

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: AUTHORIZATION OF GRANT APPLICATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$92,000 TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES FOR A TWO YEAR PROJECT TO ENHANCE SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES

ISSUE: Authorization of grant application in the amount of \$92,000 to the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) to enhance sexual and domestic violence services.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) Authorize the grant application to DCJS in the amount of \$92,000; and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents.

BACKGROUND: Alexandria is home to many people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the City of Alexandria has twice the number of such households as the average city in the United States, although the actual number of persons in these groups in Alexandria is not known. The Alexandria Gay and Lesbian Community Association has over 100 members.

The Office on Women would like to enhance its services to become more sensitive to the particular needs of this population. In a national study done by the Institute for Child and Family Policy, almost none of the gay men interviewed knew that a rape crisis center was available to serve them if they were victimized. By enhancing the Office on Women's services the office staff believes it could encourage people to feel more comfortable in identifying issues and seeking assistance.

The Alexandria Office on Women's sexual and domestic violence programs are seeking funds for a part-time Health and Community Education Specialist (HCS) to complete a two-year project to enhance its services to the community. This program will implement three activities: (1) develop and convene an Advisory Board to recommend changes to policies and provide program

oversight; (2) review and revise all information to be inclusive on issues, including sexual and domestic violence advocacy policies, website content, volunteer training curriculum, employee handbooks, brochures, and any literature distributed regarding sexual or domestic violence; and (3) research and design curriculum and train sexual and domestic violence staff and allied professionals.

The Alexandria Office on Women submitted this grant application to DCJS to meet its deadline of September 15, 2006, with the understanding that subsequent City Council authorization would be required to accept this grant award.

FISCAL IMPACT: Receipt of up to \$92,000 for the two-year program. No City match is required. The program will end in two years and no additional City funds will be needed to continue the program.

STAFF:

Claire Dunn, Domestic Violence Program Coordinator
Erika Kleiner Callaway, SARA Program Coordinator
Lisa Baker, Director Office on Women
Laura Pettus, Grants Coordinator

Alexandria ▼ GLCA

Alexandria Gay & Lesbian Community Association

P. O. Box 19401 · Alexandria, VA 22320 · www.aglca.org

October 29, 2006

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Honorable Mayor and Members of Council
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mayor Euille and City Council Members,

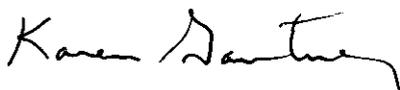
On behalf of the Alexandria Gay and Lesbian Community Association, I express support for the proposal submitted by the Alexandria Office on Women for the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services Victim Fund grant. Representing the Alexandria GLCA board, I consulted with the Domestic Violence Program staff as they prepared the grant proposal under consideration.

Reliable statistics are not available for the incidence of domestic violence among gay and lesbian couples. One can only assume its unfortunate occurrence in all configurations of couples and families. The same shame and fear that impedes heterosexuals seeking help is present for gays and lesbians, along with additional concerns of discrimination. In a nutshell, the grant proposal seeks to inform Alexandria's GLBT community that help exists, that it is inclusive, and that they will be respected in that system.

We are particularly pleased to partner with the Domestic Violence Program on this project. As you may know, the Alexandria GLCA is more vibrant than at any time in its twenty-three year history. We have a thriving membership, active program schedule, and most importantly an effective communication network. We are excited to work with the City of Alexandria, specifically the Office on Women's Domestic Violence Program, to enhance services to GLBT citizens and to utilize our network to raise awareness of those services.

The Alexandria GLCA has agreed to provide a representative to the advisory board for the grant, in the event it is awarded to Alexandria. We lend our support now, and pledge to do so in the future, to the success of this project. Please contact me if I can answer any questions or be of further service to you.

Respectfully,



Karen Gautney
President

Social Activities ▼ Community Involvement ▼ Political Awareness