

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: OCTOBER 16, 2006

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF UASI GRANT AWARD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$90,369 FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

ISSUE: City Council consideration of acceptance of Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant award in the amount of \$90,369 from the Department of Homeland Security.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) Accept the Homeland Security grant funds in the amount of \$90,369; and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents that may be required.

BACKGROUND: The Citizen Corps Program (CCP) is coordinated on the national level by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). 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.

In the past, the grant funds for the Citizens Corp Program had been awarded as state pass-through money from DHS. The FY2006 budget for this program did not provide any funding for Alexandria, so the City requested Citizens Corps Program funds from the region UASI funds. Our region's Senior Policy Group, in conjunction with the Chief Administrative Officers, awarded \$90,369 in grant funds.

DISCUSSION: The UASI Citizens Corps Program funds will be used to increase the number of trained, affiliated volunteers in the City. Affiliated volunteers are known members of existing volunteer organizations. The funds will also be used to develop, expand, and integrate the regional coordination mechanisms to mobilize large numbers of volunteers and donations. The City also plans to complete the development of a volunteer reception center in Alexandria, which would serve to

register and assign spontaneous, unaffiliated volunteers. The allocation of the funds will be directed by the City's Citizens Corps Council, in conjunction with the Emergency Management Division, to its affiliated programs including Neighborhood Watch, Volunteers in Police Service, Medical Reserve Corps, and Community Emergency Response Teams. Funds will also be used to put into operation a system for unaffiliated or spontaneous volunteers.

FISCAL IMPACT: The total project budget for Citizen Corps Council for the coming year will be \$90,369. There is no City match requirement for the UASI funds. The grant requires staff time from members of the Fire Department, Finance Department, and Office of Management and Budget.

The necessary paperwork was submitted, in order to meet the September deadline, with the understanding that subsequent City Council approval would be required to accept any funds.

STAFF:

Gary Mesaris, Fire Chief

Mark Penn, Emergency Management Coordinator

Sandy Murphy, Budget Analyst