

## Pamela S. Ulmer

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**From:** HarrisonburgVA.gov <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 26, 2020 2:23 PM  
**To:** Pamela S. Ulmer  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form

**WARNING: This email was sent from outside of your organization.**

**Submitted on:** Sunday, April 26, 2020 - 2:22pm

**Name:** Rachel Jenner

**Type of Meeting:** Harrisonburg City Council

**Date of Meeting:** Tue, 04/28/2020

**Agenda Item Number:** 6a

**Comment:**

Second Home is an essential part of many parents' routines in the city, as they provide before and after school care for children whose parents are unable to care for them during certain hours. I personally utilize Second Home for both before and after school care, and could not get to my job on time without this vital service. I know I am not unique in this regard, and Second Home provides an affordable option for parents. Please reconsider your drastic cuts to Second Home. A nearly \$8000 reduction in funds would be devastating to this organization who serves so many in the community.

**Contact:** No

**Contact Info:**

## Pamela S. Ulmer

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**From:** HarrisonburgVA.gov <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 25, 2020 3:18 PM  
**To:** Pamela S. Ulmer  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form

**WARNING: This email was sent from outside of your organization.**

**Submitted on:** Saturday, April 25, 2020 - 3:17pm

**Name:** Krisztina Szekely

**Type of Meeting:** Harrisonburg City Council

**Date of Meeting:** Tue, 04/28/2020

**Agenda Item Number:** 6.a. Public hearing regarding the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget

**Comment:**

To the Harrisonburg City Council,

I am writing to ask you to reconsider the proposed \$7,795 (60%) cut in funding to Second Home, and assure that with adequate funding we can continue to serve Harrisonburg City Council's vision of a "City for all", and "a thriving educational epicenter" while aiding economic development with high quality, educational before AND after school care for low income families.

- Second Home is the only before school care program in the city offering early morning hours (6:00 am) with fees that minimum wage earning parents can afford. Thus allowing parents to work and provide for their families.
- Second Home serves early shift workers in local food manufacturing, HCPS cafeteria, health care, and service industry, and is an essential part of the local infrastructure.
- Second Home offers individualized attention to students to support their academic, social and emotional development needs, and supports families with wraparound services. Many students who were not successful in other after school programs, have thrived at Second Home. The program helps students gain solid bases to become engaged, and successful learners and citizens.
- Second Home is open to children of essential workers during the COVID-19 emergency.
- Second Home is a home grown local organization with no national backup either in name or funding.

Sincerely,

Krisztina Szekely

Executive Director, Second Home L.C.

**Contact:** No

**Contact Info:**

## Pamela S. Ulmer

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**From:** HarrisonburgVA.gov <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 26, 2020 11:00 AM  
**To:** Pamela S. Ulmer  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form

**WARNING: This email was sent from outside of your organization.**

**Submitted on:** Sunday, April 26, 2020 - 11:00am

**Name:** Rachel Smallwood  
**Type of Meeting:** Harrisonburg City Council  
**Date of Meeting:** Tue, 04/28/2020  
**Agenda Item Number:** HHS CO Start Date  
**Comment:**  
Council Members,

It seems that COVID-19 is causing uncertainty in not only the market, but material procurement, and man( person) power on site.

To this, I propose the following:

- 1) If we begin in the Fall, a 6 month push, there is plenty of time to go back through the design to VE some high ticket price elements.
- 2) by reducing the cost of the building itself, there are additional 2 options: a. Reduce the scope and GMP of the project or b. Free up funds to accelerate the schedule allowing what was a 24 month schedule to be completed in 18 months and still complete before academic year 2022 begins.

Happy to discuss further at a pull out session if my opinion is wanted.

Please stay safe and well. Thank you for your service.  
Rachel Smallwood

**Contact:** Yes

**Contact Info:**

No contact is required, but if a response is desired:  
Email is rgsmallwood007@gmail.com

I live on Nelson Drive in Harrisonburg.

**Pamela S. Ulmer**

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**From:** HarrisonburgVA.gov <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 9:57 AM  
**To:** Pamela S. Ulmer  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form

**WARNING: This email was sent from outside of your organization.**

**Submitted on:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 - 9:56am

**Name:** Betzi Bostic  
**Type of Meeting:** Harrisonburg City Council  
**Date of Meeting:** Tue, 04/28/2020  
**Agenda Item Number:** 6A - Public Hearing - FY 2020-2021 Budget  
**Comment:**

I am a new board member, but was excited to become part of this program as I knew of the important role they fill in the community. There are many people that live in the more rural parts of the county as they can afford housing there. However, without a vehicle, they are unable to find stable employment and often have to rely on others to provide transportation for everyday tasks such as grocery shopping or going to appointments. For many people having a reliable vehicle is truly a life changing event. I hope you will follow the City staff's recommendations and include Way To Go in the new budget at the proposed funding.

**Contact:** No  
**Contact Info:**

## **Pamela S. Ulmer**

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**From:** HarrisonburgVA.gov <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 10:43 AM  
**To:** Pamela S. Ulmer  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form

**WARNING: This email was sent from outside of your organization.**

**Submitted on:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 - 10:42am

**Name:** Victoria Garber  
**Type of Meeting:** Harrisonburg City Council  
**Date of Meeting:** Tue, 04/28/2020  
**Agenda Item Number:** #6a. - Public Hearing RE: FY 2020-2021 Budget  
**Comment:**

I have been a part of Way to Go, on and off since its conception. Through the years, I have seen all the good that Way to Go has done for our community. With the assistance provided through our Donated Vehicle Program and our Client Vehicle Maintenance Program, we have helped community members on their paths to self-sufficiency and a better life. Transportation needs rank as one of the highest barriers (along with housing and childcare) for not only those at poverty level, but also those who fall within ALICE. The cars we provide allow people to obtain a job, take a promotion, gain more hours, continue their education (leading to better employment), transport to medical appointments, and increases the involvement of children in school activities. The need is there and is ever growing. This funding will help to provide nearly 90 essential transportation services for low-income, working residents of Harrisonburg. Way to Go was built by people who care about our community and today, it is still manned by those wanting to make a difference. Please, help us to continue our mission and support Way to Go with this budget inclusion.

**Contact:** No  
**Contact Info:**

## Pamela S. Ulmer

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**From:** HarrisonburgVA.gov <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 11:20 AM  
**To:** Pamela S. Ulmer  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form

**WARNING: This email was sent from outside of your organization.**

**Submitted on:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 - 11:19am

**Name:** Diane McCarthy  
**Type of Meeting:** Harrisonburg City Council  
**Date of Meeting:** Tue, 04/28/2020  
**Agenda Item Number:** 6. a.  
**Comment:**  
Dear City Council,

This comment is intended for the Public Hearing regarding the proposed budget, specifically addressing the funding of Community Organizations as part of the General Fund.

My name is Diane McCarthy and I am representing the Harrisonburg Rockingham Child Day Care Center, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that has been providing licensed care and early learning to children ages 2-5 in our community for nearly 50 years.

First, I would like to express appreciation to Council for the new application process and thank City Staff for their evaluation and review as a means of allocating funds. However, we are asking you to reconsider our application to support working families by funding quality childcare and early childhood education.

Harrisonburg Rockingham Child Day Care Center was founded in response to a 1969 report to the Community Services Council of Harrisonburg and Rockingham that identified a need for a system of non-profit childcare centers that would be affordable to all working families. This need still exists today. According to the recent ALICE report affordable childcare has been identified as one of three critical needs in the community. Yet the burden of paying for care rests solely on the families and fundraising efforts of the center.

Our services are closely aligned with Council's 2039 Vision in the areas of economic development, education, and a city for all.

A City for All:

- We offer a sliding tuition fee scale based on a family's gross income to fulfill our mission of care being affordable to all families
- Of the 79 children enrolled, 59 of them pay at a reduced tuition rate.
- We subsidize our tuition scale with fundraising efforts, USDA grants, and limited funding from United Way.

A Thriving Educational Epicenter:

- Providing high quality early education, from infancy through preschool, has the highest impact on learning and positive social development. Quality early childhood care and education build a foundation for success throughout life.
- Decades of research provide evidence that Birth – Age 5 are the most formative and critical years of development creating a basis for future success in school.

- Programs that model and teach positive social behaviors, help children name and recognize emotions, and embrace diversity have been shown to strengthen resiliency.

Economic Development:

- Working families need to know that their children are being well cared for in a safe, nurturing, and respectful environment. When children are well-adjusted and happy, workers are more productive and happier.
- Economic stability and growth rely on a consistent and productive workforce.

Impact of COVID-19:

When our application was submitted in January the world was vastly different from today. The COVID-19 pandemic has turned our world upside down. Our center was closed for two weeks due to the closing of the church building where we are located. We re-opened April 1st to serve children of essential workers, many of whom do not earn a living wage and rely on our sliding fee scale. New safety protocols and space limitations allow us a capacity of 1/3rd of our normal enrollment. Licensing requirements dictate staff to child ratios and square footage per child. The ratio has been further restricted by the Governor's limit of 10 persons per room including adults. Decreased tuition revenue creates an even greater need as our fixed costs, such as rent, maintenance, and utilities remain constant.

This is a crucial and sound investment in the future economic success of our community and future academic success of our children.

Respectfully,

Diane McCarthy  
231 Maryland Avenue, Harrisonburg  
(540) 578-2527

**Contact: No**  
**Contact Info:**

## **Pamela S. Ulmer**

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**From:** HarrisonburgVA.gov <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 6:02 PM  
**To:** Pamela S. Ulmer  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form

**WARNING: This email was sent from outside of your organization.**

**Submitted on:** Monday, April 27, 2020 - 6:01pm

**Name:** Anita Lunsford - Second Home Learning Center

**Type of Meeting:** Harrisonburg City Council

**Date of Meeting:** Tue, 04/28/2020

**Agenda Item Number:** 6a

**Comment:**

City Manager Campbell, Deputy City Manager Banks, Madam Mayor Reed, Vice Mayor Romero, Esteemed City Council Members, and Residents of Harrisonburg:

Thank you for the sustaining financial support you have entrusted to Second Home over the years. We believe we have honored the funds well with before and afterschool programs exclusively for City of Harrisonburg residents that have served hundreds of at-risk families who work in industries that are at the heart of who we are as a City (factory workers, city school employees such as cafeteria workers and sanitation personnel, and during this time of crisis, essential employees to the healthcare system). We provide homework assistance and critical food supplies to students and their families and strive to meet their essential needs - and we also make sure that kids have a place to bloom - with gardening, cooking, theatrical performances like Lion King and Wizard of Oz, music lessons, and Science / STEM demonstrations. Our staff are not only childcare workers - they are mentors, teachers, sources of emotional support, and a daily reminder that each child has value and potential. Our budget is managed on the thinnest of margins and the 60% loss in funding from the City impacts our operations substantially and we humbly ask that the City consider restoring the full previous amount of \$13,095. We are a grassroots operation that serves a very specific population in the City of Harrisonburg that would have limited access to care without our services (we are the only before and afterschool program that opens at 6 am). Your investment in us is raised through City revenue sources and stays exclusively in the City. Most Sincerely, Anita Lunsford, Board of Directors for Second Home Learning Center

**Contact:** No

**Contact Info:**

305-797-2409 cellular or alunsfordhope@gmail.com if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you so much for your service to this community.



## **Pamela S. Ulmer**

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**From:** HarrisonburgVA.gov <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 5:09 PM  
**To:** Pamela S. Ulmer  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form

**WARNING: This email was sent from outside of your organization.**

**Submitted on:** Monday, April 27, 2020 - 5:08pm

**Name:** Anita Lunsford - Collins Center  
**Type of Meeting:** Harrisonburg City Council  
**Date of Meeting:** Tue, 04/28/2020  
**Agenda Item Number:** 6a

**Comment:**

City Manager Campbell, Deputy City Manager Ande Banks, Madam Mayor Reed, Esteemed Council Members, and Residents of Harrisonburg: Thank you for the opportunity to receive funding for Collins Center and Child Advocacy Center for the upcoming fiscal year. During the last six weeks, we have been particularly reminded of the critical and symbiotic relationship between the services the City provides (Police, Investigators, EMS, services to protect children and their families) and the role of Collins Center to strive to eliminate sexual violence and its impact on the community. Sexual violence does not stop when times of crisis befall a community, but luckily, neither do the extraordinary civil servants who serve the City of Harrisonburg. We believe that every survivor of sexual violence, no matter their age or circumstances, deserves a chance to pursue justice and receive the necessary care to mitigate the longterm consequences of sexual victimization. We also believe that targeted Prevention Education can make a measurable difference in the safety of our City and remind residents that everyone has the power to effect change. We take pride in working alongside remarkable law enforcement officers, teachers, school counselors, health professionals, and community partners and endeavor to honor the investment the City of Harrisonburg has chosen to make in us. With deepest appreciation, Collins Center

**Contact:** No

**Contact Info:**

We are always happy to speak with any city staff member, and wanted to take this time to express deep appreciation. Thank you again.

maria@thecollinscenter.org or anita@thecollinscenter.org

**Pamela S. Ulmer**

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**From:** HarrisonburgVA.gov <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 3:25 PM  
**To:** Pamela S. Ulmer  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form

**WARNING: This email was sent from outside of your organization.**

**Submitted on:** Monday, April 27, 2020 - 3:25pm

**Name:** Seth Blanchard  
**Type of Meeting:** Harrisonburg City Council  
**Date of Meeting:** Tue, 04/28/2020  
**Agenda Item Number:** 6a

**Comment:**

I am writing to show my strong support for the inclusion of funds for Way to Go in the FY20-21 city budget. Way to Go is an outstanding organization who has helped so many people with their transportation needs. They provide a necessary link between low income families who are doing their best in this tumultuous time and their jobs. Without Way to Go, there would be many more people without a way to work and thus with no way to feed their families.

**Contact:**

**Contact Info:**



April 27, 2020

Letter of Public Comment  
City of Harrisonburg Council members  
RE: 2020-21 Budget

As a safety-net healthcare provider in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County, The Free Clinic works with uninsured patients who cannot afford access to other healthcare providers to receive the care they need. During the state's launch of Medicaid expansion the clinic assisted over 600 patients through the process of applying for Medicaid and have successfully transitioned over 400 individuals into ongoing primary care services within our community.

In 2018 the clinic raised income eligibility to include household incomes up to 300% of the federal poverty level. The 2020 300% Federal Poverty Level income for a single person household is \$38,280. Based on United Way's ALICE report over 38% of households in Harrisonburg are living at the ALICE threshold which is a survival budget of \$22,164 for an individual. The clinic's expanded income eligibility guidelines have increased access to vital healthcare services for this vulnerable population in our community. In order to continue to meet the healthcare needs of our community the clinic Board of Directors voted unanimously to expand our services to residents regardless of citizenship.

In response to the expanded guidelines the clinic saw over 3000 visits to the clinic in 2019; 72% of the visits were from patients that reside in Harrisonburg. As of today the clinic continues to grow by an average of 25 new patients a month! As our community is navigating through the effects of a pandemic the clinic is preparing for even greater demand for access to healthcare for the uninsured.

In order to continue to provide these vital healthcare services collaboration with our community partners is key. The Free Clinic is grateful for the ongoing support from dedicated community partners like The United Way, Sentara RMH, The Community Foundation, and Rockingham County. For thirty years The Free Clinic has provided healthcare to our community through the support of these community partners, our state association and donors. As one of our key community partners we ask the city to reconsider their 2020-21 budget recommendations to include The Free Clinic.

Thank you,

Summer Sage, Executive Director  
Josh Hale, President Board of Directors

**Pamela S. Ulmer**

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**From:** HarrisonburgVA.gov <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 9:22 AM  
**To:** Pamela S. Ulmer  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form

**WARNING: This email was sent from outside of your organization.**

**Submitted on:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 - 9:22am

**Name:** Yvonne Flory

**Type of Meeting:** Harrisonburg City Council

**Date of Meeting:** Tue, 04/28/2020

**Agenda Item Number:** 6a

**Comment:**

Thank you for the generous funding for Way to Go. It will help many people remain independent and working through difficult times.

**Contact:** No

**Contact Info:**

**Pamela S. Ulmer**

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**From:** HarrisonburgVA.gov <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 9:58 PM  
**To:** Pamela S. Ulmer  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form

**WARNING: This email was sent from outside of your organization.**

**Submitted on:** Monday, April 27, 2020 - 9:56pm

**Name:** Joshua Montanez

**Type of Meeting:** Harrisonburg City Council

**Date of Meeting:** Tue, 04/28/2020

**Agenda Item Number:** #6a

**Comment:**

Way to Go should be included in the upcoming budget for FY 2020-2021. Way to go provides an essential service to residents of Harrisonburg. Way to Go provides access to necessary, sustainable, transportation support that encourages independence for residents of the city. It reaches a multitude of residents across cultural and ethnic boundaries and creates access to a secure future. Way to go strives to partner with multiple service agencies to achieve its goal.

**Contact:** No

**Contact Info:**

**Pamela S. Ulmer**

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**From:** HarrisonburgVA.gov <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 8:41 PM  
**To:** Pamela S. Ulmer  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form

**WARNING: This email was sent from outside of your organization.**

**Submitted on:** Monday, April 27, 2020 - 8:40pm

**Name:** Sherry Cline

**Type of Meeting:** Harrisonburg City Council

**Date of Meeting:** Tue, 04/28/2020

**Agenda Item Number:** #6a

**Comment:**

Way to Go assists working individuals with their transportation needs. One of the biggest problems employers have are employees not showing up for work and many times their absence is due to a car break down or not having a reliable way to get to work.

Way to Go helps keep people working.

Reliable transportation also helps families to be active in their community through shopping, attending events, going to church, parks, etc.

**Contact:** No

**Contact Info:**

**Pamela S. Ulmer**

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**From:** HarrisonburgVA.gov <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 8:00 AM  
**To:** Pamela S. Ulmer  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form

**WARNING: This email was sent from outside of your organization.**

**Submitted on:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 - 7:59am

**Name:** Marcella Smith

**Type of Meeting:** Harrisonburg City Council

**Date of Meeting:** Mon, 04/27/2020

**Agenda Item Number:** 1

**Comment:**

Please don't raise our property taxes this year! We are struggling to stay afloat as it is!

**Contact:** No

**Contact Info:**

## Pamela S. Ulmer

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**From:** HarrisonburgVA.gov <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 3:36 PM  
**To:** Pamela S. Ulmer  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form

**WARNING: This email was sent from outside of your organization.**

**Submitted on:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 - 3:35pm

**Name:** Hadley H. Jenner  
**Type of Meeting:** Harrisonburg City Council  
**Date of Meeting:** Tue, 04/28/2020  
**Agenda Item Number:** Public Hearing on 2020 - 2021 Budget  
**Comment:**  
Public Hearing Presentation to the City; 2020-2021 Budget  
Delivered by Rev. Jennifer Davis Sensenig

28 April 2020

Dear City Council members,

As you may know, Faith in Action is a network of 24 congregations in both the City and County that works together connecting our faith traditions with local justice concerns. We recognize that you are facing the impossibly daunting task of coming up with a budget adequate to meeting the City's needs while having to deal with the uncertainty of an economy that could be experiencing its greatest crisis since the Great Depression. Earlier this year Faith in Action adopted Affordable Housing as the theme for our Campaign. Some of you may recall earlier emails and conversations where we presented a three-point Ask centered around the need for a Housing Trust Fund to be established under joint City/County administration to deepen public support for more affordable housing. We realize that in the face of public revenue shortfalls and efforts by all to simply weather this emergency, no structural change of the magnitude we are advocating may seem possible. It is actually possible, depending on our priorities, and depending on the extent of an economic collapse, which may make our ask seem not only possible, but necessary. The issue of affordable housing will not disappear. In fact, it will become more chronic in the near future as people struggle to recover economically.

To that point, Faith in Action, along with all of the citizens of our community, are concerned about how funds you will have in your budget are allocated. We note that in your current proposed budget, for example, an increase of \$366,500 is allocated for the Middle River Regional Jail. Yes, we need secure housing for people who would otherwise be a danger to our community. Yet, the actual number of people in need of such housing has recently been reduced due to COVID-19 and other concerns. So Middle River has been able to reduce its numbers to less than 800, down from over 900. Our local Jail, through recent efforts by the Commonwealth's Attorney's office and our local judges, has been able to bring about a similar drop in numbers. And based on a recent report, the Piedmont Regional Jail has found a way to release 133 incarcerated people, and as of that same report, had had only one person re-offend.

In another development, Faith in Action is thankful to you and leaders from the County for hiring Mr. Frank Sottaceti as our first criminal justice planner. We believe Mr. Sottaceti's work could further flatten the curve of a growing epidemic of incarcerations over the past several decades. At the same time, we are just beginning to see the potential for a major pandemic of foreclosures and evictions due to the effect of an ailing economy on people's housing in our community.



Consider these real situations and stark figures:

As of the end of the first week of April, nationally over 30% of renters had not paid their monthly rent.

Nationwide 22 million people are applying for unemployment benefits.

Some parents must choose between risking their health and showing up for work to pay bills versus staying at home with their children.

Some economists are predicting it will be years before our economy is fully back to some new "normal."

Meanwhile, it is clear that the health and welfare of our neighbors is directly related to our own security and wellbeing.

So we urge you to consider reallocating funds now designated for more housing of citizens in our jails and reinvesting much of that money in ways that create and maintain safe and adequate housing for other needy members of our community. We stand ready to collaborate with you in every way possible in that task.

Thank you for giving us this opportunity.

Faith in Action

Executive Committee

Rev. Jennifer Davis Sensenig, president

Rev. Adam Blagg, vice president

Cheryl Tharp, treasurer

Arnold Kahn, secretary

Gloria Rhodes, at-large

Madiha Patel, at-large

Rev. Ann Pettit, at-large

**Contact:** Yes

**Contact Info:**

Any of these contacts:

jennifer.davis.sensenig@cmcva.org (540) 560-5126

faithinactionva@gmail.com (574) 370-7197

ndames085@gmail.com (540) 435-6528

hhjenner@gmail.com (540) 908-6815

**FW: Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form**

Pamela S. Ulmer &lt;Pamela.Ulmer@harrisonburgva.gov&gt;

Tue 4/28/2020 3:38 PM

To: Christopher B. Jones <Christopher.Jones@harrisonburgva.gov>; Deanna R. Reed <Deanna.Reed@harrisonburgva.gov>; George J. Hirschmann <George.Hirschmann@harrisonburgva.gov>; Richard Baugh <Richard.Baugh@harrisonburgva.gov>; Richard Baugh <rbaugh@hooverpenrod.com>; Sal T. Romero Jr <Sal.Romero@harrisonburgva.gov>

Cc: Eric D. Campbell <Eric.Campbell@harrisonburgva.gov>; Ande Banks <ande.banks@harrisonburgva.gov>

**From:** HarrisonburgVA.gov <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 3:36 PM**To:** Pamela S. Ulmer <Pamela.Ulmer@harrisonburgva.gov>**Subject:** Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form**WARNING: This email was sent from outside of your organization.****Submitted on:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 - 3:35pm**Name:** Hadley H. Jenner**Type of Meeting:** Harrisonburg City Council**Date of Meeting:** Tue, 04/28/2020**Agenda Item Number:** Public Hearing on 2020 - 2021 Budget**Comment:**

Public Hearing Presentation to the City; 2020-2021 Budget

Delivered by Rev. Jennifer Davis Sensenig

28 April 2020

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To that point, Faith in Action, along with all of the citizens of our community, are concerned about how funds you will have in your budget are allocated. We note that in your current proposed budget, for example, an increase of \$366,500 is allocated for the Middle River Regional Jail. Yes, we need secure housing for people who would otherwise be a danger to our community. Yet, the actual number of people in need of such housing has recently been reduced due to COVID-19 and other concerns. So Middle River has been able to reduce its numbers to less than 800, down from over 900. Our local Jail, through recent efforts by the Commonwealth's Attorney's office and our local judges, has been able to bring about a similar drop in numbers. And based on a recent report, the

[hhjenner@gmail.com](mailto:hhjenner@gmail.com) (540) 908-6815

**Board of Directors**

April 28, 2020

Jennifer Whitmore  
*President*

Dear Mayor Reed:

Louise Hostetter  
*Vice President*

While disappointed that no funding is proposed in the upcoming budget for Court Square Theater, the Board of Directors, staff, and I appreciate the City's many years of generosity and its continued funding for Arts Council of the Valley in the 2020-21 proposed Budget.

Terry Weaver  
*Treasurer*

Stephan Hess  
*Secretary*

Understanding that Court Square Theater may need to be closed for months, we have arranged for the maintenance of the building until we are ready to resume theater operations.

Paul Riner  
*Member-at-Large*

Kay Arthur  
Tom Arthur  
Angie Barker  
Joanne Gabbin  
J.P. Gulla  
Beth Harter  
Ruby Hostetter  
John Rose  
Mary Rouse  
Wesley Russ  
Katherine Schwartz  
Joshua Streeter

While the theater is dark, we will be working diligently to restructure the theater's operational model for greater cost effectiveness, while also pivoting to an enhanced focus on community performances and events. Our plan is to wisely use this unanticipated pause to develop a forward-thinking strategy for a re-energized theater that not only draws foot traffic to help downtown businesses, but also provides greater access to a rich mixture of community theater, live music and dance performances, and more.

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**Honorary Board**

Stephanne Byrd  
J. Douglas Light  
Joan Strickler  
Judith Strickler  
Michael Wong  
Peter Yates

When COVID19 recedes, it will be more important than ever for the community to have appropriate spaces to gather and appreciate the diverse cultural heritages represented in Harrisonburg. We know the City understands the importance of the arts to unite, communicate, heal, educate, and improve the overall vitality of a community. We know Court Square Theater will weather this difficult time and reopen with a solid plan to continue contributing to the cultural vibrancy of our city. This year, Harrisonburg is facing unprecedented challenges. We hope this year is an anomaly, and that next year the City will once again be in a position to prioritize funding for its community theater.

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**Staff**

Jenny Burden  
*Executive Director*

With kind regards,

Mark Finks  
*Court Square Theater  
Manager*



J.R. Snow  
*Any Given Child  
Shenandoah Valley  
Manager*

Jenny Burden, Executive Director

cc: City Manager Eric Campbell

## Pamela S. Ulmer

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**From:** HarrisonburgVA.gov <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 7:28 PM  
**To:** Pamela S. Ulmer  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form

**WARNING: This email was sent from outside of your organization.**

**Submitted on:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 - 7:28pm

**Name:** Tom Domonoske

**Type of Meeting:** Harrisonburg City Council

**Date of Meeting:** Tue, 04/28/2020

**Agenda Item Number:** The budget- item 69(a)

**Comment:**

Thank you for all the City has done to keep us safe in these CV-19 times. I appreciate the dedication and effort shown throughout all levels of the City. I also appreciate and respect that despite the difficulties, the ordinary processes, like setting a budget for next physical year, must continue. In the past the budget development process has been a very hands-in, in person process, and although this year is different, the ordinary decisions still need to be made by Council. For the budget, that means how we use our resources and spend our money. In making the budget decisions, you have to balance many competing interests and necessarily not everyone will be pleased. In balancing those competing interests, you have difficult choices. In making those decisions, I ask you to consider how to help the most people while helping the people who are most in need. Our resources should be used to provide benefits to the greatest number of our residents. In the past week, I have walked the Heritage Oak paths several times in the evening near sunset. The 200 plus acres are beautiful. In addition to the gorgeous sunsets, I have seen deer, rabbits, birds, kids enthralled with the water, bicyclists, and even a skunk. I would like our budget for the next fiscal year to include whatever cost is necessary to allow those 200 acres to be used by every city resident. I would like all our residents to walk and ride in that beautiful environment. Furthermore, I think those 200 acres could be used to reduce the charges assessed to all property owners for Harrisonburg's storm water management fees. If we reduced the chemical inputs on those acres and implemented acres and acres of storm water mitigation, that cost would surely go down. Such efforts would also allow for the 200 acres to be an environmental laboratory allowing for hands on field study by Harrisonburg students, and many other benefits. As you go through the normal annual process of deciding how our resources should be used, I urge you to make Heritage Oaks open for all.

**Contact:** No

**Contact Info:**

## **Pamela S. Ulmer**

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**From:** HarrisonburgVA.gov <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 7:19 PM  
**To:** Pamela S. Ulmer  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form

**WARNING: This email was sent from outside of your organization.**

**Submitted on:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 - 7:18pm

**Name:** Beth Bland  
**Type of Meeting:** Harrisonburg City Council  
**Date of Meeting:** Tue, 04/28/2020  
**Agenda Item Number:** 6.a.

**Comment:**

I'm Beth Bland, Director of Senior Services, Harrisonburg - Rockingham County, Valley Program for Aging Services (VPAS). VPAS empowers adults 60 years and older with the resources and opportunities they need to lead engaged lives.

For FY 20-21 VPAS requested level funding of \$26,190. Financial support from the City is critical to allow VPAS to continue to meet the growing needs of older residents.

This past year VPAS served just under 500 older city residents through programs such as transportation to medical appointments, caregiver support, dementia education, information and assistance, in-home assistance, and Medicare counseling. Through our Meals on Wheels program 130 older adults received 16,475 meals representing an increase of 12% and 8% respectively.

During the COVID-19 pandemic VPAS took immediate action to ensure our older neighbors are cared for and basic needs are met. Case managers continue to provide assistance and Medicare counseling by phone. Meal recipients receive five meals during one delivery. A telephone wellness check has been implemented. Senior Center members are now receiving meals delivered to the home. A hygiene bag is being delivered every other week with toiletry items, activity kits are being sent out with a variety of activities to improve physical, cognitive, and emotional wellness. VPAS is able to provide emergency groceries, adult undergarments, and nutrition drinks as needed. Additional health screenings and wellness checks have been implemented to reduce risk and exposure for staff and clients. Through partnerships VPAS is providing food boxes for our most food insecure clients. VPAS continues to adjust and respond to the needs of older adults during this time.

I strongly encourage you to not only consider but approve VPAS' funding request for the FY20-21 budget.

Thank you,  
Beth Bland

**Contact:** Yes

**Contact Info:**

Please confirm these comments were shared with City Council.  
I can be contacted at [beth@vpas.info](mailto:beth@vpas.info).

## **Pamela S. Ulmer**

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**From:** HarrisonburgVA.gov <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 4:56 PM  
**To:** Pamela S. Ulmer  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form

**WARNING: This email was sent from outside of your organization.**

**Submitted on:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 - 4:55pm

**Name:** Patty Sensabaugh  
**Type of Meeting:** Harrisonburg City Council  
**Date of Meeting:** Tue, 04/28/2020  
**Agenda Item Number:** 6 a.

**Comment:**

In regard to the proposed Harrisonburg City Budget, General Fund Contributions-Community and Civic Organizations 910411:

Please consider restoring \$7795 in funding to Second Home Learning Center. The proposed reduction means that Harrisonburg would contribute \$5300 of the requested \$13,095.

Second Home was established in 2007 at the request of a Harrisonburg City Schools Principal to ensure that elementary school aged children would have a safe place to go before and after school. She reported that young students had been staying home alone during non-school hours. Parents were not able to find affordable care that opened early enough, or were open late enough for their employment, primarily in poultry processing plants. Second Home gathered community support and opened a state licensed program in a facility offered by Muhlenberg Lutheran Church.

After resolving the "home alone" issue as well as the affordability issue (Second Home charges \$12 per week, with a lower rate for siblings-and no charge if families cannot afford to pay), Second Home staff found that children were not passing the Virginia Standards of Learning. Thus began a required academic program with emphasis on reading, math and homework completion led by qualified teachers. State scores improved which helped the children, their families, the school, and the community.

To this day, Second Home Learning Center is still the ONLY child care center in the City of Harrisonburg that is both affordable as well as open early AND late enough to serve low income residents of Harrisonburg. It is now available to all City elementary schools. The majority of families who participate live below the federal poverty line. In addition, Second Home tends to the whole families, hearing and understanding their particular needs and barriers to achieving their goals for self reliance, referring to resources which can help, encouraging them to support a strong education for their children's success.

Second Home is a "bare bones," no frills, very frugal establishment. It would be extremely difficult to overcome a reduction in funding from Harrisonburg. I urge you to do all that you can to support continued full funding so that vulnerable families can continue Second Home's services to prevent child care from becoming a barrier to their employment.

**Contact:** Yes

**Contact Info:** Patty Sensabaugh  
540-578-1093 any time 24/7  
sensabaugh@gmail.com



**Pamela S. Ulmer**

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**From:** HarrisonburgVA.gov <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2020 9:58 PM  
**To:** Pamela S. Ulmer  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form

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**Submitted on:** Monday, April 27, 2020 - 9:57pm

**Name:** Joshua Montanez

**Type of Meeting:** Harrisonburg City Council

**Date of Meeting:** Tue, 04/28/2020

**Agenda Item Number:** #6a

**Comment:**

Way to Go should be included in the upcoming budget for FY 2020-2021. Way to go provides an essential service to residents of Harrisonburg. Way to Go provides access to necessary, sustainable, transportation support that encourages independence for residents of the city. It reaches a multitude of residents across cultural and ethnic boundaries and creates access to a secure future. Way to go strives to partner with multiple service agencies to achieve its goal.

**Contact:** No

**Contact Info:**

**Pamela S. Ulmer**

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**From:** HarrisonburgVA.gov <noreply@harrisonburgva.gov>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 25, 2020 4:12 PM  
**To:** Pamela S. Ulmer  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Agenda Comment Form

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**Submitted on:** Saturday, April 25, 2020 - 4:12pm

**Name:** Larisa Dove

**Type of Meeting:** Harrisonburg City Council

**Date of Meeting:** Tue, 04/28/2020

**Agenda Item Number:** Keep the park open,

**Comment:**

Keep Heritage oak golf as a public park . Important for health. We need to Walk!!

**Contact:** No

**Contact Info:**