if those units are affordable and where they are needed for the person who needs them. When I reached out to county agencies regarding affordable housing around the time my roommate moved into assisted living, I did not make enough money to qualify for affordable housing. For other programs through rental properties, there was a 2-3 year anticipated wait. That was the situation already more than a year and a half ago, and before our mitigation of COVID-19.

I saw that the county has adjusted the minimum wage to \$9.50. Typically jobs at lower wages are also part-time. If that income will not support the rent for “affordable housing”, the housing is not affordable. It also needs to be taken into consideration that many people go into significant debt on their way to losing housing. The debt does not

go away once housing is obtained.

While we have already sacrificed lands that could support our real needs for locally sustainable gardens, pastures, and woodlands, we cannot afford to build new units. We need to re-purpose our existing facilities to meet our needs for safe housing. That could include re-purposing portions of some over-sized county facilities that only house non-essential employees during standard business hours. I heard from a woman who works on the busing side of FCPS who is attending virtual meetings that some office buildings are being repurposed to meet schooling needs within the restraints of COVID-19. It may be that similar arrangements could be made to re-purpose them for housing for children and their families. From that security, we could then determine what educational needs we can meet.

At the same time, moving is one of the most stressful events that we go through as people. It makes more sense to try to assist people in maintaining shelter that meets their needs than to force them into moving. During the initial shut down in New York, one owner put up a sign on his buildings that rent was suspended. There was a pizza restaurant that made and delivered free pizzas. That is a way of living that if we can together work towards would actually improve our quality of life. If owners can afford it, they should waive rent. If somebody whose rent has been waived comes into some money, they can share it back with the owner. If an owner has needs that he or she is unable to meet, we should meet them.

We are in a declared state of emergency. Within the restraints of our state of emergency, we can still improve our communities and relationships.

As I explained in my 21 page feedback to you, our local government and non-profit agencies were not adequately providing for our community's needs prior to our mitigation of the corona virus. My personal examples of that reflect that systemically county agencies, non-profits, and churches were not providing access to basic needs that were reasonably accessible for many people who lost their ability to maintain those needs.

During our mitigation of the coronavirus, I believe it is important to re-think how we can provide basic services more effectively, and to provide those in need more dignity and easier access to them.

I was grateful to see that the board was recently able to secure a good number of hotel rooms for people who need safe shelter, particularly near the Community Services Board. I believe those are the kinds of relationships we need to build so that we can

more effectively meet one another's needs. Rather than tax occupancy at hotels to support tourism, owners of hotels in each school district might agree to share a certain percentage of rooms for locals who lose housing, or for people displaced by natural disasters. I am not sure how they are working out stays at hotels right now. I am guessing they have rules on spacing, social distancing, and changes in how food is served, along with additional cleaning of frequently touched surfaces. It may be that having more consistent residents would reduce the threat of COVID-19, as opposed to having more people traveling through for just a night or two.

Further, hotels can provide individuals and families with a measure of dignity, privacy, and freedom that can be easily lost in shelters. As I explained before, I was not able to get into the Reston shelter when I was homeless back in 2014, so I have not personally stayed in a room there. I recall hearing from other homeless people during and after that time that both Bailey's Crossing and Rutgers might have 4 strangers share a room, and guests might only be allowed to bring the equivalent of a backpack of belongings with them. For people already under the duress of being homeless, further having to abandon remaining belongings and to share a bedroom with strangers can just add to the duress. Any conflict between residents at the shelter then typically would result in residents being asked to leave.

There are also people who work second and third shift jobs, for whom shelters are not conducive to. Established hotels could provide more respect and dignity for those people as well.

The other advantage of hotel rooms is that they are located all throughout the county, which provides flexibility for locations. For individuals who have employment, but do not make enough to afford housing, they can live near where they work, which would not jeopardize their jobs or risk their ability to get to or from their place of employment.

Similar to occupancy tax, we could do the same with sales tax. Rather than collect sales tax from grocery stores or restaurants, we could encourage food suppliers to provide people in need with free foods. They can report back to the county their contribution on a monthly basis, along with any real shortfalls in their ability to sustain the services they provide. If they hit a real shortfall that cannot be accommodated by a worker or a supplier, we can reconsider changes to make from there.

Within our mitigation of the corona virus, it is safer to have regular tenants at hotels than to have different people who are traveling come and go. It may be that, in order to prevent the spread of the virus, irregular travelers could spend their evenings in a more isolated corner of the facility where they are less likely to come into close contact with

employees or regular tenants. Regular tenants could pay what they are able to afford if they have funds to pay, or be allowed to stay as long as necessary as long as they abide by social distancing and other laws in place for our shared protection. Hotels might also offer unoccupied rooms for their own essential employees.

Over the last few years, in the absence of effective and respectful services for people who lose their ability to afford housing and food, for whatever reason, there has been a higher monetary cost to the community. It is another example of how the dollars are not sustainable. So, for example, I have met several homeless people over recent years welcoming donations to come up with the \$60-70 for a hotel room for the night, plus their daily food needs. Relying on the kindness of strangers, I imagine it takes a fair share of the day to come up with money to simply meet daily needs. At the same time, the shared cost to the community can easily exceed \$2,400 a month. For that amount of money, it would be easier to provide affordable housing based on income, to include free housing when somebody honestly cannot afford it.

Other people I met relied on different churches or individuals to support them for a handful of nights in a hotel at a time. When you add up all the donations, churches and individuals in the community end up spending \$1,800, or much more than that, in a month to help one individual maintain hotel housing. That does not include food delivery and other basic needs. I believe in caring to meet those needs, there are many individuals and churches who gave beyond their means in good faith. That was in addition to county, state, and government taxes they pay also in hopes of meeting the same needs.

It has felt like even our good intentions have been used against us in recent years.

I met a young family in Maryland with a newborn a couple of years back. They, like the rest of us, were not perfect. But they were in awe when they talked about the miracle of the birth of their child, which they went through together, and their intention was to stay together and raise their son. Shelters had different requirements for welcoming guests. The baby's mother could get into a domestic violence shelter with her son, but the baby's father obviously would not be welcome. The baby's father could get into a shelter for men only. A shelter for rehabilitation from drugs or alcohol would not be appropriate for him. A Fairfax County shelter that welcomes families at the same facility, but sleeping on opposite sides of the facility, would not welcome the family because they were not residents. Shelters in other surrounding counties had similar policies.

Because there was no housing available for them, different individuals and churches together spent about \$2,400 a month just to shelter them in a single hotel room with a

bathroom. That did not include providing them with clothing, diapers, formula, food, a stroller, etc. Not only did they suffer worrying each day how they were going to meet their needs, but the community spent a lot more money than was necessary to do so. They also relied on public transportation, and because of the locations of hotel rooms that would welcome them, they often needed help getting their newborn to and from doctors appointments.

If there had even been affordable shelter available for them, near public transportation, the community could have met their needs with much less money, and the family would have had more security to enjoy the early months of being a family, or to seek out work and child care. In the end, although they both found employment and safe housing for a period of time, they did not manage to stay together. In all the stress, and without a way to meet their basic needs together, they lost their relationships as parents together with their child. They also ended up in the court system, which adds additional stress.

I recently heard from the baby's father, who ended up with housing in Southwest, DC. He told me he has work, but every time he is scheduled to start it is delayed again in our mitigation of COVID-19. Where he lives, even the pizza shops are closed, and there is no curbside delivery. A food pantry he called was advised to shut down. We were able to find a pizza shop in Maryland who would take a credit card over the phone, and deliver him a couple pizzas.

It is hard not to sound dire in sharing our real circumstances. It is also hard to resist our desire to deny real circumstances when they are not what we would like them to be. I am trying to find a balance between those two ways of accepting where we are, and to find a way to move forward that reduces the stress and unpredictability.

As I explained in my initial input to the Board for the FY2021 Budget Proposal, it is important to understand that the piecemeal supports I received from county, non-profit, and religious institutions beyond help from my family and the church I attended at the time, may have gotten me through a brief period of homelessness. It was not an efficient process. Losing my ability to support myself financially actually cost me a lot of money and gas. Many places required in-person intakes. Real needs were not always available locally, or even in Fairfax County. I spent a lot of time and money getting to and from places only to find that I did not qualify for services.

If it were not for assistance paying for car insurance from a Catholic church, I would not have been so easily able to get to and from places that might provide me some needed help. The job I was able to secure, while low income, is for an auto parts store that is adjacent to a mechanic's shop. I have been able to keep my vehicle running so far

because my employer allows me to pay for parts and repairs as I am able to.

Many people at the Lamb Center, a day shelter in Fairfax City, did not have transportation, and there was no night shelter. The Lamb Center was only sometimes able to provide a night at a hotel for a guest of the center. During hypothermia season, guests could be bused from the center to a church who would feed and house them for the night. The locations of the churches changed every week or two, so it was unpredictable where they would be. That was not conducive to finding more stability, work, or housing moving forward. It did give people in different circumstances an opportunity to meet and share good meals and fellowship.

While I was at the Lamb Center they held a service in which they rang a bell for residents and volunteers who had died. I forgot over what time period it was, but we lost a lot of people in our local community. Many of those losses could have been prevented.

As COVID-19 has reminded us, our lives here are temporary and they are fragile. We should not be sacrificing life, blood, liberty, or innocence to try to accommodate for that. We should be redefining “progress” as our ability to share a higher quality of life, locally, nationally, and globally. Even within our global growth in populations, we still have what we need if we choose to fulfill the good faith that has come before us. Many of our needs are actually renewable as we are better stewards, and as we become better at sharing and putting competition between us that is destructive on hold.

I do not imagine that our federal unemployment set asides were anticipating such a high number of dollars needed at this time. Even on unemployment, my understanding is that the money only partially covers lost salaries, and does not include health insurance. COBRA tends to be expensive, and can quickly become in-affordable on a reduced salary. I have spoken with a lot of people and families, including those with children, who are doing just fine with their basic needs during our current mitigation of the corona virus. I have also met at least one person recently who worked at a low income job who is receiving unemployment but has still needed help affording food.

While our schools have maintained lunch programs in some neighborhoods, it seems to be a more efficient use of our public schools to extend that program to meet other basic needs in the community. The local school districts could identify real needs, and reach out to the community for help providing them. The Fairfax County Board could be a part of helping local school districts by building relationships to encourage the re-purposing of facilities to meet needs. So, for example, rather than having a hotel taxed to pay for tourism marketing, the Board could encourage each REIT (maybe both hotels

and apartments) to provide a certain number of rooms for people in the local community who cannot afford them, or for people who travel from outside the county to help us meet our real needs.

8. Effectively Restraining Domestic, Family, and Community Violence

You are correct. I am not happy with this county's response to domestic, family, and community violence. This county has frequently incarcerated me in an isolation cell, more than once suffered me with open wounds in an unclean cell and not provided so much medical care as a band-aid, and sometimes further broken or bruised me during arrests and incarcerations. Through those actions, this county achieved nothing more than the protection of a man who has chronically abused my children, emotionally, sexually, and physically, after already helping him achieve and maintain a sole custody award of my children on the testimony of county employees with FCPS and CPS. He was further awarded exclusive use of my home by having me arrested by FCPD for "attempted parental abduction" on the morning I picked up my children to make sure they were able to be at a protective order hearing that his attorney had continued prior.

This county has justified headcounts and made money from my and my children's circumstances over the years. Yet, in nearly 9 years time, the county has not helped me reasonably restrain just one man from domestic and family violence, has not helped me reasonably restrain employees of the county who have committed chronic community violence, and does not even now seem willing to do anything meaningful to help me restore my family. No, I am not happy.

In light of the publicized and recent death of another black man at the hands of law enforcement for a non-violent offense, I recently read some of the reporting related to FCPD regarding arrests at: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/reports/arrest-data>

With an assumption that each person arrested in 2019 was only arrested one time, 1 out of 50 people in Fairfax County were arrested last year. That number goes down if we assume each person was arrested more than once. Still, I do not believe in our community we have that many people who behave recklessly or violently to warrant incarcerations. We have a problem.

While there is value in recognizing inconsistencies and disparities in arrests based on our ethnicity or skin color, the higher value is in sharing our experiences so we can determine the root cause of mistreatment and unconstitutional actions against us by our own law enforcement agencies. In my experience, both FCPD and FCSO have become much more diverse in ethnicity over the years. The focus on the gender and race of

arrested people fails to recognize that I have personally suffered physical and sexual abuse by young woman at the adult detention center in the last 8 months. Two young women put bruises on my arms and restrained me because I didn't answer a question of whether or not I felt suicidal, before stripping my clothes off and putting me in an isolation chamber. One woman went way too far on a second pat down of me prior to my incarceration. These women were white, black, and brown.

FCPD reported 594 use of force incidents, with the vast majority being reviewed only by first line supervisors. Only 41 incidents resulted in an administrative investigation. It is important to recognize that in my personal experience, I have suffered bruises, cuts, abrasions, and a severely injured arm on numerous occasions although I have not committed any violent crimes, and found not guilty of the vast majority of the charges so far. I do not believe, out of over 34,000 arrests in 2019 that law enforcement only used more force than should have been used in only 594 incidents.

I have only made one complaint to FCPD, and two complaints to FCSO. Administrative reviews just confirm that I complained, and stated that law enforcement acted appropriately. I simply do not have the time to go through the process, write down the specifics of what happened, and deal with the emotions of reporting every time I am hurt by an officer.

More important questions for the Board are what are the offenses people are being arrested and incarcerated for in such large numbers.

Supervisor Alcorn did take some time to speak with me Friday afternoon. Despite explaining how his willingness to accompany back through county agencies to affect a better outcome for me and my children could make a difference in the short-term, I received an email back from him (he had committed to call me) simply stating that he did not see a need for him to involve himself.

I am still encouraging, in good faith, a meaningful justice and grace to restore my family, and to change policies and practices of county personnel so this county can be a safer place to live. I am still encouraging us to get our focus away from budgets and economies, and into our real needs, so that we can share a higher quality of life. And I am still encouraging this county to take responsibility for the abuse and neglect it has suffered my children through that could have easily been prevented by working with me through the courts to restore primary custody of my children to me after the first injury they suffered in their father's sole custody.

9. Ongoing Needs for Me and My Children

I did not hear from Ms. Zollicoffer regarding the separation of me and my children, which continues to protect their father's abuse of the three of us and to damage the close relationships my children and I had. Taking my children away from me, and then allowing me only brief and intermittent opportunities to witness their injuries and neglect in his sole custody (with those opportunities terminated in 2014), has been an absolutely cruel act of domestic and family violence. With all of the budget and headcounts set aside for Fairfax County to prevent the outcome my children and I have suffered, we are another example of budgets and headcounts not solving real problems on their own, and sometimes interfering with solving real problems.

I did hear back from Kevin at the Domestic Violence Action Center (DVAC) about a week or so after receiving Chairman McKay's email. He confirmed that he was the same director I met towards the end of last year who prioritized an interlocutory order in a closed case file, instead of taking an interest in preventing further injuries to me and my children by supporting my effort to have a hearing for a protective order. The only commitment he was willing to make to me was to talk with DSVS to see if between the two groups they could address my concerns. He was unwilling to do any of the three things I suggested that could help me obtain an appropriate protective order to improve my family's health and safety expediently.

While DSVS and CPS are both part of Family Services, Kevin was unwilling to set up and participate in a meeting between me and CPS. That seemed like the most reasonable step to help me obtain an appropriate and expedient protective order moving forward. At such a meeting, I could provide records I have related to prior screened out reports and family assessments conducted by CPS, and I could provide corroborating medical and academic reporting. CPS has so far been completely unwilling to meet with me for such a review. Being in the same organization, Kevin or Toni might be more effective at encouraging them to change that policy.

CPS, by responding with an actual investigation into the injuries my children have suffered in the sole custody of their father, could then remove my children from the unsafe custodial situation they have been ordered to live in for more than 8 years. They could restore my and my children's relationships so my children have my support through the investigative process, and they could ensure the three of us have appropriate support to meet our basic needs together. CPS could then obtain a formal protective order through the courts.

If my children are alive and well, and still living at the last known address I have for them, CPS' legal authority could provide the most expedient way to prevent further

domestic and family violence against me and my children. Again, while I don't remember the specific law, I believe they are legally able to temporarily remove children from unsafe custodial situations without first obtaining a protective order through the court. While my children have another parent who is interested in their safety and care, my children could avoid any sort of foster care situation, which in some cases has its own risks. The relationship between DSVS and CPS is important, while both organizations are in the same county agency, and men who commit domestic violence often also commit family violence against children.

The way the courts are currently administering protective orders, a juvenile court protective order obtained by CPS would not provide any restraints on other non-family members in our community who have, legally and morally, participated in the abuse and neglect of my children or in further violence against me. Again, the circuit court does not currently take requests for ex parte protective orders, and the Supreme Court has not responded to my request for a writ of mandamus for such a process to be set up. In the current practices of the court, a protective order against non-family members would require a request in the general district court (which does not currently address circumstances related to domestic or family violence), or through the magistrate's office.

Kevin was also unwilling to participate in a meeting with law enforcement, who could also take the time to review corroborating evidence for reports I have tried to make and assist me in obtaining a protective order. They typically work through the magistrate's office, and could help obtain appropriate protective orders to restrain both family and community violence. I did finally make the time this week to go to police records to see whether or not my written report of some of the injuries my children suffered (during the time up until 6/16/16 when I was able to have information about them) made it into the police report. From my chicken scratches, I believe the event number was E200990803, and I believe the official case number was 2019-249-0072.

While I suffered two additional misdemeanor charges for “annoying ringing” on my most recent attempt to verify that the crimes I reported made it into the police report, nobody from Major Crimes has returned my voicemails to assign a detective. As I already stated, detectives at the local station have told me they will not meet with me to review corroborating evidence. The police records office is currently closed, and I was told by security at the building that the only way I can request the record is via snail mail. That is unfortunate. The building has security to control the number of people in the space, there is room for social distancing, and there is already Plexiglas in between people requesting reports and police records personnel.

At any rate, having a director of DVAC with me at the local station could encourage

officers to take my reports seriously enough to ensure that the written report of some of the injuries my children suffered are included in the police report, to review corroborating evidence, and to help me obtain an appropriate protective order through the magistrate's office.

Lastly, Kevin was unwilling to advocate through the courts for me to be able to ask for an ex parte protective order with sworn testimony and corroborating evidence. He told me that he has met with staff at domestic relations in the juvenile court, and they have discussed and shared the concern that that legal right is not currently being provided by the court. Kevin's understanding is that the chief judge ordered the suspension of that legal right for victims of domestic violence in the juvenile court, even while it is intended to reasonably restrain violence and the threat of violence without the risk of retaliation by offenders. His understanding is that the chief judge's order was based on the governor's executive orders to mitigate the corona virus threat. It is DVAC, DSVS, and domestic relations that should be advocating for in person hearings at the court house. I have shared with a director at domestic relations that a courtroom is large enough to accommodate the same social distancing we have become accustomed to at our restaurants and grocery stores.

I had also last year shared with DVAC a copy of my petition to the circuit court asking that court to provide citizens a safe path to exercise our legal right to ask for ex parte protective orders via sworn testimony. It seems that Kevin, as the director of DVAC, and with close relationships with DSVS, would have more influence to advocate for that legal right to be available equally in the general district, juvenile, and circuit courts for victims of domestic violence.

Restraining violence, particularly chronic violence against our children in our community, is necessary to our shared health and safety. It is also not counter-productive to our mitigation of the corona virus. Our legal right to ask for and obtain protective orders should be considered to be essential work by the court. Yet, the courts have been unable to accommodate that essential work even while other non-essential functions of the court have been constrained.

I had asked in my initial feedback to the Board, if Mr. Alcorn would be willing to work with me back through county agencies to affect changes in policies and practices that could improve the effectiveness of those agencies in preventing domestic, family, and community violence. Family services or law enforcement might be more willing to take the time to review corroborating evidence, and he could witness that process and make suggestions for policy changes. The magistrate might be more willing to give employees of CPS or law enforcement a hearing in support of obtaining a protective

order, while the magistrate has consistently denied me a hearing over the years.

From an email I received from Mr. Alcorn, he did not feel it was necessary to involve himself after speaking with me on the Friday before, and taking a few days to consider. I am still asking the Board to involve themselves in helping me to restore my family and prevent chronic violence against me and my children, and to involve themselves in addressing systemic issues that indicate that we are not alone in the preventable violence we have suffered.

10. How the Board Can Help My Family Specifically

As I have already shared with you, within my feedback regarding the FY21 Budget Proposal, I also asked that Supervisor Alcorn, my district supervisor, to take the time to work back through county agencies with me to affect a safer outcome for my family. He emailed me last week that he did not think that was necessary.

The courts will not permit me, even while it has been constricted to essential functions, which include protective orders, to have an ex parte hearing to put an appropriate protective order in place. It is more likely that with the Board's support and assistance, that either law enforcement or CPS would assist me in that effort.

With the Board's involvement, county employees might be more willing to gather relevant supportive evidence and accompany me to the courthouse to obtain a protective order. With the support of personnel within the agencies we have in place to prevent domestic, family, and community violence, a judge or magistrate might be more willing to hold a hearing and intervene protectively.

Your suggestion to work with the Domestic and Sexual Violence Services group would only have been meaningful if I heard back from the director, and she was interested in changing the policies and practices of her group to focus more on actually preventing domestic, family, and community violence.

While you take domestic violence seriously, you should recognize that more than 3 months can be the difference between safety for my children, and the next set of injuries they may have suffered. Their injuries were chronic, and some of them were severe. I am not sure why you believe that there is not a need to help me protect them.

In my previous feedback, I explained that the Domestic and Sexual Violence Services group does not actually prevent domestic or sexual violence. They also do not address

the co-occurring child abuse and neglect that chronically abusive men will commit. I will say again that it is a corruption for a man to commit violence against an intimate partner. It is an even worse corruption, and one of the cruelest forms of domestic violence I have experienced, for a man to then manipulate the community into taking her children from her and into supporting violence he then commits against her children.

Counseling and “options counseling” provided by domestic violence services groups, do not prevent chronic violence. Those services, in my experience, do more service for the perpetrators of domestic and sexual violence. They take the time and resources of victims of violence. They do sometimes provide minimal assistance to victims of domestic violence to meet some emotional and physical needs through crisis situations. They do not build meaningful relationships with other organizations responsible for actually preventing violence. They do not assist victims of domestic violence in obtaining protective orders that could both restrain violence and ensure victims are able to maintain basic needs and keep their families intact.

That could change if Ms. Zollicoffer takes in interest in working to help me to restore my family and appropriately changes the policies and practices of her organization to be more effective in the interest of our shared quality of life.

On the flip side of that, I also cannot imagine that it is fulfilling for employees in the Domestic and Sexual Violence group to spend their days speaking with people in crisis, listening to the heartbreaks of the repercussions of domestic and family violence, and being unable by policy to take any meaningful action to alleviate chronic violence at the root of those heartbreaks. I have met people who seem to thrive on not responding protectively, but I believe it is more likely a way for them to cope through their own days in exchange for an income to meet their basic needs.

It truly is a shared quality of life we need to be working towards. I obviously cannot achieve that by myself.

In the meantime, as I said in my prior email, while my parents and children have not been able to spend a day together in more than 8 years now, my father is receiving hospice care. Yet, he is still able to communicate yes and no answers, and smile. I cannot imagine why any of you would not support my ability to get my family together in some way before he passes.

I did not change my last name when I married. I am my father's only child. My father is his father's only child. They were/are two good men, imperfect as we all are, but good. I kept their last name.

My father and grandfather were both veterans of wars. One of my grandfather's brothers lost both of his arms and legs in WWII. I was blessed to meet him when I was a child. From my father's and grandfather's experiences in wars, they were very deliberate about protecting my innocence, keeping me safe, and trying to teach me what I needed to know to keep myself safe. I cannot imagine either one of them physically or sexually abusing a child. I did not imagine my children's father would behave the way he has.

It would be one thing if this were my first time reaching out either to the Board, or to our county agencies, or to the courts. After 9 years there should be somebody in our local government out there who cares to restore a family broken by one man's domestic and family violence, and then broken further by community violence in our county.

I believe somebody supporting me in obtaining a protective order through the court would be the most efficient way to do that at this point. Legally CPS may be able to affect a temporary removal of my children from their father based on a review of prior screened-out reports without a protective order, but I don't remember the specific law that supports that.

That would help me honor my father and my grandfather, and give my children an opportunity to recognize that they are cared for by this community. I would like my father to know that his grandchildren have been restored to his daughter. I would like him to know that this community has a measure of respect for how he shaped military service to his country early in his life, into becoming a reliable worker, a good father, a good husband, and faithful to the intent of his service.

11. Additional Basic Needs I Anticipate, along with Many of Our Neighbors

I have already discussed above how we were not effectively meeting real needs prior to our mitigation of COVID-19, and how those real needs have escalated in our mitigation of COVID-19.

While I am currently enrolled in HealthWorks, and uninsured for a few years now, I have not been able to get a return call to schedule an appointment. I missed their first return call, and have not received another return call following my second voicemail to them. In their voicemail to me, they said that they were very busy right now. My experience with the program that I found to do the COVID-19 testing was not an encouraging one. While they efficiently did the test and provided the results, asking questions about other health issues I would like to resolve did not encourage me that they would willing or able to understand the issues and work with me to resolve them.

I am also enrolled in a program that could allow me to have more diagnostic testing. I believe it is at Virginia Tech, and I think they might be able to do diagnostics like x-rays, CAT scans, ultrasounds, MRIs, etc., which is part of training for their students. I think Virginia Tech is about a 2-1/2 hour trip from here. An extra half a tank or so of gas money, plus time to schedule and get to and from an appointment, is in-affordable for me. I am not sure where I put the paperwork confirming that I qualify for their services, and what the process is for scheduling an appointment with them, i.e I do not know if I need a referral from a primary care provider to schedule specific diagnostics. I already lost my life's savings and am in significant debt (about 68% of my yearly salary) as a result of struggling through the last several years. I cannot afford an urgent care visit and out-of-pocket costs for any additional testing a local county program might recommend, or that Virginia Tech might recommend.

While I had safe and affordable housing on my income, the owner of the annex where I live has decided to take the time to do some repairs. Since I suffered a short period of homelessness in 2014, I have been fortunate to be welcomed twice into housing that is affordable on my income. I am not sure what my options will be in the next few days. I spent my normal rent money to purchase a tent site for a handful of days, which cost more because of the holiday weekend. I have had to consolidate belongings, move and set up tent in a spot that is available for a few days, and am still working 6 days a week.

I have not had time to see what is available outside of talking to people that I work with locally. As I mentioned above, two people I have met personally just in my daily living have shared with me that they have not found any resources to help them. One was already in contact with the shelter, and the other had reached out to family services.

I hope the Board will consider how we move forward within our declared, and undeclared, emergencies more effectively. As I stated before, it is difficult to acknowledge hard circumstances. It is dangerous to deny them, even while it can provide an temporary alleviation of emotional stress. It is somewhere between those two places that we can make good decisions together that will recognize the problems we face, and solve them with resilience, determination, and flexibility.

Jun 10, 2020 4:51

From Kristin Burns

To Chairman McKay with copy to mason, HuntermillBOS, clerktothebos, braddock, dranesville, LeeDist, mtvernon, providence, springfield, sully, constituentservices (Northam), district31, district33, district34, Delegate Murphy

To the Chairman and Supervisors of the Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County:

Please see within Chairman McKay's email 5/5/2020 response to my input to the FY2021 Budget Proposal some additional responses. My responses are in italics and indented. I hope you will take the time to read them during these transitional times. We can, and should, work towards sharing a higher quality of life. COVID-19 has reminded us that our lives here are temporary and fragile. We can, and should, now work towards sharing a higher quality of life here.

Chairman McKay committed in his email to me that my input, even though not incorporated into the decisions of the Board for the FY2021 Budget Proposal, would be taken into account as we move forward. Because I want to have a higher quality of life, and share that with you and our neighbors, I have also started to put together additional input about my ideas for improving our lives in the short term. I have not had the time and energy to finish it..

I have not felt well for the last month or so. Through one of the community organizations providing free COVID-19 testing, I was tested because of flu-like symptoms. The test came back negative on Monday 6/1/2020. However, the physician explained that for 100 people who have COVID-19, the test provided will only detect 65 positives. He recommended I stay home from work for an additional week, which used up my PTO time for the year. While I am back to work, and still scheduled 6 days a week, I am trying to make sure I don't miss any days moving forward.

I, like each of you, am only one person. While I have a university degree, I am not a professional writer or an activist. My intent in submitting this to the Board is a basic civic duty to do what I am able to do to improve difficult circumstances that are within our control to improve. By that, I mean the circumstances of my own family, as well as our local, state, national, and global circumstances.

We have the real human, infrastructure, and natural resources we need to very easily share much more health and safety if we will to do so. I am putting my ideas forward to

you locally because we could do that in the short term, instead of continuing to take baby steps towards it that leave many people in our community behind, including many of our community's children. With your experience, maybe my ideas will be meaningful and give you some better ideas for how to lead this community forward.

I want to live beyond a shared hope and faith that we will see better days. I want to be on the other side of the fulfillment of that faith. Together, recognizing all the good hope and faith before us and around us, we could actually achieve that in the short term.

Please see below where I could use some help in the short term.

Thank you,
Kristin Burns
9627 Leesburg Pike
Vienna, VA 22182

5/5/2020 4:20 Copy Toni

Dear Ms. Burns,

Thank you for providing your testimony regarding the proposed FY21 budget.

I appreciate your engagement during these uncertain times. It certainly serves as a testament to our community's resolve.

In this community, I would like us to resolve for everyone to be able to share a higher quality of life, without sacrificing the quality of life of others, which we have not yet succeeded at.

The Board of Supervisors will adopt the FY21 budget on May 12. However, because of the uncertainties surrounding the County and our community at this time, we'll also be placing a particular emphasis on our mid-year review later this year. I will certainly take your input into account as the Board moves forward with all of its work.

In order to share a higher quality of life, we need to change how we do things in our county. We need to recognize real needs, and we need to be able to meet those needs effectively and respectfully. We also need to more efficiently and reasonably restrain violence, particularly when it becomes chronic. Developing our ability to sustain our basic needs locally would also help us achieve a higher

quality of life.

I hope within our recognized state of emergency, the Board will be flexible with its allocation of the budget in order to be more effective at meeting real needs in our community.

COVID-19 is an unpredictable threat. In one of his newsletters, Supervisor Storck noted that pandemics typically do not cause a single disease wave, but multiple ones. Numbers provided by news organizations, and fatality numbers that had been published by Board members, indicated that 3-5% of people who had COVID-19 did not survive it. That is up to 5 out of 20 people. If those numbers were accurate, we could have lost up to 80,000 lives here in Fairfax County alone if not for our mitigation of COVID-19.

A customer at one of the auto parts stores I deliver parts to told me he knows a nurse who works in a COVID-19 facility. He told me that she and other staff are currently taking a myriad of medications to prevent themselves from contracting the virus while they are treating people who currently have severe cases. Long-term use of medications is a risk of its own. The safety of both the patients with severe cases of COVID-19, and the nurses treating them, are being put at risks. We want to thank our medical professionals by preventing them from having to suffer through the heartaches and health risks that many of them have suffered, and are likely to suffer more of if we do not maintain a safe mitigation of COVID-19.

It looks like Chairman McKay has more recently published some adjusted numbers, which present a much less severe fatality rate. While COVID-19 continues to be a bit of an unknown all around, we should focus in the meantime on the fact that we have the ability and means to share a higher measure of shared safety and security as a community by addressing our basic needs more effectively. We can improve our shared quality of life, without sacrificing our mitigation of COVID-19, or other communicable diseases that threaten our health and safety.

I appreciate that you will take my input into account as the Board moves forward with important work. Writing is not easy, and I am not doing this writing lightly.

Regarding any and all issues with domestic violence, this is something that I take very seriously. If a person's personal safety is threatened, the police should be contacted immediately.

I hope you will again read my input to the FY2021 Budget Proposal, which brought to the Board's attention some problems with the way law enforcement has been responding to reports of violence. The fact that in 9 years I have not been able to even affect law enforcement to include crimes I have reported to them in their own reports, while they include crimes committed against both of my children, reflects that those problems are systemic. Further labeling those reports as "mental services" may provide FCPD an explanation for how it has failed to respond meaningfully to domestic and family violence in my case. It does not prevent actual domestic, family, or community violence.

I hope you still take the prevention of domestic violence seriously, as well as the prevention of the community violence that so often compounds domestic and family violence by organizations we rely on to help prevent it.

Some of the policies and practices I have witnessed by FCPD include not taking accurate police reports, not working with victims and witnesses to obtain and enforce appropriate protective orders, and not working with victims or witnesses to gather corroborating evidence or relevant witnesses to speak with as a part of an effective investigation. FCPD has further criminalized victims and witnesses of crimes. To accuse a victim or witness of misdemeanor crimes of being drunk in public, or making calls with the intent to annoy, is an example of the community violence that needs to be restrained in some way. In my case, while I was found not guilty of the charge, FCPD went so far as to accuse me of making a false report. That is an extreme failure while I have reported physical and sexual crimes against my children by their father that they have not helped me prevent in any way.

Saying that the police should be called when our personal safety is threatened is a good hope. FCPD should be a proper and safe organization to work with when violence has been committed, especially when similar violence it is likely to be committed again by an offender. However, for that hope to become a reality, the Board needs to involve itself in changing the policies and practices FCPD has been following. We want to trust that FCPD will take appropriate and effective steps to prevent violence, or threats of violence, in our community. But that trust has to be based on reality.

Contacting the police, in reality, has been one of the most detrimental actions I took as a victim of domestic violence and a witness to violence against my son. That is true for victims of other crimes from what I have read in news articles and

in public responses to news articles.

In my family's case, if it were not for FCPD' and FCSO' actions between June and November of 2011, partially described in my initial feedback to the Board on 3/20/2020, I would have been much more likely to obtain sole physical custody of my children and to maintain ownership of my home. In hearings in both the juvenile and circuit courts, my arrest record was used to influence judges to deny my petitions for custody of, or even visitation with, my own children. The more severe crimes committed against my children in their father's sole and unsupervised custody were completely preventable. When subsequent crimes were reported after that sole custody award, FCPD had a duty to recognize that had erred.

The simple act of supporting me in obtaining a protective order following my first reports to FCPD of violence against myself and my son in June of 2011 could have easily and effectively prevented the subsequent violence my children's father has committed. One of law enforcement's excuses for not doing so at the time was because I had initiated a legal separation proceeding in the court, and they don't involve themselves in civil disputes. That was tragic, while I initiated the legal separation because of violence my ex-husband had committed against me and my son.

I would like to see the change you are hoping has already taken place. I would like to know that if a person's personal safety is threatened, the police can be counted on to safely respond and effectively, but reasonably, restrain violence. That requires the police to change their responses to be more protective of victims and witnesses to crimes, and less protective of the lies that men and women who chronically commit those crimes will tell in order to protect themselves or their friends from accountability.

The first step in the investigative process should be the issuance of a protective order to the offender based on any good faith report made to law enforcement. That protective order should set up terms that are clear, and that law enforcement can proactively enforce, in order to prevent further violence based on what was reported to them. Offenders could recognize that the terms of a protective order are much less restrictive than a criminal charge or an incarceration for an offender. That is why the bar for an ex parte protective order is lower than the "beyond a reasonable doubt" required for criminal conviction. The law provides for a subsequent hearing within a couple of weeks at which an offender can defend him or herself against the terms of the protective order, or a judge can

decide that additional restrictions on the offender are necessary for the protection of the community.

The absence of that simple legal step, in accordance with Virginia's crime victim and witness rights act, sets up victims and witnesses of crimes to suffer retaliation. It further provides chronically violent abusers an opportunity to manipulate themselves out of accountability, which they tend to be adept at. Victims and witnesses of crimes are not provided an opportunity to be an integral part of restraining violence in our community, and they are not provided an opportunity to safely work with law enforcement through the investigative process to determine if additional steps would need to be taken beyond a protective order. Chronic offenders often have multiple victims that do not know of one another, which law enforcement has the resources to determine.

Since my initial feedback to the Board on 3/20/2020, I have still been unable to affect law enforcement to include my written report of witnessed, disclosed, or reasonably suspected crimes committed against my children over a period of years in their own report. Because law enforcement has taken so many "reports" from me, I am now being told that they have already investigated the allegations. An investigation can not take place when to the best of my knowledge what I have reported is not included in their own report or assigned to a detective.

After submitting my input to the Board, I attempted again to affect the assignment of a detective in April. I again submitted a written report of some dates and incidences regarding abuse and neglect of my children, and the repercussions of that abuse and neglect on their young lives. After submitting the report again, a couple days later a detective at the local station called me. He claimed that my written report was included this time, and initially welcomed me to bring corroborating evidence to the station. It was only after I asked him to confirm that I would not be hurt again by officers at the local station that he notified me that I would need to answer to two new misdemeanor charges for "annoying ringing" before he would meet with me to gather corroborating evidence.

I spent another day in an isolation cell at the ADC during a time when I understood the facility was releasing as many people as possible in mitigation of the corona virus. I had heard that there were positive tests at the detention center.

In my arrest record at the courthouse, an officer submitted in the record that everything has already been investigated. As I have already stated, that is simply not true. A detective has not been assigned to investigate the crimes I have tried

to report, and nobody has taken the time to gather corroborating medical, CPS, and academic records, which so far I have been able to maintain.

On my release, it took the detective at the local station about a week to return a message to him. He then gave me a case number and told me I would need to speak with the major crimes unit, who has not responded to two voicemails from me. I have not been able to get a copy of the report, while that department has been closed to the public during our mitigation of COVID-19. I did ultimately realize that the detective gave me the same case number as the police report I was able to obtain from the records department back on 9/6/2019.

Again, the 9/6/2019 report was only a couple of paragraphs long, while the list of dates and incidences I provided was 19 pages. It was labeled as a mental health service. It did not include a single crime I reported against my children by their father, during the time up until 6/16/2016 when I was able to have information about them. The records department was unwilling to provide me with any substantive information about the report over the phone. An employee there was able to confirm for me that there have been updates to the report, case 2019-249-0072, and that updates to the case have been shorter than 19 pages. I have not mailed in the \$10 and a written request yet so that I might obtain what I was told would be a redacted copy of the report.

Following my first attempt on 9/6/2018 to have law enforcement include the 19 pages of dates, injuries, and repercussions on my children in their own police reports, the police have instead now brought (3) additional misdemeanor criminal charges against me for “annoying ringing”. I have been incarcerated two more times, and been on probation for over 7 months pending the confirmed re-opening of the general district court.

As I mentioned in my initial feedback to the board, I have been under the thumb of misdemeanor criminal charges for more than 60% of the time following my initial arrest for “attempted parental abduction” on the morning of a protective order hearing I requested, and that I wanted my children to be able to attend on their own behalf. If it were not for FCPD's arrest of me that morning, me and my children might have been successful in obtaining a protective order against their father on our own.

Calling the police should be, and is not now, the right way to prevent violent threats to our health and safety.

I am sorry to hear you aren't happy with the response you've received from Fairfax County. By way of this email, I am copying Toni Zollicoffer, the Director of Domestic and Sexual Violence Services, so that she may work with you directly on those concerns.

I had asked in my initial feedback to the Board, and am asking again, if Supervisor Alcorn, my district supervisor would be willing to work alongside with me back through county agencies to affect changes in policies and practices that could improve the effectiveness of those agencies in preventing domestic, family, and community violence. Domestic and Sexual Violence Services (DSVS), CPS or law enforcement might be more willing to take the time to review corroborating evidence and assist me in obtaining a protective order that restores my relationships with my children. Supervisor Alcorn could hear their current practices, and make suggestions for policy changes. The magistrate might be more willing to give employees of DSVS, CPS or law enforcement a hearing in support of obtaining a protective order, while the magistrate has consistently denied me a hearing over the years.

You are correct. I am not happy with this county's response to reports of domestic, family, and community violence. I am hurt by, angry about, and disappointed in those responses. This county has frequently incarcerated me in an isolation cell, more than once suffered me with open wounds in an unclean cell without providing so much medical care as a band-aid, and sometimes further broken or bruised me during arrests and incarcerations. Through those actions, county agencies have been very effective in protecting a man who has chronically abused my children, both sexually and physically. Fairfax County has not been effective at protecting either my or my children's health and safety. The only people who I imagine would be "happy" with the responses I have received are chronically violent ones.

In the meantime, people in this community have justified headcounts and made money off of my and my children's suffering over the years. With all of the public and non-profit resources in place, and all the dollars spent to prevent domestic and family violence, I have not yet met one person in this county who has been willing to help me reasonably restrain just one man's chronic violence against me and my children. I have also not yet met one person who has been willing to help me reasonably restrain employees of the county who have committed community violence against me or my children, while that violence has also included criminal acts.

Not one person, even now, seems willing to do anything meaningful to help me restore my family. No, I am not happy.

I have not been able to share a single hour with my parents and children together for more than 8-1/2 years, including holidays and birthdays. That has been a loss to all five of us, while we enjoyed gathering together for holidays and birthdays.

Since my last email to you, my father's health has declined. Hospice care is now coming to my parents home, and my mother told me yesterday that my father is only minimally able to communicate with a smile or an answer to a yes or no question. While he is still able to hear and communicate, and before he passes, I would like to show him that his grandchildren have been restored to his daughter.

I did not hear from Ms. Zollicoffer as you intended. The separation of me and my children continues to be the most tragic domestic violence that my children's father has committed against us. Between 11/3/2011 and 12/12/2013, I was only able to see my children at intermittent hour-long visitations at the discretion of their father. I was able to witness significant physical and emotional injuries to them during that time, that were consistent with the physical, emotional, and sexual violence I intended to prevent. Then, I lost even my right to supervised visitation with my own children on 12/17/2013.

It is clear from reading the orders that it is because of the failures of CPS, law enforcement, and the public school that a judge designated to the case from another district was convinced that the violence my ex-husband committed against me and my children did not happen. Since the judge believed the violence did not occur, he was further convinced that it could harm my children emotionally to spend time with me.

As I tried to explain in my initial input to the Board, DSVS does not actively prevent violence. They did provide me weeks of counseling back in 2012. While I was stunned by the way I was treated by law enforcement, and the loss of custody of my children as a stay-at-home mother, those services mainly took my time and justified headcount for their organization.

DSVS does not have working relationships with CPS or law enforcement. Back in 2012, DSVS was unwilling to take the time to work with me to help me put documentation together in support of a protective order through the court. DSVS does not participate in court processes, either in custody cases or in requests for protective orders.

With all of the budget and headcounts set aside for Fairfax County to prevent the outcome my children and I have suffered, we are another example of budgets and headcounts not solving real problems on their own, and sometimes competing with solutions to prevent real risks to the health and safety of our community.

Instead of hearing back from Ms. Zollicoffer, I heard back from Kevin at the Domestic Violence Action Center (DVAC) about a week after receiving Chairman McKay's email. Kevin confirmed that he was the same director I met towards the end of last year, who prioritized an interlocutory order in a closed case file from 2/10/2014 over taking an interest in preventing further injuries to me or my children by supporting my effort to have a hearing for a protective order. The only commitment he was willing to make to me was to talk with DSVS to see if between the two groups they could address my concerns.

Kevin was unwilling to do any of the three things I suggested that could help me obtain an appropriate protective order to improve my family's health and safety expediently. While DVAC and DSVS do seem to work together, and DSVS and CPS are both part of Family Services, Kevin was unwilling to set up and participate in a meeting between me and CPS to encourage a review of the injuries my children have suffered. That seemed like the most reasonable step he could have taken to help me obtain an appropriate and expedient protective order to restore my family relationships moving forward. At such a meeting, I could provide records I have related to prior screened out reports and family assessments conducted by CPS, and I could provide corroborating medical and academic reporting. The magistrate might be willing to give me a hearing if CPS was there to support my request for a protective order.

If my children are alive and well, and still living at the last known address I have for them, CPS' legal authority could provide the most expedient way to prevent further domestic and family violence against me and my children. Again, while I don't remember the specific law, I believe they are legally able to temporarily remove children from unsafe custodial situations without first obtaining a protective order through the court.

Children are often moved to foster care in the circumstances of emergency removals. While I am their mother, my children have another parent who is interested in their safety and care, and they could avoid a foster care situation, which I have read can come with its own risks about 25% of the time. In my ex-husband's family, his father died of heart disease, his mother has diabetes, and

one of his sister's was diagnosed bipolar before she died in recent years. If anything were to happen to him, based on my experiences over the last 9 years, I would not even be notified, despite the fact that there have been no findings by CPS that I have abused or neglected my children.

At any rate, it is not an accident that DSVS and CPS are both in the Department of Family Services. Men who commit domestic violence often also commit family violence against children. DSVS and CPS are supposed to be working effectively together to prevent both domestic and family violence in our community's families.

DVAC is located in the same complex as the courthouse. DVAC witnesses victims and witnesses to domestic and family violence fill out affidavits, which are then taken to Domestic Relations for review by the juvenile court. Kevin is aware of the risks of submitting written affidavits to the juvenile court in lieu of sworn testimony, while if the initial protective order is denied the written affidavits can be forwarded to offenders and result in retaliation. Kevin acknowledged that he had spoken with Domestic Relations about a return to that process during our mitigation of COVID-19, but neither group has advocated for the court to honor that legal right for victims of violence.

Kevin's understanding is that the chief judge's order suspending sworn testimony to a judge was based on the governor's executive orders to mitigate the corona virus threat. It is DVAC, DSVS, and domestic relations that should be advocating for in person hearings at the court house. I have also in recent months shared with a director at domestic relations that a courtroom is large enough to accommodate the same social distancing we have become accustomed to at our restaurants and grocery stores.

Kevin was also unwilling to advocate for all three of the local courts to consider circumstances justifying protective orders in cases of domestic violence, and the family and community violence that so often compound domestic violence. After meeting Kevin last year, I dropped off a copy of my own request to the circuit court to provide for hearings for temporary protective orders without notice to violent offenders, which is a legal right. With the support and advocacy of a director of DSVS and/or DVAC, the circuit court might be more willing to consider doing so.

In the meantime, the juvenile court will only hear requests related to family violence, but not community violence. The general district court will hear only

requests related to community violence, but not family violence. Again, it seems that DVAC and DSVS could have more influence in advocating for the legal right for victims of domestic violence to request protective orders in the general district, juvenile, or circuit courts.

Restraining violence, particularly chronic violence against children in our community, is necessary to our shared health and safety. It is also not counter-productive to our mitigation of the corona virus. Our legal right to ask for and obtain protective orders should be considered to be essential work by the court. Yet, the courts have been unable to accommodate that essential work even while other non-essential functions of the court have been constrained.

Lastly, Kevin was unwilling to accompany me to a meeting with law enforcement, and encourage them to take the time to review corroborating evidence for reports I have tried to make and to assist me in obtaining a protective order. Law enforcement typically works through the magistrate's office, and the magistrate might be more likely to provide for a hearing for a protective order if an officer accompanied me in support of one. Having a director of DVAC or a director of DSVS with me at the local station could have encouraged officers to take my reports more seriously.

I am still encouraging, in good faith, a meaningful justice and grace to restore my family, and to change policies and practices of county personnel so this county can be a safer place to live. I am still encouraging us to get our minds away from dollars, and into our real needs, in the interest of sharing a higher quality of life. I am still asking for help.

Again, thank you for your testimony and your commitment to our community.

Thank you for receiving my testimony, and your commitment to keep it in mind as the Board makes decisions for how this community will move forward from our current state of emergency, and become a community we are able to share a higher quality of life within.

In order to share a higher quality of life in this community, community and county agencies, businesses, landowners, families, and individuals will need to change to become more effective in meeting real needs. I am confident we can do that in the short term, and will be happier on the other side of us choosing together to do so.

The additional feedback I hope to finish and submit to the Board includes:

below related to local-sustainability and meeting needs in our community that I believe is important. On purpose, or inadvertently, our community agencies were not effectively meeting the needs of our community prior to our initial mitigation of COVID-19. According to a newsletter from Supervisor Storck, pandemics typically occur in waves, and are not just one time events. In order to meet the needs of this community as we continue to mitigate the pandemic, community and county agencies, businesses, landowners, families, and individuals will need to change to become more effective in meeting real needs. I am confident we can do that in the short term, and will be glad we chose to.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey McKay
Chairman