

## City of Alexandria, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: FEBRUARY 2, 2005

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO MODIFY THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ALEXANDRIA-CAEN EXCHANGE COMMITTEE

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**ISSUE:** Request from the Alexandria-Caen Exchange Committee to convert eleven of the designated positions for representatives from the business community, public and private schools, the arts, and health care field, and one of the positions for a representative from the Sister Cities Committee to citizen-at-large positions (Attachment).

**RECOMMENDATION:** That City Council:

- (1) Approve the request from the Alexandria-Caen Exchange Committee to convert eleven of the designated positions to citizen-at-large positions, thus reconstituting the Committee's membership to 16 citizen-at-large positions and one representative from the Sister Cities Committee; and
- (2) Request the City Attorney to draft an ordinance which makes this change for introduction at the first legislative meeting in March.

**DISCUSSION:** At its October 4 meeting, the Alexandria-Caen Exchange Committee voted unanimously to recommend that all of its designated positions, except for one position for a representative from the Sister Cities Committee, be converted to citizen-at-large positions. When the Committee was established in 1990, its initial membership reflected the qualifications of the persons who served on the ad hoc task force and the anticipated areas of expertise, based on the proposed exchange activities, that would be needed to implement the programs. Although the exchange areas (medical, commercial, arts/cultural, and educational) have remained constant, the need for members with specialized expertise is no longer justified.

In addition, it has always been difficult to recruit and maintain representation in these designated positions, and there are usually six to eight vacancies at any given time. The Committee needs more citizen members to implement the planned programs and assist with the ancillary tasks associated with these activities. Therefore, I support this recommendation to convert the eleven designated positions into citizen slots so that more members of the community can be involved.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None

**ATTACHMENT:** January 7 E-mail from Mark Delligatti to Rose Boyd

**STAFF:** Rose Williams Boyd, Executive Secretary for Boards and Commissions



"Mark Delligatti"  
<mdellig@earthlink.net>

01/07/2005 07:45 PM

Please respond to  
"Mark Delligatti"  
<mdellig@earthlink.net>

To "Boyd, Rose" <rose.boyd@ci.alexandria.va.us>

cc

bcc

Subject Fw: Alexandria Caen Exchange Committee

Rose, here is the chain of e-mails. As you will see, one attachment is in WordPerfect. That is Sandy's letter to the Mayor. Let me know if you need more.

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Sandra S. Tinkham

**To:** Mark Delligatti

**Sent:** Monday, January 03, 2005 2:59 PM

**Subject:** FW: Alexandria Caen Exchange Committee

Here it is Mark- sent November 19- Sandy

November 19, 2004

The Honorable Mayor William D. Euille

Dear Mayor Euille,

I am writing as Chair of the Alexandria-Caen Exchange Committee to follow up on the meeting you had with the Sister-City Committee Chairs on August 24 where Mark Delligatti represented our committee in my absence. At our last meeting on October 4, after Mark's report to the committee on your meeting, we unanimously agreed to ask you to designate the seventeen (17) members as sixteen (16) citizen-at-large and one (1) representative from the Sister City Committee.

The current designations are extremely difficult to fill and as a result our committee is under representative of the interest in the committee's work.

To wit, for the six years I have served on the committee, there has usually been between six and eight vacancies; while, during this same time, we have a circle of over one hundred (100) friends and supporters who assist with housing, entertaining, etc.

I hope that the designated seats can be reassigned to citizens-at-large as soon as possible.

Thank you,

Sandra Tinkham, Chair  
Alexandria-Caen Exchange Committee