

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 8, 2006

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A COMMUNITY TASK FORCE TO ADVISE COUNCIL AND THE PLANNING COMMISSION ON THE POTOMAC YARD FIRE STATION AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROPOSAL

**ISSUE:** Consideration of a Resolution Establishing a Community Task Force to Advise Council and the Planning Commission on the Potomac Yard Fire Station and Affordable Housing Proposal.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That City Council adopt the attached resolution which establishes the task force, outlines their charge and asks them to report back to Council and the Planning Commission in early September.

**BACKGROUND:** In order to meet fire code requirements, the Potomac Yard developer has proposed constructing a fire station at Potomac Yard. The proposal also includes providing 60 units of affordable housing in a combined building to be located in Landbay G of Potomac Yard. The developer's contribution provides a unique opportunity to upgrade the City's fire suppression facility, at developer's cost, ahead of schedule with some City contribution under this proposal and to provide affordable housing.

If the new fire station is approved and constructed, we propose to move the fire suppression units at Station 202, located on Windsor Avenue in Del Ray, to Potomac Yard at the end of calendar year 2008. Station 202 would continue as a home for the community's Emergency Medical Services Unit for at least the next five to eight years. This proposal will not impact, delay or effect funding for the proposed Eisenhower West proposed fire station.

This proposal has been evaluated by both the Office of Housing and Fire Department. The conclusion is that this is an excellent opportunity that should be pursued. In the last few weeks City staff has briefed the members of City Council and the Planning Commission. In order to begin discussions with the community, staff also briefed representatives from the Del Ray, Northeast, Inner City, Warwick Village, Lynhaven, Mt. Jefferson and Old Town Greens Civic Associations. On June 6, staff presented this concept at a Planning Commission work session.

To ensure further citizen input, I recommend that City Council create a community task force to obtain input and review this proposal.

**DISCUSSION:** I recommend that the task force consist of eleven members to include representatives from affected residential and commercial areas, and persons with considerable knowledge about affordable housing and fire service. The proposed membership is 7 civic associations representatives (1 each appointed by the Del Ray, Northeast, Mt. Jefferson, Lynhaven, Warwick Village, Inner City and Potomac Greens Citizen Associations); 2 area business representatives; 1 representative with fire service expertise; and 1 representative with expertise in affordable housing.

The task force would be requested to do the following:

- Over the summer, working with the community, they would seek additional community input and discuss the pros and cons of relocating the fire suppression units from Station 202 to Potomac Yard and the inclusion of affordable housing in the building. These findings would be reported back to the Planning Commission and City Council in time for their September hearings on Potomac Yard
- During the fall, the task force would provide added input on the programmatic design of the combined facility to City staff and City Council.

**ATTACHMENT:** Resolution

**STAFF:**

Gary Mesaris, Fire Chief  
Arthur Dahlberg, Director, Code Enforcement  
Michele Evans, Deputy City Manager  
Mark Jinks, Deputy City Manager  
Mildrilyn Davis, Director, Office on Housing  
Helen McIlvaine, Deputy Director, Office on Housing  
Eileen Fogarty, Director, Planning and Zoning

**RESOLUTION No. \_\_**

**WHEREAS**, Pulte-Centex, the developer of the new residential and commercial development at Potomac Yard, has proposed constructing a fire station and 60 units of affordable housing on the new development site; and

**WHEREAS**, this proposal provides a unique opportunity to upgrade the City's fire suppression facilities, at the developer's cost with some City contribution, ahead of the City schedule for facility replacement; and

**WHEREAS**, under the proposal, the fire suppression units at Station 202, located on Windsor Avenue in Del Ray, would move to Potomac Yard at the end of calendar year 2008; and

**WHEREAS**, this proposed project is not expected to impact, delay or affect funding for the proposed fire station in the Eisenhower West area; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Alexandria Office of Housing and Alexandria Fire Department have evaluated this proposal and believe that this is an excellent opportunity that should be considered seriously; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council wishes to establish a Community Task Force with diverse membership in order to afford community members an opportunity to comment on this proposal;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA:**

There is hereby established an Ad Hoc Community Task Force known as the Potomac Yard Fire Station and Affordable Housing Task Force.

The Task Force shall consist of 11 members. The composition of the work group shall include representatives from affected residential and commercial areas and members with training and professional experience in affordable housing and in fire service. There will be seven

representatives appointed by affected civic associations (Delray, Northeast, Mt. Jefferson, Lynhaven, Warwick Village, Inner City and Potomac Greens), two representatives of the area business community, one member with fire service expertise (not affiliated with the Alexandria Fire Department) and one member with affordable housing expertise.

The term of the Task Force shall be one year with the ability to continue for an additional year if needed.

Members of the Task Force shall be appointed by the Mayor, with input from other members of the City Council; provided, that a member who is the representative of an organization shall be nominated by the organization. The members appointed shall serve until the expiration of the term of the task force; provided, that a member who is the representative of an organization shall cease to be a member at such time that such member shall cease to be a member in good standing of the organization for which such member serves as representative and may be replaced by another representative appointed by the Mayor.

The Task Force will:

- (1) Determine the pros and cons of relocating the fire suppression units from Fire Station 202 in Del Ray to the new Potomac Yard development and the concept of including affordable housing in the building.
- (2) Solicit public input from the community about the relocation of the fire suppression unit and establishment of affordable housing units on the same site.
- (3) Report back to the Planning Commission and to the City Council in early September with their findings and recommendations.

The Task Force may adopt rules and regulations on procedure and other matters so long as same are not inconsistent with the City Code including, but not limited to, the establishment of

sub-committees through which it may carry on its functions and purposes.

The mayor shall appoint from among the members a covenor, who shall serve as chairman.

The city manager shall designate City staff as needed to provide administrative and logistical support to the work group.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have here unto set my hand and cause the seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 13<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2006.

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
WILLIAM D. EUILLE, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jackie Henderson, CMC      City Clerk

**RESOLUTION NO. 2188**

**WHEREAS**, Pulte-Centex, the developer of the new residential and commercial development at Potomac Yard, has proposed constructing a fire station and 60 units of affordable housing on the new development site; and

**WHEREAS**, this proposal provides a unique opportunity to upgrade the City's fire suppression facilities, at the developer's cost with some City contribution, ahead of the City schedule for facility replacement; and

**WHEREAS**, under the proposal, the fire suppression units at Station 202, located on Windsor Avenue in Del Ray, would move to Potomac Yard at the end of calendar year 2008; and

**WHEREAS**, this proposed project is not expected to impact, delay or affect funding for the proposed fire station in the Eisenhower West area; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Alexandria Office of Housing and Alexandria Fire Department have evaluated this proposal and believe that this is an excellent opportunity that should be considered seriously; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council wishes to establish a Community Task Force with diverse membership in order to afford community members an opportunity to comment on this proposal;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA:**

There is hereby established an Ad Hoc Community Task Force known as the Potomac Yard Fire Station and Affordable Housing Task Force.

The Task Force shall consist of 11 members. The composition of the work group shall include representatives from affected residential and commercial areas and members with training and professional experience in affordable housing and in fire service. There will be seven representatives appointed by affected civic

associations (Delray, Northeast, Mt. Jefferson, Lynhaven, Warwick Village, Inner City and Potomac Greens), two representatives of the area business community, one member with fire service expertise (not affiliated with the Alexandria Fire Department) and one member with affordable housing expertise.

The term of the Task Force shall be one year with the ability to continue for an additional year if needed.

Members of the Task Force shall be appointed by the Mayor, with input from other members of the City Council; provided, that a member who is the representative of an organization shall be nominated by the organization. The members appointed shall serve until the expiration of the term of the task force; provided, that a member who is the representative of an organization shall cease to be a member at such time that such member shall cease to be a member in good standing of the organization for which such member serves as representative and may be replaced by another representative appointed by the Mayor.

The Task Force will:

(1) Determine the pros and cons of relocating the fire suppression units from Fire Station 202 in Del Ray to the new Potomac Yard development and the concept of including affordable housing in the building.

(2) Solicit public input from the community about the relocation of the fire suppression unit and establishment of affordable housing units on the same site.

(3) Report back to the Planning Commission and to the City Council in early September with their findings and recommendations.

The Task Force may adopt rules and regulations on procedure and other matters so long as same are not inconsistent with the City Code including, but not limited to, the establishment of sub-committees through which it may carry on its functions and purposes.

The mayor shall appoint from among the members a covenor, who shall serve as chairman.

The city manager shall designate City staff as needed to provide administrative and logistical support to the work group.

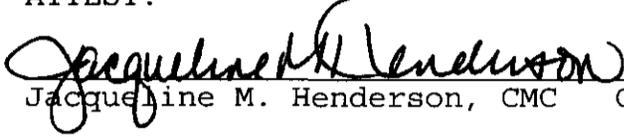
ADOPTED: June 13, 2006



WILLIAM D. EULLE

MAYOR

ATTEST:



Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk