

PROPOSED RESOLUTION
OF THE W.T. WOODSON HIGH SCHOOL PTSO
SEPTEMBER 14, 2010

WHEREAS, on June 1, 2007, the Fairfax County School Board sold the “Eleven Oaks property” to the City of Fairfax for \$4 million, a deal which included the requirement for the City to find and pay all costs for “acquiring, leasing, planning, developing, constructing, and equipping” a new parking depot for at least 50 full size school buses that were then parked on the Eleven Oaks site; and

WHEREAS, the location of the bus depot must be acceptable to FCPS and must be within 2.5 miles of the Eleven Oaks site, but two smaller parking depots could be created if they were within 5 miles of each other; and

WHEREAS, the contact states the school buses will remain at Eleven Oaks until and unless a new parking depot is created by the City, and specifically that FCPS shall “have exclusive use of the portion of the Property on which the current bus parking lot and its ancillary areas and access ways are located. Such easement shall continue until such time as the Purchaser provides a New Parking Area”; and

WHEREAS, on August 6, 2010, the Fairfax County School Board submitted Application Number 2232-B10-16 (“the 2232”) for “Proposed Woodson Bus Parking” about 400' in length and 200' wide at the northeast corner of the Woodson Complex; and

WHEREAS, although it is Fairfax City’s responsibility to locate and pay for a replacement bus parking facility, FCPS staff has offered this land at no apparent cost to the City; and

WHEREAS, the 2232 states “Buses will come and go throughout the day and into the evening to support various trip needs” yet the corner of Route 236 and Pickett is already congested and dangerous and (a) any incident at the intersection could render the buses inaccessible and (b) any incident in the proposed bus depot could block traffic on both Route 236 and Pickett; and,

WHEREAS, the storm water runoff concerns of the community have not yet been addressed satisfactorily, especially in view of the recent tanker truck accident at that corner which resulted in a reported 4,000 gallons of gasoline entering the drainage system; and

WHEREAS, the 2232 further states “The proposed parking lot addition will not have an adverse visual impact,” yet the same 2232 indicates (a) at least 18 mature oak, pine, and maple trees, each a foot and a half in diameter or larger, are to be removed and replaced by fifteen, six-foot tall trees, (b) ten, thirty-foot light poles, (c) 51 school buses plus the private vehicles of their drivers, and (d) an electrical plug port system for bus heating, all to be surrounded by (e) a ten-foot tall chain link fence gated by two sliding gates, and all of which would appear to have significant adverse visual impact; and

WHEREAS, it appears that a 2232 application may be an inappropriate format for the proposal which, among other things, fails to address such features as adjacent sidewalks and restrooms to

support the more than fifty employees who will be coming to this site very early each school day; and

WHEREAS, many in the community feel the Woodson Complex is already over-congested, that while the Woodson complex has the most land area of any FCPS high school, it also has the most types of users including Woodson High School, Frost Middle School, associated sports facilities and parking, a new financial education building, the FCPS External Diploma Program, the Woodson Adult High School, Adult and Community Education, a large storage and maintenance facility for the Department of Information Technology (DIT) and next to it a DIT fenced and locked lot for 130 vehicles, a large food warehouse, a fuel station for public vehicles, vehicle maintenance, facilities maintenance, grounds operations, and sand lot; and

WHEREAS, the Chairman of the Fairfax County School Board has stated “The Board very much values the thoughts and opinions of community members to include PTA/PTOs. I assure you that no final decision has been made regarding the bus parking facility and that no decisions will be made until such time as the issue is brought to the Board as an agenda item sometime after school opens ... [and] will make an informed and respectful decision”; now, therefore, be it,

RESOLVED by the W. T. Woodson PTSO that the PTSO is OPPOSED to the construction of a New Parking Area (NPA) for school buses anywhere on the Woodson Complex; and

- (i) In accordance with the 2007 Purchase Agreement regarding the Eleven Oaks property, FCPS should continue to park buses indefinitely at the Eleven Oaks property and the stated easement must not be released until an alternate permanent NPA, acceptable to all parties, is provided at the expense of the City of Fairfax; and
- (ii) FCPS should provide to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors complete documentation of the NPA site selection process (to include the address and date of each site considered and the specific reason why the site was ultimately rejected by FCPS) and of all costs incurred by FCPS to find and create an NPA; and
- (iii) Also in accordance with the 2007 Purchase Agreement, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors should ensure the City of Fairfax
 - a. Provides a detailed implementation plan, and
 - b. Reimburses FCPS for all staff, consultant, and other expenses thus far incurred for the NPA.