

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: OCTOBER 6, 2006

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE ALEXANDRIA GANG PREVENTION COMMUNITY TASK FORCE

ISSUE: Consideration of an amendment to Resolution 2128, adopted by Council on December 14, 2004, establishing the Alexandria Gang Prevention Community Task Force.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council repeal Resolution 2128, which authorized the establishment of a 13-member Alexandria Gang Prevention Community Task Force (AGPCTF) and adopt the proposed resolution which increases the membership of the Task Force to 17 representatives and continues the work of the AGPCTF for a period of 3 years.

DISCUSSION: All local governments in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region have continued working together to address the growing incidence of gang activity in the region. The City has experienced a relatively low amount of gang related criminal activity. Gangs do exist in the City, as well as in the entire region, and gangs must be addressed not only by suppression but by efforts to prevent individuals from becoming associated with gangs to intervene with actual gang members and help them end their gang association.

City and School departments that are involved in gang suppression, prevention and intervention efforts formed a joint senior policy work group to communicate and coordinate gang related suppression, prevention and intervention activities. In November, 2005, Mike Mackey began working as the City's Gang Prevention & Intervention Liaison and staffed the efforts of the senior policy work group as well as gang prevention efforts in the Northern Virginia region.

To assist the work of this senior policy work group, Council formed a task force of community representatives that would focus on gang problems and issues. This task force, which held its initial meeting on May 18, 2005, was charged with the following functions and responsibilities:

1. Receive briefings on the status of gang suppression, prevention and intervention programs and activities in the City and, insofar as directly relevant to the City, the status of similar programs and activities in the metropolitan region;
2. Assist in informing and educating the Alexandria community about the gang suppression, prevention and intervention programs and activities that are occurring in the City and in the region;

3. Assist in identifying programs and activities that will address specific gang-related problems or issues in the City, with a particular emphasis on programs and activities that will prevent individuals from joining gangs and/or that will intervene with individuals who are members of a gang to facilitate their withdrawal from such membership;
4. Assist in identifying opportunities to obtain funding for programs and activities that will address such gang-related problems or issues in the City; and
5. Assist in identifying state or local laws that should be enacted or amended to enable the City, and possibly other local governments, to better address problems and issues arising from or related to gangs.

The task force currently has 13 members, with the following representation:

- Two members of the Alexandria City Council
- One member of the Alexandria School Board
- One representative of TC Williams High School
- One representative of City Middle Schools
- One representative of Alexandria Elementary Schools
- One representative of the Private Schools in Alexandria
- One representative of the Alexandria Tenant and Workers Support Committee
- One representative of the Alexandria Branch of the NAACP
- One representative of the Alexandria Youth Council
- One representative of the Alexandria Interfaith Council
- Two representatives from the City at large

During the year, the Community Gang Task Force discovered a need to broaden participation from other sectors of the community and to formalize the membership of certain designees. In order to be more effective in accomplishing its mission, the proposed amendment would increase current membership of the Task Force to 17 representatives as follows:

- Two members of the Alexandria City Council
- One member of the Alexandria School Board
- ***The City Manager or his designee***
- One representative of TC Williams High School
- One representative of City Middle Schools
- One representative of Alexandria Elementary Schools
- One representative of the Private Schools in Alexandria
- ~~One representative of the Alexandria Tenant and Workers Support Committee~~ ***(One representative of a Community-Based Organization with specific outreach to the Latino community)***
- ~~One representative of the Alexandria Branch of the NAACP~~ ***One representative of a Community-Based Organization with specific outreach to the African-American Community***
- Two representatives of Alexandria youth, At-Large
- One representative of the Alexandria Interfaith Council

- Two representatives from the City at large
- One representative of parents of Alexandria youth
- One representative of the business community

The December 14, 2004, resolution also provided that the task force continue for a period of 18 months from the date of its first meeting, and that it automatically dissolve at that time unless Council has authorized it to continue. Under the resolution, at least 30 days before the end of its first year, the task force is to inform Council whether it believes it should be authorized to continue in existence and, if so, it is to recommend the length of time it believes it should continue.

The Alexandria Gang Prevention Community Task Force has continued this important work since May 18, 2005, consistently meeting and working together in the areas of gang prevention, intervention and suppression. It has received enormous support from the Community which was demonstrated at the first Gang Awareness Summit held on March 25, 2005 and attended by over 600 citizens and staff. The Task Force has much more work to do and it is recommended that it be authorized by Council to continue in full force for at least another 3 years, at which time it would be necessary to request further assignment from Council.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no direct, significant fiscal impact arising from this resolution.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1. December 14, 2004, Resolution 2128

Attachment 2. Proposed resolution

STAFF:

Mike Mackey, Gang Prevention/Intervention Liaison

Michele R. Evans, Deputy City Manager

RESOLUTION NO. 2128

WHEREAS, the local governments of the Washington, D.C., metropolitan region are working together to address gang activity in the region; and

WHEREAS, this fall several members of City Council participated in the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' regional forum to address ways to alleviate gang activity in the Washington metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, the Alexandria City Council is concerned about the increasing incidents of gang-related activity in the metropolitan area, and wishes to improve education and communication regarding gangs among City agencies, between the City and others in the region, and within the Alexandria community; and

WHEREAS, although to date the City of Alexandria has experienced a relatively low amount of criminal activity by gang members, in part due to the effective suppression efforts of the Alexandria Police Department, gangs are a regional problem and, as such, could impact Alexandria at any time (for instance, if gang members from other jurisdictions come into the City to recruit members or commit crimes); and

WHEREAS, numerous City and state departments and agencies serving Alexandria have an interest in gang suppression, prevention and intervention; and

WHEREAS, City Council wishes to establish an Alexandria Gang Prevention Community Task Force to address gang issues;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alexandria City Council hereby establishes an Alexandria Gang Prevention Community Task Force which shall be appointed by the mayor and shall consist of the following 13 members:

- Two members of the Alexandria City Council
- One member of the Alexandria School Board
- One representative of TC Williams High School
- One representative of City Middle Schools
- One representative of Alexandria Elementary Schools
- One representative of the private schools in Alexandria
- One representative of the Alexandria Tenant and Workers Support Committee
- One representative of the Alexandria Branch of the NAACP
- One representative of the Alexandria Youth Council
- One representative of the Alexandria Interfaith Council
- Two representatives from the City at large

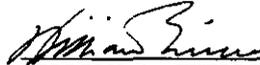
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that advisors to the Task Force shall include, as needed, the City Manager, the Commonwealth's Attorney, the Police Chief, the Sheriff; and the Directors of Court Services, Human Services, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse, Adult Probation and Parole, and the Office on Women.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Task Force shall continue for a period of 18 months from the date of its first meeting, and shall at that time dissolve unless authorized to continue by the City Council; and that at least 30 days before the end of its first year, the Task Force shall inform the Council whether it believes it should be authorized to continue in existence and, if so, it shall recommend the length of time it believes it should continue.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the charge to the Task Force shall be to undertake the following:

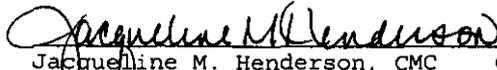
- (1) to receive briefings on the status of gang suppression, prevention and intervention programs and activities in the City and, insofar as directly relevant to the City, the status of similar programs and activities in the metropolitan region;
- (2) to assist in informing and educating the Alexandria community about the gang suppression, prevention and intervention programs and activities that are occurring in the City and in the region;
- (3) to assist in identifying programs and activities that will address specific gang-related problems or issues in the City, with a particular emphasis on programs and activities that will prevent individuals from joining gangs and/or that will intervene with individuals who are members of a gang to facilitate their withdrawal from such membership;
- (4) to assist in identifying opportunities to obtain funding for programs and activities that will address such gang-related problems or issues in the City; and
- (5) to assist in identifying state or local laws that should be enacted or amended to enable the City, and possibly other local governments, to better address problems and issues arising from or related to gangs.

ADOPTED: December 14, 2004


WILLIAM D. EULLE

MAYOR

ATTEST:


Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the local governments of the Washington, D.C., metropolitan region are working together to address gang activity in the region; and

WHEREAS, several members of City Council participated in the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' regional forum to address ways to alleviate gang activity in the Washington metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, the Alexandria City Council is concerned about the increasing incidents of gang-related activity in the metropolitan area, and wishes to improve education and communication regarding gangs among City agencies, between the City and others in the region, and within the Alexandria community; and

WHEREAS, although to date the City of Alexandria has experienced a relatively low amount of gang related criminal activity, in part due to the effective suppression efforts of the Alexandria Police Department, gangs are a regional problem and, as such, could impact Alexandria if gang members from other jurisdictions come into the City to recruit members or commit crimes; and

WHEREAS, numerous City and state departments and agencies serving Alexandria have an interest in gang suppression, prevention and intervention; and

WHEREAS, City Council wishes to continue the establishment of the Alexandria Gang Prevention Community Task Force to address gang issues;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alexandria City Council hereby continues the work of the Alexandria Gang Prevention Community Task Force which shall be appointed by the mayor and shall consist of the following 17 members:

- Two members of the Alexandria City Council
- One member of the Alexandria School Board
- The City Manager or his designee
- One representative of TC Williams High School
- One representative of City Middle Schools
- One representative of Alexandria Elementary Schools
- One representative of the private schools in Alexandria
- One representative of a Community Organization with specific outreach to the Latino Community
- One representative of a Community Organization with specific outreach to the African-American Community
- Two representatives of Alexandria Youth at large
- One representative of the Alexandria Interfaith Council
- Two representatives from the City at large

One representative of the Business Community
One representative of Parents of Alexandria Youth

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that advisors to the Task Force shall include the Senior Policy Workgroup on Gangs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Task Force shall continue for a period of 3 years from the date of this resolution, and shall at that time dissolve unless authorized to continue by the City Council; and that at least 30 days before the end of the next 3 years, the Task Force shall inform the Council whether it believes it should be authorized to continue in existence and, if so, it shall recommend the length of time it believes it should continue.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the charge to the Task Force shall be to undertake the following:

- (1) to receive briefings on the status of gang suppression, prevention and intervention programs and activities in the City and, insofar as directly relevant to the City, the status of similar programs and activities in the metropolitan region;
- (2) to assist in informing and educating the Alexandria community about the gang suppression, prevention and intervention programs and activities that are occurring in the City and in the region;
- (3) to assist in identifying programs and activities that will address specific gang-related problems or issues in the City, with a particular emphasis on programs and activities that will prevent individuals from joining gangs and/or that will intervene with individuals who are members of a gang to facilitate their withdrawal from such membership;
- (4) to assist in identifying opportunities to obtain funding for programs and activities that will address such gang-related problems or issues in the City; and
- (5) to assist in identifying state or local laws that should be enacted or amended to enable the City, and possibly other local governments, to better address problems and issues arising from or related to gangs.

ADOPTED: _____

WILLIAM D. EUILLE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk