



Alexandria Taxpayers United

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Broken Promises, New Opportunity in Alexandria

(Alexandria, VA) – The following statement was issued by Alexandria Taxpayers United President Bud Miller in response to the City Council’s move to raise the property tax rate and Vice Mayor Andrew Macdonald’s resignation announcement:

“Taxpayers are deeply disappointed with the City Council’s decision to increase the property tax rate on hard working Alexandrians. Had the City acted responsibly during years of rapid revenue growth, the need to raise the tax rate would not have been so strong.

It’s been less than a year since the last election, and sadly, many of our elected officials failed to live up to the tax-relief pledges they made as candidates. With their broken promises, the Council has clearly demonstrated the need for structural limits on tax rate and assessment increases.

The budget process started off well, but City Council Members caved in to special interests and added millions of taxpayers’ dollars well above the reasonable target set by the City Manager. Indeed, City Council Members were provided an opportunity to propose specific additions or reductions in the budgeting process. The score:

Total Proposed Additions by City Council Members: \$3,000,000

Total Proposed Deletions by City Council Members: \$40,000

Note that the \$40,000 in reduced spending merely reflects a reduction in City Reserves – not exactly a step towards fiscal responsibility.

The combined cost of Council-sponsored increases and unreasonable demands by the School Board resulted in a budget more than \$10 million above the targeted goals, and taxpayers will suffer as a result.

The resignation of Vice Mayor Andrew Macdonald, who voted with the rest of City Council to raise the tax rate, may provide Alexandrians with the opportunity to elect a new and independent voice to the City Council – one that will act as a faithful friend to the overtaxed residents of Alexandria.”

Alexandria Taxpayers United is a non-profit, non-partisan, volunteer organization dedicated to educating taxpayers, the media, and elected officials on the merits of low taxes, fiscal responsibility, and government accountability. More information is available at www.atuonline.org.

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