

PAT HERRITY

Springfield Supervisor

www.patherrity.org

TEXT "PAT" TO 474747 FOR CAMPAIGN UPDATES

Dear Kofi Annan,

Thank you for inviting me to attend the Fairfax County NAACP forum. I apologize I will not be able to attend the forum, due to prior commitments. Although I will not be able to attend, I wanted to thank you for your efforts in our county to promote equal opportunity for all of our residents. It is a privilege for me to work alongside groups like the NAACP in making Fairfax County a better place for all residents, but especially those most in need.

As our population continues to age, it is important that our older residents have the opportunity to remain a part of the community they helped build. There are a number of ways I've urged Fairfax County to facilitate this, including innovative solutions like home sharing and partnering with the private sector to develop affordable senior housing. I am a strong advocate for affordable, low-income senior housing to make sure that those who can no longer work can have a decent place to live.

While it is important to consider our older population, it is also important to consider our younger population. I share the NAACP's commitment to providing quality education for all students, regardless of socio-economic background. As the Board reviews the County budget this spring, my commitment is to focus resources directly on teachers, students and in the classroom while relieving administrative burdens on our teachers. Specifically, I have asked for a comparison of administrator and teacher pay increases to make sure our teachers are among the highest paid in the region.

In addition, it's important to me that student education continues outside the classroom. For that reason, I've hosted the Fairfax County Teen Job Fairs and Resume Building Workshops at multiple high schools each spring where over 2,000 students and over 100 vendors have participated. Many students leave these fairs with first jobs, internships, and volunteer opportunities that will open doors for them after graduating. We need to continue to provide opportunities for our students by engaging private partnerships and I'm thankful for the NAACP's participation in that.

I've worked with law enforcement, the CSB, mental health professionals and health officials in the fight to end the opioid crisis in our county, which has affected people of every ethnicity in our county. I made sure that all members of the community have access to drug take-back boxes to drop off unused medication with no questions asked. These take-back boxes are now available throughout the county and have collected over 735 pounds of drugs. The NAACP has shared in this effort to support healthy living for all people, specifically communities of color.

I have also actively supported the efforts of our Diversion First program and Alternative Accountability Program. Diverting those with mental health issues into treatment instead of jails not only saves the

county money, but it is the right thing to do. The Alternative Accountability Program aim is to address disproportionate minority youth representation in criminal justice and disciplinary proceedings as it rehabilitates youth without a criminal sentencing that could damage their future. This program has reduced the juvenile recidivism rates of its participants by nearly 20 percent, compared the juveniles who did not go through the program. This program continues to grow as there were only 5-7 participants in 2017 and 20-30 participants per month in 2018.

Thank you for again for your dedication to improving the lives of so many throughout Fairfax County. I look forward to continuing to work alongside you in making Fairfax County the best place for all people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pat Herrity". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and a stylized "H".

Supervisor Pat Herrity