

## City of Alexandria, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 19, 2004

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *PS*

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST TO ADD TWO POSITIONS  
TO THE ALEXANDRIA GEORGE WASHINGTON BIRTHDAY  
CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

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**ISSUE:** Request to add two positions to the Alexandria George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That City Council:

- (1) Approve the addition of two positions to the Alexandria George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee to add a for a representative of The First Virginia Regiment of the Continental Line and one student member; and
- (2) Request that the City Attorney prepare an ordinance which expands the membership of the Alexandria George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee from 17 members to 19 members as noted above.

**DISCUSSION:** At a regularly scheduled meeting on March 15, 2004, the George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee voted unanimously to add a representative from the First Virginia Regiment of the Continental Line and a student representative from an Alexandria high school to its membership. Members of the First Virginia Regiment of the Continental Line work closely with the Committee throughout the year in planning the February celebration, and in particular, participate in the encampment at Fort Ward Park as part of the month-long celebration. Committee members rely on the regiment for their historical expertise, and the implementation of the encampment.

With regard to adding a student member, the Committee believes that many of the programs could be appealing to youth, and that the leadership of a student would enhance the interest of the youth in these activities.

**ATTACHMENT:** Letter from Joseph S. Shumard, Chair of the George Washington Birthday Committee, dated April 12, 2004

**STAFF:**

Kirk Kincannon, Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

Janet Barnett, Deputy Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities



*George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee*

1108 Jefferson Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

April 12, 2004

Hon. Mayor and City Council  
City of Alexandria  
Alexandria, Virginia

Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of the members of the George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee, this letter is to request the addition of two permanent members to the Committee.

The first is long overdue: the First Virginia Regiment of the Continental Line. Since it was organized in 1975, this group has made significant contributions to the George Washington Birthday Celebration in Alexandria. It produces a major annual event (the Revolutionary War Encampment held at Fort Ward Park), plays an important role in the George Washington Birthday Parade, and often takes part in other Celebration Events (they made a major presentation at the George Washington Symposium this year). Representatives of the First Virginia regularly attend Committee meetings, their members provide ongoing assistance with public relations and promotion, and their collective knowledge of history and interest in George Washington are very valuable as the Committee plans the Celebration each year.

The second member being proposed is a representative of the youth of the City of Alexandria. The George Washington Birthday Celebration involves hundreds of young people every year. As such an essential constituency, to have the perspective of an active member of this community in all aspects of the Celebration would truly be indispensable.

The George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee respectfully requests your approval of the addition of these members. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph S. Shumard".

Joseph S. Shumard, Chair