

council member stated, "Citizens should tell council members what services they value and where cuts in service might be made."

Fair enough, but how do citizens make the recommendations without also knowing the cost of services? In times of budgetary stress, the focus must be on providing essential services, not on the nice-to-have extras.

Another citizen asked, "How many employees does the city have?"

The response was, "We don't know the exact number, but we are trying to find out."

What — you don't know? This is not acceptable. What we do know, however, is that the city has both a budget problem and a serious management problem.

We cannot place all the blame for this situation on the new mayor and city manager. However, they must be held accountable now. The mayor should direct the city manager to freeze hiring and direct all department heads to cut the fat and address inefficiencies.

PETER BITTNER

Annapolis

School overcrowding

I recently joined several other parents who spoke before the Annapolis City Council in support of a measure introduced by Aldermen Marc Rodriguez, Rob Savidge and Ross Arnett to strengthen the city's law on school overcrowding.

As a parent of two children in Anne Arundel County Public Schools and as a member of the Annapolis Education Commission, I have seen firsthand the detrimental impact of overcrowding on our students, teachers and schools, including excessively large classes — of up to 38 students! — and increased reliance on portable classrooms at Hillsmere and Tyler Heights elementary schools and Annapolis High School.

I support ordinance O-8-18 and believe two amendments deserve consideration.

First, the capacity threshold should be set at 100 percent rather than 95 percent. My understanding is that the county law has been at 100 percent for years and the recent change to 95 percent was only temporary. In three years, or when the County General Development Plan passes, it will return to 100 percent.

Second, the law should apply to developments of four or more units, rather than 11 or more.

The city should simply bring its law in line with the county's, and these two changes will achieve that goal. I hope more residents will contact the mayor and City Council about this win-win ordinance that can help prevent overdevelopment and ensure that our children get the better-quality education that they deserve.

ALICE CAIN

Annapolis

Editor's note: The writer is a Democratic candidate for [House of Delegates](#) in District 30A.

[Donald Trump](#)

If you are comfortable with a president who:

- Is a serial liar.
- Constantly contradicts himself.
- Is a world-class narcissist.
- Can't complete a paragraph unless he is reading what someone else wrote for him.
- Is a fascist and authoritarian who would just as soon do away with the free press and have his thumb on the judiciary.
- Rails about fake news but is the biggest purveyor of it.
- Makes phony conspiracy charges against parties criticizing or investigating him so he can delude morons into thinking he was really persecuted when and if the assertions are proven.
- Thinks wrapping himself in the flag makes him a patriot.
- Is rude, crude and insulting.
- Has the mental maturity of a 4-year-old.

Then Donald Trump is your man, or whatever.

RON GRAUCH

Arnold

Copyright © 2018, Capital Gazette, a Baltimore Sun Media Group publication | [Privacy Policy](#)

This article is related to: [Donald Trump](#), [Maryland General Assembly](#)