

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 14, 2005

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: AWARD OF CITIZEN CORPS COUNCIL GRANT FUNDS FROM VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (VDEM)

ISSUE: City Council consideration of acceptance of a combination grant award in the amount of \$20,000 from Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) to support the City's Citizen Corps Council efforts. The award is a combination of FY 2004 Homeland Security Grant funds in the amount of \$15,200 and FY 2005 Citizen Corps Council program funds in the amount of \$4,800.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) Accept the FY 2005 Homeland Security Citizen Corps grant award of \$4,800;
- (2) Accept the supplemental FY 2004 Homeland Security grant funds in the amount of \$15,200; and
- (3) Authorize the City Manager to sign the local award agreements.

BACKGROUND: The Citizen Corps Program was established in the post 9-11 environment to involve individuals in developing stronger, safer communities. Through the education and training of citizens, local communities can be better prepared to respond to threats of terrorism, crime, public health issues, and disasters of all kinds. The Citizen Corps Council is coordinated nationally through the Department of Homeland Security.

The funding from VDEM is a State pass-through grant from the federal Department of Homeland Security. VDEM allocates the funds among the local jurisdictions based on a competitive application process. The City receives the following two sources of funding.

1. **Citizens Corps Program:** The federal funding for the Citizen Corps Program is decreasing, which is reflected in the FY 2005 award amount of \$4,800. The money will be used to conduct a few training sessions, and the City has until January 2007 to expend these funds.

2. Homeland Security Grant: In order to help supplement the decreased funding for the Citizen Corps program, VDEM allocated some additional homeland security funds to each jurisdiction to support the Citizen Corp activities. Alexandria's supplemental award totals \$15,200; however, the VDEM funds need to be expended by November 30, 2005. Since the deadline for spending is less than three months away, the funds will be used to purchase educational materials, CERT equipment, and a CERT ID system.

FISCAL IMPACT: The VDEM award is two separate grants to support the Citizen Corps effort; a grant of \$15,200 and a grant of \$4,800. No local match is required.

STAFF:

Mark Penn, Emergency Management Coordinator
Laura Pettus, Emergency Management Analyst
Gary Mesaris, Fire Chief