

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 23, 2005

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: RECOGNITION OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE FIRST CLASS OF THE ALEXANDRIA CITIZENS ACADEMY

ISSUE: Recognition of the participants in the pilot (first class) for the Alexandria Citizens Academy.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council receive the report which described the results of the pilot for the Citizens Academy and thank the participants for assisting the City in this important program.

DISCUSSION: The Alexandria Citizens Academy is designed to show citizens how to access City government, familiarize them with the structure, functions and activities of Alexandria's government; encourage citizens to become involved in the City's government; and, enhance their ability to communicate effectively with City officials. The Academy is open to City residents over the age of 18 years and owners or representatives of owners of businesses located in the City.

At the request of the City Manager, City Council members recommended 19 persons to participate in the first class, pilot, of the Citizens Academy. The eight-week course, which is held on Thursday evenings, began on April 28 and continued through June 16. Three of the recommended candidates were unable to participate in the Academy, and one person dropped out after four sessions. The first 15 graduates of the Alexandria Citizens Academy are as follows:

Laurence Altenburg
Ernest Clark
Arthur Johnson
Laura Lantzy
Stephen Malone
Kathleen Peters
Frank Sokolove
Elizabeth Wright

Alicia Auerswald
Amy White-Harris
Anthony Jones
Melinda Lyle
Amber Nightingale
John Potocki
Michael Wenk

The next class for the Citizens Academy will be held in late September. Staff anticipate two to three sessions per year. Applications and informational materials are being finalized by staff and will be available by the end of July on the City's website and in the Office of Citizen Assistance.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

STAFF: Rose Williams Boyd, Director of Citizen Assistance