

MEMORANDUM

February 9, 2004

TO: Douglas M. Duncan, County Executive

FROM: Councilmember Nancy Floreen

SUBJECT: FY05 Funds for Mailing Property Tax Bills

I am writing to urge you to ensure that your recommended FY05 operating budget will include funds for mailing property tax bills to County taxpayers.

Last year's tight budget situation led you to exclude such funds from your recommended budget. The Council restored the \$69,210 in question. My view was, and still is, that the County has a clear obligation to be completely up front on fiscal issues that so directly affect our residents. That means continuing to transmit property tax bills and related background information by mail. Information that is available online, via telephone, or from the mortgage company is fine, but it is no substitute for transmitting the property tax bills directly.

I know that the FY05 budget will also be tight and that both you and the Council will have to make tough choices. I strongly believe that the County's proud tradition of open government and full disclosure requires us to continue the mailing of property tax bills.

cc: Beverley Swaim-Staley
Tim Firestine