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5-20-04

May 14, 2004

**DRAFT RESULTS OF
THE MAY 11, 2004
COMMUNITY FORUM
ON THE
STRATEGIC PLAN**

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA**

MAJOR THEMES

Historic

Diverse

Small Town

Sense of Community

Waterfront/Riverfront

Urban

Livable

ALEXANDRIA - SPECIAL PLACE MAJOR THEMES

1. Historic Colonial City:
Sense of History/Colonial City with History
2. Diversity of Incomes, Cultures, Races, Religions
3. Potomac River: Beautiful and Accessible
4. Accessibility to D.C. and within Alexandria
Public Transportation
5. Pedestrian Friendly and Walkable
6. Convenient Urban Life Style: Restaurants, Entertainment, Shopping,
Leisure and Recreational Activities
7. Citizens Care and Are Involved in Building Our Community and
Shaping the Future
8. Small Town Character in an Urban Setting:
Friendly, Development in Scale, Community Festivals and Events
9. City Government: Well Governed, Accessible to Citizens, Well
Managed, Providing Excellent, Responsive Services
10. Unique, Distinctive Neighborhoods

ALEXANDRIA VISION 2015

Alexandria 2015 is a
Vibrant,^(A) Diverse,^(B) Historic,^(C) and Beautiful,^(D)
City with Unique Neighborhoods,^(E) and
Urban Villages^(F) where we enjoy
Convenient Living^(G) and take Pride
in Our Great Community^(H)!

PRINCIPLE A: VIBRANT

MEANS:

1. Alexandria is an exciting place to live, to visit and to do business.
2. The community actively participates in dialogues on issues.
3. People enjoy a variety of things to do.
4. There is a Sense of Energy among our Residents.
5. The Community is inviting to small businesses and entrepreneurs.
6. A variety of community events and festivals bring people together to enjoy life and each other.
7. Alexandria is always looking to the future and for ways to get better.
8. The community takes actions and provides opportunities for a healthy life style and living.

PRINCIPLE B: DIVERSE

MEANS:

1. People can embrace differences. Age, culture, religion, race, lifestyle and abilities are respected and embraced.
2. The history and heritage of different cultures are celebrated.
3. Neighbors take care of neighbors.
4. Housing opportunities are provided for people at a variety of income and age levels and for workers in Alexandria.
5. People are able and also want to continue to make Alexandria their home throughout their lifetimes.
6. Alexandria is a friendly, respectful, open and inclusive community.
7. Alexandria strives to make our community affordable for all.
8. The Alexandria community works together to develop and provide an effective “safety net” for our residents in need.

PRINCIPLE C: HISTORIC

MEANS:

1. Our historical roots from the 18th Century to today are preserved and celebrated.
2. Our historic neighborhoods, homes, and other historic buildings are preserved.
3. Our distinctive architectural character and design are maintained.
4. New developments blend with exciting historic buildings and structures.
5. Residents understand and appreciate Alexandria's colonial roots.
6. The community actively preserves Alexandria's history and heritage.
7. Alexandria's history contributes to the local economy through tourism development.

PRINCIPLE D: ENGAGES THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY

MEANS:

1. A strong partnership exists between city government and the community.
2. The community and city government are informed of council-established priorities and their measures of success and how they contribute to community well being.
3. City government and community stakeholders communicate with and listen to each other.
4. Community members participate meaningfully in solving problems and in decision making.
5. Community stakeholders have trust and confidence in city government and public officials.
6. The mayor and city council lead the city – following the city’s vision and strategic plan and producing results.

PRINCIPLE E: BEAUTIFUL

MEANS:

1. The Potomac River and Waterfront are attractive, accessible and usable.
2. Our environment – our water, our air, our land – is clean.
3. Open greenspaces and trees are located and well maintained throughout our community.
4. Our streetscapes, public spaces and canopied streets are attractive and well maintained.
5. Our entrances and gateways are welcoming and distinctive – you know you are in Alexandria.
6. There is a balance between open space and development.
7. Public art is located in many places throughout the community
8. Our new developments and new city infrastructure are environmentally sensitive.

PRINCIPLE F: LIVABLE NEIGHBORHOODS

MEANS:

1. Neighborhoods have their own distinct character and feeling.
2. Residents and property owners take responsibility for, and have great pride in, their neighborhood.
3. Neighborhoods are safe and secure.
4. Neighborhoods are protected from the impacts of non-residential traffic.
5. New development and redevelopment are integrated into the neighborhood.
6. Residents enjoy convenient access to walkways, trails and public transit.
7. Quality public infrastructure is provided, maintained and regularly replaced.
8. There is access to neighborhoods, public spaces and open spaces.

PRINCIPLE G: URBAN VILLAGES

MEANS:

1. Mixed use developments provide places to live, work, shop and recreate.
2. Urban villages are integrated with nearby neighborhoods, maintaining Alexandria's diverse character and charm.
3. There is a small-town "main street" feeling with community gathering places.
4. Pedestrian-friendly designs allow people to walk throughout the community.
5. Transit-oriented designs maximize the use of public transit.
6. Parks, trails and greenspaces are incorporated in the urban center and coordinated with nearby neighborhoods.
7. Convenient retail shopping and restaurant opportunities are available serving residents of the urban village and attracting others to come there.

PRINCIPLE H: CONVENIENT LIVING

MEANS:

1. There is ease of mobility within Alexandria, and to the D.C. region.
2. Residents have access to top quality education.
3. Convenient retail shopping, restaurants and entertainment are available in Alexandria.
4. A variety of cultural and performing arts activities occur year round within our community and in the region.
5. People feel safe and secure throughout the community.
6. The Community is pedestrian friendly and walkable.
7. Residents can choose to live, work and play without leaving Alexandria.
8. The City's transportation infrastructure enables people to travel easily and efficiently throughout the City.

PRINCIPLE I: GREAT COMMUNITY

MEANS:

1. Strong partnerships exist among community organizations, businesses, institutions and residents.
2. Everyone focuses on what is best for the whole community beyond any individual agenda.
3. Alexandrians take pride in Alexandria.
4. The community has an opportunity to get involved to build the community and to shape the future.
5. Constructive debates occur on public and community issues.
6. The community is one.
7. Citizens care about each other and residents in need.
8. Individuals with special needs are able to realize their potential and to live in our community.
9. Alexandria has a friendly “small town” charm with development in scale.
10. Citizens contribute to the community and to the lives of community members.

ALEXANDRIA CITY GOVERNMENT

OUR MISSION

Alexandria City Government
is financially sustainable, ^(A)
provides excellent services ^(B)
that are valued by its
customers, and engages
the entire community ^(C) as
it plans for the future.

PRINCIPLE A: FINANCIALLY SUSTAINABLE

MEANS:

1. The tax base and revenues are growing and diversifying to ease the real estate tax burden.
2. Annual increases in city government spending are limited to levels that are sustainable in the future.
3. Services are provided efficiently and within the city's means.
4. Public and private developments have provided maximum public benefits for the community.
5. Strong financial reserves are in place.
6. The AAA bond ratings are maintained with careful management of government resources.

PRINCIPLE B: QUALITY SERVICES THAT ARE VALUED BY THE COMMUNITY

MEANS:

1. Services are responsive to the greatest community needs.
2. Services are delivered using innovative approaches tailored to the Alexandria community
3. Services are provided with a friendly, personal touch.
4. Residents have convenient access to city government and services.
5. City facilities and infrastructure are well managed and maintained.
6. Residents have a high level of satisfaction with city services.