Updated April 7, 2019

Draft FY20 Override Commitments

1. **Exercise fiscal discipline, and provide quality municipal services**.
    a. Commit to no Proposition 2½ overrides for at least four years.
    b. Continue to increase general education operating budgets by 3.5% annually.
    c. Continue to increase general government operating budgets by 3.25% annually.
    d. Continue to fund special education cost growth at a rate of 7% per year.

2. **Respond to ongoing school enrollment growth pressures.**
   Increase the education budget for future enrollment increases at a rate of 50% of per pupil expenditures.

3. **Build Arlington's future.**
    a. Phase in funding of the School Committee's Multi-Year Plan to: address the impact of explosive enrollment growth of 27% since 2011; improve instruction; close the achievement gap for high needs students; ensure safe and supportive schools; and attract, retain, and develop talented staff. Adopt the following schedule of increases to base operating budgets: FY20 - $600,000; FY21 - $600,000; FY22 - $800,000; FY23 - $800,000.
    b. Improve mobility for all residents, and support the goals of the Town's Complete Streets and Age-Friendly Community initiatives by adding $250,000 to the base budget for pedestrian infrastructure -- including sidewalk brick removal and repair -- and senior transportation, such investments to be guided by the Town's sustainable mobility planning efforts.

4. **Minimize impact on taxpayers, particularly seniors and others with income challenges.**
    a. Advance new tax relief programs, including a municipal circuit breaker and increased eligibility for property tax deferral options, and publicize existing relief programs.
    b. Remove certain water and sewer debt costs from property tax bills.
    c. Pursue new revenue sources.
    d. Work with financial leadership to develop bonding schedules that will minimize single-year tax increases and debt service costs related to the Arlington High School rebuild.

5. **Protect against future fiscal shocks, and maintain the Town's strong bond rating.**
   Maintain financial reserves at 5% or better for the duration of the four-year plan.