

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 2, 2004

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER ^S

SUBJECT: SUBMISSION OF CITIZEN CORPS PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION TO VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (VDEM)

ISSUE: City Council consideration of a grant application, in the amount of \$28,000, for the Virginia Department of Emergency Management's Citizen Corps Program Grant.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) Approve the submission of the grant application to VDEM; and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to submit this application for State assistance.

BACKGROUND: The Citizen Corps Program was established in the post 9-11 environment to involve individuals in developing stronger, safer communities. Through the education and training of citizens, local communities can be better prepared to respond to threats of terrorism, crime, public health issues, and disasters of all kinds. Nationally, there are 53 State/Territory and 1,143 County/Local/Tribal Citizen Corps Councils. The Citizen Corps Council is coordinated nationally through the Department of Homeland Security, which works closely with the Corporation for National and Community Service. The Citizen Corps Council now integrates the following volunteer programs under one umbrella: Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Medical Reserve Corp (MRC), the Neighborhood Watch Program (NWP), and Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS).

The funding from VDEM is a pass-through grant from the Department of Homeland Security. Virginia divides the funds among local jurisdictions supporting their local Citizen Corps Councils.

DISCUSSION: The Alexandria Citizen Corps Council has an active group that meets monthly to discuss ways to encourage Alexandrians to prepare their families, their neighborhoods, and their communities for various emergencies and to offer, where appropriate, assistance to the

emergency response agencies. The Council is dedicated to increasing the community-based citizen preparedness efforts and encouraging residents to participate in all aspects of disaster management and mitigation. The group aims to train more than 60 residents and 60 business employees in CERT. The group wants to offer continuing education classes to over 90 current CERT members and conduct train-the-trainer classes for 13 CERT members. The group is actively working with the Department of Health to develop a Medical Reserve Corp.

The Alexandria Citizen Corps has developed a strategic work plan for the next year, which includes goals to design a Citizen Corps specific website, to develop informational brochures, to attend emergency preparedness and outreach conferences, to hold a community forum, and to conduct a community survey.

FISCAL IMPACT: The total project budget for the Citizen Corps is \$181,663. The grant application is requesting \$28,000 from VDEM.

The Fire Department has submitted this grant to the State in order to meet the deadline of May 17, 2004, with the understanding the subsequent City Council authorization would be required to accept this award.

ATTACHMENTS: None. The full grant application copy may be reviewed in the Office of Management and Budget, Room 3600, City Hall, during normal business hours.

STAFF:

Gary A. Mesaris, Fire Chief

Mark Penn, Emergency Management Coordinator

Laura Pettus, Emergency Management Analyst