

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: OCTOBER 18, 2004

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *ps*

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO MODIFY THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ALEXANDRIA SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE

ISSUE: Request from the Alexandria Sister Cities Committee to convert the designated positions for representatives from the Police Department, Fire Department, Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association (ACVA), and the Alexandria School Board to four citizen positions (Attachment).

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council: (1) approve the request from the Alexandria Sister Cities Committee to convert the designated positions for representatives from the Police Department, Fire Department, Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association, and the School Board to four citizen positions; and (2) request the City Attorney to draft an ordinance to which makes this change by the first meeting in November.

DISCUSSION: At its September 27 meeting, the Sister Cities Committee voted unanimously to recommend that all of its designated positions be converted to four citizen positions due to the difficulty in filling the positions. The non-voting position for a representative of the School Board and the voting position for one representative of the ACVA (then the Alexandria Tourist Council) were included in the original Sister Cities Committee's membership in 1966. The non-voting members from the Police and Fire Departments were added in 1981; and, the rationale for these positions is unclear but may have been related to the Committee's previous involvement in the Christmas Walk (tasks now handled by the Special Events Committee). It has always been difficult to recruit and maintain representation in these four designated positions.

The agencies (Police Department, Fire Department, ACVA, and the School Board) are willing to assist the Sister Cities Committee with its exchange programs and the hosting of visiting delegations. However, there is no need for any of these agencies to be involved on an ongoing basis in all of the monthly Committee meetings.

Several new exchange programs (youth and medical) between Dundee and Alexandria have been identified within the last year. To implement the planned programs, the Committee needs more citizen representation to assist with the planning and ancillary tasks associated with these activities. Therefore, I support this recommendation to convert the designated positions into citizen slots so that more members of the community can be involved in the.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

ATTACHMENT: September 29 Letter from Susan Brooks to Rose Boyd

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

3908 Colonel Ellis Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22304
September 29, 2004

Rose Boyd
Office of Citizen Assistance
City Hall
Alexandria, VA 22313

Dear Rose,

At the September 27, 2004 meeting of the Alexandria Sister Cities Committee, the committee voted unanimously to recommend that the dedicated positions for representatives from the police department, fire department, Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association, and school board be converted to citizen slots due to the difficulty in filling the vacancies. We also request that these positions be for full voting members.

We appreciate your help in expediting this request.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan M. Brooks".

Susan M. Brooks, Chair
Alexandria Sister Cities Committee