

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: CITY COUNCIL SCHEDULE

ISSUE: City Council Schedule.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council receive the revised calendar which includes:

- a City reception the evening before the unveiling of the new public exhibition "Securing the Blessings of Liberty: Freedoms Taken and Liberties Lost" at the Alexandria Black History Museum on Thursday, June 22 at 7:00 p.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street; and
- a reception sponsored by the Alexandria Hotel Association and Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association (ACVA) to honor Councilwoman Joyce Woodson for her service to the City on Monday, June 19 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Residence Inn Alexandria, 1456 Duke Street.

DISCUSSION: On Friday, June 23, the Alexandria Black History Museum opens a new exhibition to the public - "Securing the Blessings of Liberty: Freedoms Taken and Liberties Lost." The exhibit is free of charge and will be on view in the museum's Robert H. Robinson Gallery. A description of this important exhibit is included in the attached press release. To kickoff the opening of this exhibit Council is invited to a reception on Thursday, June 22 at 7:00 p.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum.

The Alexandria Hotel Association and ACVA will honor Councilwoman Joyce Woodson for her service to the City with a reception on Monday, June 19 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Residence Inn Alexandria, 1456 Duke Street.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment 1. Council Calendar
- Attachment 2. Press Release

STAFF: Michele Evans, Deputy City Manager

City Council Schedule - JUNE 2006 as of 6-8-06

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 6:00 P.M. Affordable Housing/Workforce Housing work session, Council Chambers	8	9	10
11 <i>R</i>	12	13 6:00 P.M. Alexandria Commission on Persons with Disabilities awards reception, Room 2000 7:00 P.M. Council First Legislative Session, Council Chambers	14 6:30 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. Alexandria Red Cross Waterfront Festival kickoff party, Torpedo Factory	15	16	17 9:30 A.M. Council Public Hearing, Council Chambers 10:00 A.M. 25 th Annual Alexandria Red Cross Waterfront Festival, Oronoco Bay Park
18 11:00 A.M. 25 th Annual Alexandria Red Cross Waterfront Festival, Oronoco Bay Park	19 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. Alexandria Hotel Association and ACVA reception in honor of Councilwoman Joyce Woodson, Residence Inn Alexandria, 1456 Duke Street	20 6:30 P.M. 2003-2006 Mayor and City Council Dinner, Landini Brothers Restaurant, 115 King Street	21	22 7:00 P.M. Reception to honor the new public exhibition "Securing the Blessings of Liberty: Freedoms Taken and Liberties Lost", Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street	23	24
25	26	27 7:00 P.M. Council Second Legislative Session, Council Chambers	28	29	30	

Attachment 1

City Council Schedule - JULY 2006 as of 6-8-06

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4 HOLIDAY	5 7:30 P.M. City Council Installation, Episcopal High School, 1200 North Quaker Lane	6	7	8 6:00 P.M. City's Annual USA/Alexandria Birthday Celebration, Oronoco Bay Park
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 3	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

For immediate release: 05/24/2006

Contact: Audrey P. Davis at 703-838-4356

Exhibition Focusing on the African American Experience in Virginia Opens at the Alexandria Black History Museum

Alexandria, VA - On Friday, June 23, 2006, the Alexandria Black History Museum opens a new exhibition to the public --- *Securing the Blessings of Liberty: Freedoms Taken and Liberties Lost* . On view in the museum's Robert H. Robinson Gallery, the exhibit is free of charge and comes on the heels of the museum's "Juneteenth" programming, celebrating the final emancipation of American slaves in 1865.

Securing the Blessings of Liberty is the story of the local black community from an African American perspective. It begins in Africa, where Europeans, looking for an inexpensive source of labor, plundered thriving African societies and enslaved millions of men, women and children. The story continues by following the Middle Passage, a harrowing voyage across the Atlantic Ocean that brought enslaved Africans to America, their lives forever changed.

Other sections of *Securing the Blessings of Liberty* highlight early Virginia landowners, the development of a tobacco-based economy, and the prosperity that African American labor brought to the Chesapeake region. The exhibition also examines the differences between plantation and urban slavery, along with the rise of a small group of free blacks in Alexandria by the 1820s.

Many original artifacts are on view, from the Daughters of the American Revolution Museum, Mount Vernon, Schomberg Center for the Study of Afro-American History, Alexandria Archaeology, Claude Moore Colonial Farm, Smithsonian Institution, and the Arlington County Courthouse. Each piece helps to tell the story and complements the design of the exhibition, produced by VisionWorks Studio and Kund and Associates.

Securing the Blessings of Liberty honors the enslaved men and women whose labor helped to build the Commonwealth of Virginia, but who left little personal evidence behind, and follows the parallel paths that whites and blacks have taken to achieve their American dreams. The exhibition also raises questions that are not so simple to answer, such as "what is liberty?" and "when is one truly free?"

The Alexandria Black History Museum, located at 902 Wythe Street in Alexandria, is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm. Admission is free. The museum complies with the terms of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Persons requiring reasonable accommodation should contact the museum ten days in advance of the event. The Museum is located five blocks from the Braddock Road Metro on the Yellow and Blue lines, and ample street parking is available on Wythe Street.