

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 10, 2003

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *ps*

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO #15 : ALEXANDRIA POPULATION DENSITY  
(COUNCILWOMAN WOODSON'S REQUEST)

At the last budget work session Councilwoman Woodson requested that the actual population density figures of Alexandria and of densely populated cities on the U.S. Census Bureau lists be provided to City Council. Attached are two charts.

The first chart (Attachment I) is the most often cited, which indicates that Alexandria is the 10<sup>th</sup> most densely populated "county or county equivalent" jurisdiction in the United States. The term "county equivalent" is important because this definition excludes from this list most cities in the United States and is derived from a list of only 3,141 localities.

Alexandria and other Virginia localities are considered candidates for this list because the Virginia form of local government is relatively unique in that it creates independent cities and counties, with no city being within and subject to the jurisdiction of a county. This makes Virginia cities under the U.S. Census definition considered "county equivalents." This also explains why four Virginia localities (Alexandria, Falls Church, Arlington and Norfolk) are on the list of the top twenty most dense "counties and county equivalents."

This narrow definition then causes this statistic of the "10<sup>th</sup> most dense" to be potentially misleading. Being compared with counties for density creates a distortion, as most counties, while containing towns or cities, have large less dense suburban or rural land areas. It should be noted that the density of the first city on this list is New York County (Manhattan) at 66,940 persons per square mile. Alexandria's density is a fraction of that at 8,452 persons per square mile.

The second chart (Attachment II) sets aside the intergovernmental structure issue of "county equivalents" by simply comparing "counties and places of 50,000 people or more." On this list (where all 718 cities, counties, towns and county equivalents with a population of 50,000 or more are compared in terms of density), Alexandria is ranked 67<sup>th</sup>.

Attachments:

- I. Population Per Square Mile for Counties and County Equivalents - 2000
- II. Population Density - 2000 for Counties and Places of 50,000 People or More

## POPULATION PER SQ. MI. FOR COUNTIES AND COUNTY EQUIVALENTS - 2000

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Population Density People per Sq. Mile</u>
1.	New York Co., NY (Manhattan)	66,940
2.	Kings Co., NY (Brooklyn)	34,916
3.	Bronx Co., NY	31,709
4.	Queens Co., NY	20,409
5.	San Francisco Co., CA	16,634
6.	Hudson Co., N.J.	13,043
7.	Suffolk Co. MA (Boston)	11,788
8.	Philadelphia Co., PA	11,233
9.	Washington, DC	9,316
10.	Alexandria, VA	8,452
11.	Baltimore, MD	8,058
12.	Richmond Co., NY (Staten Is.)	7,572
13.	Arlington Co., VA	7,315
14.	Essex Co., NJ	6,283
15.	Cook Co., IL (Chicago)	5,686
16.	St. Louis City, MO	5,625
17.	Falls Church City, VA	5,189
18.	Union Co, NJ	5,058
19.	Nassau Co, NY	4,653
20.	Norfolk City, VA	4,357

Source: 1990 & 2000 U.S. Census.

There are 3,141 Counties or County Equivalents.

POPULATION DENSITY - 2000  
COUNTIES AND PLACES OF 50,000 PEOPLE OR MORE

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County or Place</u>	<u>Density People per Sq. Mile</u>
1.	Manhattan, NY (New York Co.)	66,940
2.	Union City, NJ	52,977
3.	Brooklyn, NY (Kings Co.)	34,916
4.	Bronx, NY (Bronx Co.)	31,709
5.	Passaic, NJ	21,804
6.	Irvington, NJ	20,528
7.	Queens, NY (Queens Co.)	20,409
8.	Huntington Park, CA	20,252
9.	Somerville, MA	18,868
10.	East Orange, NJ	17,776
11.	Patterson, NJ	17,675
12.	Florence-Graham CDP, CA	16,799
13.	East Los Angeles, CA	16,697
14.	San Francisco, Co.	16,634
15.	Jersey City, NJ	16,093
16.	Cambridge, MA	15,766
17.	Mt. Vernon, NY	15,689
18.	Hempstead Village, NY	15,366
19.	Cicero, IL	14,645
20.	Lynwood, CA	14,389
21.	Hawthorne, CA	13,879
22.	Brewyn City, IL	13,876
23.	Daly City, CA	13,703
24.	Fountainbleau, FL	13,524
25.	South Gate, CA	13,084
26.	Chicago, IL	12,750
27.	Miami Beach, FL	12,502
28.	Santa Anna City, CA	12,451
29.	Inglewood, CA	12,323
30.	Boston, MA	12,165
31.	El Monte, CA	12,139
32.	Bellflower, CA	11,999
33.	Hialeah, FL	11,767
34.	Paramount City, CA	11,678
35.	Newark, NJ	11,495
36.	Baldwin Park, CA	11,379

37.	Alhambra, CA	11,257
38.	Philadelphia, PA	11,233
39.	North Bergen, NJ	11,179
40.	Oak Park Village, IL	11,173
41.	Trenton, NJ	11,153
42.	Malden, MA	11,102
43.	Bayonne, N.J.	10,992
44.	Yonkers, NY	10,847
45.	Norwalk City, CA	10,667
46.	Rosemead City, CA	10,398
47.	Upper Darby, PA	10,397
48.	Lawrence, MA	10,351
49.	South Whittier, CA	10,257
50.	Lakewood, OH	10,208
51.	Santa Monica, CA	10,178
52.	Miami, FL	10,160
53.	Redondo Beach, CA	10,065
54.	Gardena City, CA	9,921
55.	Elizabeth, NJ	9,865
56.	Berkeley, CA	9,823
57.	Evanston, IL	9,584
58.	Providence, RI	9,401
59.	Washington, DC	9,316
60.	Compton, CA	9,225
61.	Garden Grove, CA	9,165
62.	Long Beach, CA	9,149
63.	Camden, NJ	9,057
64.	Westminster, CA	8,724
65.	Bridgeport, CO	8,720
66.	Downey City, CA	8,641
67.	<b>Alexandria, VA</b>	8,452
68.	Lakewood, CA	8,414
69.	Brookline, MA	8,409
70.	Pawtucket, RI	8,351
71.	Reading, PA	8,270
72.	Lynn, MA	8,233
73.	Silver Spring, MD	8,123
74.	Baltimore, MD	8,058

SOURCE: 2000 U.S. Census.

There were 718 counties and places of 50,000 or more people in the ranking.