

*City of Alexandria, Virginia*

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 6, 2005

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: REAFFIRMATION OF DEFERRAL OF CITY ACTION REGARDING THE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FROM THE OLD DOMINION BOAT CLUB

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**ISSUE:** Reaffirmation of deferral of City action regarding the acquisition of property from the Old Dominion Boat Club.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That City Council continue to defer action on acquisition of the Old Dominion Boat Club (ODBC) building property, including the ODBC parking lot, as the discussions and review of alternatives continue between the City and the ODBC.

**DISCUSSION:** In follow up to Council actions in regard to the City's Open Space Plan, in December 2004, representatives from ODBC met with City officials and City staff to initiate discussions about a feasibility study to determine if ODBC could be relocated to a another site along the waterfront. On January 11, 2005, Council agreed to defer consideration of the acquisition of the ODBC property (Boat Club building property and Boat Club parking lot property) during the planned study period and subsequent discussion period. Discussions are proceeding and the feasibility study has been expanded to include concepts and cost estimates not only for the possible relocation, but also for the possible site retention of the ODBC facilities. Certain aspects of the feasibility study have been initiated with major study activities and reports scheduled for the fall.

This current reaffirmation action by Council (which was requested by ODBC representatives) would continue the good faith effort by the City in its discussions with ODBC, and is consistent with the intent of Council when it adopted the Open Space Action Plan. In effect, this recommended reaffirmation action takes the use of eminent domain "off the table" during the study period, as well as during the subsequent discussion period following the study. If there is no acceptable compromise or common ground reached as a result of the study and discussions, then at a future date, specific action would be required by Council to provide direction to staff in regard to the two ODBC properties.

**STAFF:**

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