

EXHIBIT NO. 1

16
2-27-07

NAME OF COUNCIL MEMBER

CONTESTED APPOINTMENT

ENDORSED BY

JUVENILE DETENTION COMMISSION FOR NORTHERN VIRGINIA

(4-Year Term)
1 Citizen Member

____ Lillian Brooks
(Residency Waiver Required)

Michael Strutzel

____ Dorathea Peters

TOMC

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(4-Year Term)

1 Citizen Member

* 5 Lillian Brooks *FOULKE, KASPER, COURTIN, GARDNER, SHAWBURN*
(Residency Waiver Required) Michael Strutzel

2 Dorathea Peters *ROBERTS, DETMERS*

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

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Commonwealth's Attorney

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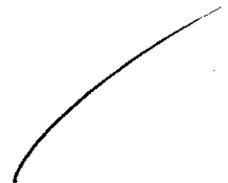


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Commonwealth's Attorney

 Dorathea Peters



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Received 2-27-07

FEB 26 2007
February 26, 2007
Citizen Assistance
Office

TO: The Honorable Mayor and Council Members
City of Alexandria

FROM: Michael Strutzel, Alexandria Member of the Juvenile Detention Commission
Strutzel.Michael@verizon.net 703: 658-1734, -4936 fax *MP Strutzel*

SUBJ: **Your Choice for the Juvenile Detention Commission**

After Lillian Brooks and a busy Gerylee Baron discussed the former replacing the latter on the Juvenile Detention Commission for Northern Virginia, I gladly endorsed Ms. Brooks. With two applicants now, one a manager (and lawyer) and the other a practicing attorney, **I explain why the commission needs Ms. Brooks' managerial experience.**

The commission is a policy body, not an advisory one. Comprising two members each from Arlington and Alexandria and one from Falls Church, all appointed volunteers, the commission operates the area's juvenile detention home, which it owns. It has over **60 employees** and an FY07 budget of **\$5.4M** (30% state, 25% Alexandria, 43% Arlington. 2% Falls Church).

More than a pro forma role. This retired Federal manager (DoD/OSD GM-15 and State Foreign Service) is struck by the commission's lack of oversight. Its first-ever bylaws, prepared by me and adopted last year, have been only partially implemented:

- The commission last year performed no senior personnel evaluations, as the bylaws require.
- A top deputy was fired last fall without commission decision or knowledge, as required.
- The FY08 budget required approval after one meeting since Arlington needed it the next day.

Expected change in direction now in the balance. The current chair of three years, from Falls Church, was to have stepped down this winter but now wants to continue, with fewer, bimonthly meetings for oversight. The decision was deferred until your new appointment takes a seat. After Falls Church and twice before that for Arlington, **it is time for Alexandria to lead.** A third, 17-year member and former chair, from Arlington, also has a hands-off view. A fourth, newer member, from Arlington, has some concern over our management. **Your appointment of the fifth member will shape the commission's oversight performance.**

Residency waiver, conflicts of interest, management skill. While Ms. Brooks needs a residency waiver, her managerial experience will assist the commission in performing its oversight role. If you sense any conflict of interest as a court-service-unit director, consider that the current chair and the second applicant are practicing attorneys sharing an Alexandria office with clients who at times are detainees at the home. Moreover, the newer Arlington member is its deputy commonwealth's attorney. As honorable as is the second applicant's political activity, **the commission needs good managers**, like Ms. Brooks. A web search found that the state bar in 2005 publicly reprimanded the other applicant's work management. Granted, we all err and learn from them.