

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: NOVEMBER 16, 2005

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION ENABLING THE CITY BECOME A SIGNATORY TO THE ALICE FERGUSON FOUNDATION POTOMAC RIVER WATERSHED TRASH TREATY

ISSUE: City Council consideration of becoming a signatory to the Alice Ferguson Foundation Potomac River Watershed Trash Treaty.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council approve the attached resolution that commits the City to:

1. Supporting and implementing regional strategies aimed at reducing trash and increasing recycling;
2. Increasing education and awareness of the trash issue throughout the Potomac watershed;
3. Meeting annually to discuss and evaluate measures and actions addressing trash reduction; and
4. Participating in a Potomac-wide trash clean-up on April 8, 2006.

BACKGROUND: Trash severely degrades the visual landscape; is a significant source of pollution; severely degrades the quality of life for our citizens and visitors; is a major expense for our communities and businesses and is largely preventable through greater individual stewardship.

Each municipality holds stream clean-up events, but the Alice Ferguson Foundation, a Maryland environmental education non-profit, is making a concerted effort to bring trash to the forefront of all municipality's concern. In so doing, they are asking municipalities in the Potomac Region to sign onto a "Trash Treaty." Other signatories are the District of Columbia, Montgomery County, Charles County, Prince George's County, Fairfax County, St. Mary's County and soon, Arlington County. By signing, each municipality is committed to supporting and implementing regional strategies aimed at reducing trash and increasing recycling; increasing education and awareness of the trash issue throughout the Potomac watershed and reconvening annually to discuss and evaluate measures and actions addressing trash reduction.

The City of Alexandria is already very active in these endeavors as evidenced by annual trash removal activities, Earth Day Public Awareness events, stewardship outreach campaigns and restoration efforts along Four Mile Run, Holmes Run, and Cameron Run. We are committed to keeping trash out of our waterways and that is why we hope to become signatories to the Potomac River Watershed Trash Treaty - working diligently toward a "Trash Free Potomac by 2013."

DISCUSSION: As mentioned, the City already undertakes many trash removal activities. It is recommended that the City take part in an annual Potomac Cleanup on April 8, 2006. Other than this, this agreement does not commit the City to further actions.

FISCAL IMPACT: None at this time. The Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs already has staff and supplies which support trash removal activities.

ATTACHMENT: Resolution to become a Signator to the Potomac River Watershed Trash Treaty.

STAFF:

Richard Baier, P.E., Director, Transportation and Environmental Services

William Skrabak, Division Chief, Environmental Quality, Transportation and Environmental Services

Claudia Hamblin-Katnik, Ph.D., Watershed Program Administrator, Division of Environmental Quality

Roger Blakeley, Deputy Director, Park Operations and Capital Projects, Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria is historically tied to the Potomac River as a prosperous port city bounded to the north by Four Mile Run and to the south by Cameron Run; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria has continually been a good steward of its streams and aware of the economic and aesthetic importance of its location on the Potomac River; and

WHEREAS, the condition of our streams and their tributaries has a direct bearing on the health of the Potomac River; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria has stewarded its streams through annual trash removal activities, Earth Day Public Awareness events, stewardship outreach campaigns, and restoration efforts along Four Mile Run, Holmes Run, and Cameron Run; and

WHEREAS, the Alice Ferguson Foundation has been a leader for nearly twenty years in organizing an Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup; and

WHEREAS, these events have been a catalyst for the enthusiastic participation of community-based organizations, businesses and governmental agencies in these events; and

WHEREAS, these events have significantly raised the community's awareness of the scope and scale of the impacts of trash found throughout the watershed; and

WHEREAS, the Foundation is facilitating a "Potomac River Watershed Trash Treaty;" and

WHEREAS, the signatories to the Trash Treaty agree that trash:

- Severely degrades the visual landscape;
- Is a significant source of pollution;
- Severely degrades the quality of life for our citizens and visitors;
- Is a major expense for communities and businesses;
- Is largely preventable through greater individual stewardship; and

WHEREAS, the signatories commit to a "Trash Free Potomac by 2013" and pledge to work with regional leaders, businesses, government agencies, non-profits and communities to focus efforts on:

- Supporting and implementing regional strategies aimed at reducing trash and increasing recycling;
- Increasing education and awareness of the trash issue throughout the Potomac watershed;

- Reconvening annually to discuss and evaluate measures and actions addressing trash reduction; and

WHEREAS, the Foundation is enlisting the support of elected officials in the Potomac watershed to support these goals and work toward a "Trash Summit" to be held at Mount Vernon on the banks of the Potomac River early in the year of 2006.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council that the City Manager is authorized, for and on behalf of the City of Alexandria, to become a signatory to the Alice Ferguson Potomac River Watershed Trash Treaty.

The undersigned duly qualified and acting as City Clerk of the PUBLIC BODY certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution, adopted at a legally convened meeting of the City Council held on the 22nd day of November 2005.

ADOPTED: _____
DATE

WILLIAM D. EUILLE MAYOR

ATTEST:

JACQUELINE M. HENDERSON, CMC CITY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 2167

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria is historically tied to the Potomac River as a prosperous port city bounded to the north by Four Mile Run and to the south by Cameron Run; and

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ADOPTED: November 22, 2005



WILLIAM D. EUILLE MAYOR

ATTEST:



Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk