

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: OCTOBER 19, 2005

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: AWARD OF URBAN AREA SECURITY INITIATIVE GRANT FUNDS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS)

ISSUE: City Council consideration of acceptance of a grant award in the amount of \$177,751 from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to support the City's Citizen Corps Council efforts.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) Accept the Homeland Security grant funds in the amount of \$177,751; and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to execute all the necessary documents that may be required.

BACKGROUND: The Citizen Corps Program (CCP) is coordinated on a national level by the Department of Homeland Security. The program was established to involve residents and businesses in developing stronger, safer communities. By educating and training local residents, communities can be better prepared to respond to threats of terrorism, crime, public health issues, and disasters of all kinds.

In the past, the grant funds for the Citizen Corps Program have been awarded as State pass-through money from the DHS; however, the recent award for FY 2005 was only \$4,800, which is only enough money to run one training class. Since the State pass-through funds have dwindled, a competitive application was submitted for the Citizen Corps Program efforts in the region.

The National Capital Region (NCR) has grant money called the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) that originates from the Department of Homeland Security. Our region's Senior Policy Group, in conjunction with the Chief Administrative Officers, awarded the competitive application to fund the Citizen Corps Program. The District of Columbia was appointed as the fiduciary agent for the UASI grant in our region, so the grant originates from DHS and will be administered through the District of Columbia.

DISCUSSION: The UASI Citizen Corps Program funds will be used to increase the number of trained, affiliated volunteers in the City, to expand and integrate the regional numbers of volunteers and donations, and to develop a volunteer reception center in Alexandria. The funds will be allocated with input from the City's Citizens Corps Council and in conjunction with the City's Office of Emergency Management. The funds will be allocated to programs such as: Neighborhood Watch, Volunteers in Police Service, Medical Reserve Corps, and Community Emergency Response Teams. Funds will also be used to develop a system for unaffiliated or spontaneous volunteers.

FISCAL IMPACT: The total project budget for Citizen Corps Council for the coming year will be \$182,551, which includes a recent grant award of \$4,800 from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and the \$177,751 from UASI funds. There is no match requirement for the UASI funds.

STAFF:

Mark Penn, Emergency Management Coordinator
Gary Mesaris, Fire Chief