

## FRIENDS OF ALEXANDRIA LIBRARY TALKING POINTS

### PROPOSED FY 2014 BUDGET

#### THANK YOU!

- We would like to thank the City Manager for recommending \$565,000 in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for the much needed repairs at the Beatley Central Library.
- We would also like to thank the City Manager and Council for recognizing the need to restore \$57,744 to the operating budget for cleaning services three days a week at all libraries.

#### WHAT'S AT STAKE

- The proposed budget includes the elimination of five vacant positions (\$93,454) which will result in a weekly two-hour reduction of service for the Barrett, Burke, and Duncan branches. Evening hours are critical for working families, and morning hours are crucial for job seekers and preschoolers.
- \$56,000 reduction of book budget.
- Talking Books Service hours will be reduced from 35 to 20 hours a week.

#### WHY PUBLIC LIBRARIES ARE IMPORTANT

##### [January 2013 Pew Study stated that:](#)

- 80% of Americans say that borrowing books is a very important service provided by libraries.
- 80% say reference librarians are very important.
- 77% say free access to the computer and the Internet are very important.
- 74% say that programs for children and teens are very important.

##### [February 2013 Pew Study stated that:](#)

- Internet access between the rich and poor continues to be a disparity (also highlighted in [The Washington Post](#)).

##### [October 2012 Pew Study stated that:](#)

- More than 8 in 10 Americans between the ages of 16 and 29 read a book in the past year, and 6 in 10 used their local public library.

## ALEXANDRIA LIBRARY: ESSENTIAL COMMUNITY DESTINATION

- Attendance for children’s programs such as SummerQuest, Paws to Read and library programs provided in Alexandria’s recreation centers were over 32,000 in 2012.
- Alexandria Library e-borrowers increased to 36%--from 9,339 in January 2012 to 12,744 in January 2013.
- New website launched in May 2012, which is increasingly relied upon by the community. Overall, the website traffic jumped from 163,371 in January 2012 to 249,239 in January 2013, a growth of 52%.
- Alexandria Library received an \$8,000 English literacy grant to enhance services to immigrant populations. 32% of Alexandrians speak a language other than English, hailing from 128 countries and speaking more than 80 languages.
- The City of Alexandria is the most well-read city in the nation, according to an Amazon.com 2012 study.

## ALEXANDRIA LIBRARY: 1 IN A MILLION

- **Over 1 million** patron visits to Alexandria Library locations and virtual library in 2012.
- **Over 1 million** items checked out each year since 2008.
- Alexandria Library circulation of materials has increased 10% over the last two years, outpacing the increase of library materials, which has risen only 5% over the last two years due to budget cuts in Library material buying.

**CIRCULATION FY2011:** 1,051,770  
**CIRCULATION FY2012:** 1,154,346

**MATERIALS FY2011:** 458,182  
**MATERIALS FY2012:** 481,144

## BUDGET AFFECTS ON ALEXANDRIA LIBRARY’S MATERIALS AND CIRCULATION

