

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 17, 2003

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FOR FUNDS TO HELP PAY FOR SECURITY UPGRADES AND DEPUTY SHERIFF OVERTIME AT THE ALEXANDRIA PUBLIC SAFETY CENTER

ISSUE: Consideration of a grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice for funds to help pay for security upgrades and deputy sheriff overtime at the Alexandria Public Safety Center.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) Approve the grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice for a total of \$1,529,990. (there is no requirement for City matching funds); and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents that may be required to receive the grant and release the grant funds to the City for expenditure.

DISCUSSION: Since the terrorist attacks on September 11, a number of alleged terrorists, or individuals who allegedly had ties to terrorists, have been detained at the Alexandria Public Safety Center. Among these were John Walker Lindh (who is no longer being held there) and Zacarias Moussaoui, whose trial is scheduled for later this year at the Alexandria Federal Courthouse.

Following the incarceration of these individuals, the Sheriff and other City staff carefully reviewed Public Safety Center security measures. They found that existing security measures were sufficient for the types of prisoners the Public Safety Center had been housing (local prisoners who were awaiting trial or had been convicted of offenses resulting in Public Safety Center terms of less than a year, and federal prisoners who also represented only moderate security risks), but insufficient for the significantly heightened dangers that Public Safety Center employees and visitors face as a result of the incarceration of terrorists.

For over a year now, the City has been planning for, designing, and constructing new security measures in the area immediately adjacent to the Public Safety Center. These improvements include fencing and gates that prevent anyone from entering the Public Safety Center property without prior approval by one of the deputy sheriffs stationed at the gates to check visitors; crash

walls and other physical barriers designed to stop trucks and other vehicles that could be carrying bombs or other weapons of mass destruction; a new, stand-alone building that will serve as a secure visitors' screening center; more intense outdoor lighting; new audiovisual and other monitoring equipment; and parking lots that have been relocated to accommodate the fencing and other improvements.

Most of the new security measures are nearing completion. The visitors' screening center is scheduled to be finished later this year. The total cost for these improvements is now estimated at \$4.7 million.

Over the last year the City has worked with Senator John Warner and Congressman Jim Moran to seek federal financial support for the City's extra security expenditures. Their assistance has been instrumental in the City's added receipt of federal funding from the U.S. Marshals Service. They have also helped the City to obtain \$1,529,990 from the U.S. Department of Justice for this grant.

The City has a contract with the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) to house a number of federal prisoners. The USMS has reimbursed the City for \$2 million of the security construction costs. Even with this reimbursement, the City has a current funding gap of \$2.7 million for the upgrades necessitated by the incarceration of alleged terrorists. To help defray part of this funding gap, the City will use \$775,397 from the U.S. Department of Justice grant to pay for a portion of these capital costs. We have asked Senator Warner and Congressman Moran to make further efforts to help us to cover the remaining \$1.9 million funding gap from additional federal capital grants.

In addition to the physical improvements made around the perimeter of the Public Safety Center, the sheriff has assigned deputies (24 hours per day, 7 days per week) to guard the perimeter and check the identity of visitors to the Public Safety Center. While new deputies are being hired and trained for this purpose, existing deputies are currently performing this function on an overtime basis, at a cost to the City of over \$70,000 monthly. The City plans to use \$754,593 in funds from this grant to pay for a portion of these costs.

FISCAL IMPACT: The federal government has appropriated \$1,529,990 to help defray the City's costs for security upgrades to the Public Safety Center and deputy sheriff overtime. No local match is required.

ATTACHMENTS: None. The grant application may be reviewed in Room 3600 (Office of Management and Budget), City Hall, during normal working hours.

STAFF:

Bernard Caton, Legislative Director

James Dunning, Sheriff

Alfred Coleman, Budget/Management Analyst, OMB