

ALEXANDRIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

City Council Public Hearing

October 24, 2006

My name is Lonnie Rich. I am here this evening as the Chairman of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce.

For the past 100 years, the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce and its members have been working to improve the quality of life for all in our City. The budget is a logical extension of that participation, as it is the financial expression of how you will carry out the City's Strategic Plan.

The new activity-based budgeting process, being implemented this year, is a tool that will allow you to analyze the costs of various programs, and will provide you with a good basis for making informed budget decisions. We are pleased to see the City developing its budget the way we have to in *our* businesses—from the ground up. We commend the City Manager and his staff on this new budget process.

Last year, we came before you and asked that you limit the growth of the City budget, and suggested that the growth be no more than 5%. In fact, your final increase was lower than our recommendation, and we applaud that.

This year, increases in real estate values will produce about \$15 million in additional tax revenue. This would allow the City budget to increase by about 3%. The Chamber urges you to keep the increase in the City budget within this figure. Ideally, we would like to see growth of no more than 3 to 4%.

The new budget process should provide you the information you need to keep budget growth within this range. We realize that you will have to make difficult decisions to limit expenses. One area that we encourage you to examine is the effective salary increases that result from the combination of both COLA increases and merit pay. These items should be considered

together in determining the adequacy of our City's compensation and pay increases.

In the long run, expenses can only be cut so much. In the future, we will have to look to increases in *revenue* to keep our City viable and vibrant. Expanding our tax base becomes a win-win situation for the community. It keeps our City diverse and affordable; it provides revenues to maintain our historic buildings, to insure our public safety, and to provide quality education for our children. The Chamber has encouraged you to grow our City's revenue by growing our City's commercial space and activity.

One of our City's most unique assets is our waterfront. Most of our neighboring jurisdictions have nothing that compares. Alexandria's waterfront represents an opportunity to make the most of one of our greatest assets, in a way that will benefit our entire City. A vibrant plan is needed to create a welcoming waterfront that reflects our City's historic nature and presents opportunities for recreational and business uses. The proper plan should generate additional revenues to benefit all Alexandria.

Good Evening, I'm Rick Dorman, Chair Elect of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce.

Just across the river, in a few years, National Harbor will be attracting thousands of visitors who will need a place to dine, tour and shop. Alexandria is that place. With that in mind, we need to capitalize on this economic opportunity with a viable waterfront plan.

When National Harbor visitors step off the water taxi, we must have an inviting waterfront and accessible transportation to get them to our historic sites, restaurants and shops. We must have a trolley in place to move these visitors up and down King Street. This opportunity will provide Alexandria with additional revenue in the form of sales tax, restaurant tax and business license tax. To take advantage of this opportunity, we must plan now.

Will we be ready?

Over the past few years, our City has experienced a significant amount of development that has produced welcome tax revenue. Since PTO came on line we have enjoyed more than \$8 million additional revenue each year. Why then, people ask, are we not seeing a better balance between the proportion of tax revenue that comes from commercial real estate, as opposed to residential?

One big answer to that question is Landmark Mall. Over the past 15 years, the assessed value of Landmark Mall has declined by more than \$100 million, dragging down our commercial real estate tax revenue. Over this period, we have lost around \$10 million in tax revenue from Landmark Mall's decline. With all the good we're doing in this City, we can't let this continue. We must take advantage of the opportunity to develop Landmark into a viable town center with a combination of residential and commercial uses. Our plan for this area must include transportation and pedestrian uses as well as the opportunity for affordable housing.

The Chamber supports consideration of increased mixed use development around metro stations and other appropriate places, especially where the appropriate level of density can provide additional open space and affordable housing. Development that mixes residential with commercial, and connects both to transportation can actually reduce traffic. There seems to be growing support for these kinds of initiatives.

I'm Joan Renner, Past Chair of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce.

Today Alexandria businesses are threatened by competition from attractive new business districts in neighboring jurisdictions. When customers go elsewhere to shop and dine, their sales tax dollars go with them, to lower the real estate tax bills of homeowners in Arlington or Fairfax.

Discussions with our members indicate that Alexandria sales are declining. In recent years there have been periods when our sales tax revenues did not even grow at the rate of inflation, and sales tax revenues in Alexandria grew the slowest among our neighboring jurisdictions. Alexandria is a small business town. While sales tax revenues may have improved recently overall, small business sales have not.

We must make our business districts a destination, rather than an alternative.

Even in a tight budget year, we must not forget our public roads, buildings and historic structures. We are stewards of these assets for our City's future, and our future historic ambiance and charm depend on what we do to maintain these assets today. The Chamber supports the preservation of our historic structures and supports creative ways to fund that preservation.

The Chamber encourages measures to increase the supply of workforce housing for middle-income homeowners such as office workers, teachers, police officers, firefighters and nurses so that these vital members of our City's workforce, can live in Alexandria. In the event of an emergency, we don't want our first responders to have to jump in their cars and begin the commute up I-95.

The Chamber supports a public safety budget that promotes a safe city. A safe environment is important, not only to our customers and our businesses but also for our homes and our families.

Excellence in public education enriches our entire city, not only by educating our citizens but also by providing a strong work force. The Chamber supports a school budget that supports excellence in educational programs.

For the past 100 years The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce has played an important role in improving our quality of life and our City's economic vitality--

Alexandria Business continues to be an integral part of the fabric of our City today:

We know that

- half of our City's tax and nontax revenue comes in each year because business takes place in our city.
- Alexandria business supports the charities that help our community, and
- Alexandria business people are also Alexandria citizens, residents, school parents, neighbors and friends.

The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce **looks forward** to *continuing* to play an important role as your partner in addressing these critical issues that are so important to making Alexandria a better place for everyone.

5

10-24-06



"Elizabeth L. Jones"
<krupickaaide@comcast.net>

10/24/2006 10:31 AM

Please respond to
<elizabeth.jones@alexandriava.gov>
v>

To <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject FW: East Linden St. Storm Sewer Management Issue Letter for Budget Hearing 10/24/06

Elizabeth L. Jones
Aide to Councilman Rob Krupicka
City of Alexandria, VA

From: Rob Krupicka [mailto:Rob@Krupicka.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 24, 2006 9:53 AM
To: krupickaaide@comcast.net
Subject: FW: East Linden St. Storm Sewer Management Issue Letter for Budget Hearing 10/24/06
Importance: High

Please make sure Jackie gets this for formal record. Please put in my budget file.

From: Fleming, Allison [mailto:afleming@epcglobalinc.org]
Sent: Tuesday, October 24, 2006 9:53 AM
To: alexvamayor@aol.com
Cc: macdonaldcouncil@msn.com; councilmangaines@aol.com; Rob Krupicka; timothylovain@aol.com; delpepper@aol.com; PaulCSmedberg@aol.com
Subject: East Linden St. Storm Sewer Management Issue Letter for Budget Hearing 10/24/06
Importance: High

Dear Mayor Eulle,

Attached, please find a letter addressing neighborhood concerns about the storm sewer management issue at the East Linden Street culvert area. A member of our group is planning to testify at the Budget Hearing tonight. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,
Allison Fleming
26A East Linden Street
202-744-0314



EastLindenStreetCulvert.pdf

October 23, 2006

The Honorable William D. Euille
City of Alexandria
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Re: East Linden Street Culvert and Storm Sewer Issues

cc: Vice Mayor and Council Members

Dear Mr. Mayor:

This letter is to address the storm water management issue the East Linden Neighborhood has been trying to get resolved, to no avail. At every juncture our correspondence receives a reply, and we appreciate Ms Baker again providing a response to the concerns of the East Linden Street culvert situation. However, we continue to find the responses inadequate and it is now necessary to further our actions for a response that will show some efforts on the part of the City of Alexandria to provide the following:

- Immediate and short term relief that will minimize the damage to our properties from the catastrophic events this neighborhood continues to endure.
- Intermediate solutions to properly maintain the culvert and surrounding areas to minimize the extent of damage from the flooding for this neighborhood.
- Long term solutions as outlined in Ms Bakers e-mail, which include studies and the necessary funding to get this project completed.

It is no longer acceptable for the City to simply respond with an explanation that the City's standard for storm sewer design is for what is expected to occur on a ten-year interval. The flooding of our homes and vehicles on East Linden Street has occurred on numerous occasions since 2001 and we have not received any satisfaction from our previous discussions with different City Departments. The final straw of these episodes was the flooding this past June and here we are in October with no plausible solutions.

We are not talking inches of water puddling in our back yards or in the street on Braddock Road and West Street. We are talking events marked by several feet of water overflowing the culvert and running directly into our homes and vehicles. Incidents large enough that a Metro bus ended up on one neighbor's front yard, and cars traveling down the street became submerged and unable to continue to operate due to the flooding. These incidents blocked access to East Linden Street and required tow truck assistance to remove the vehicles and allow traffic to continue after the water receded. Should emergency vehicles been required for this area, they would not have been able to pass.

The burden of these situations has been placed directly on home owners of East Linden Street and we can no longer be reasonably expected to be the release valve and recipient of the City's overflow until conditions permit the water to flow elsewhere. The circumstances are severe enough to have become a public nuisance with safety, health, and environmental implications. The City of Alexandria must step forward and accept its responsibility before it becomes negligent in its duties.

It is imperative that you understand the history of events that have led us to this letter. It was not just the event of the June 2006 rain that brought us to the point of addressing this matter. Rather it is the culmination of events leading up to and including the June rain that necessitates a response and resolution from the City that will ensure the safety of its residents and minimize the cost and damage incurred from each recurring flood event.

This letter will:

- Define the problem in detail;
- Offer viable and acceptable short term solutions
- Provide the City with documentation of our area with circumstances to be studied.

Although we have been told that "this was a one time occurrence," or "we haven't had this in over 100 years," the City has documented four events in the last four years which produced flooding from the culvert:

June 18, 2002 – June 19, 2002	Precipitation amount: 0.63 inches
June 19, 2003	Precipitation amount: 1.61 inches
September 18, 2003	Precipitation amount: 2.28 inches
June 25, 2006	Precipitation amount: 5.19 inches

Flooding occurs even with small amounts of precipitation, however, along with the number of events having increased over the past years, the amount of flood water being pushed toward our homes has also increased dramatically. Even though we have taken precautions of our own, each successive flooding event is of greater impact and more costly to repair. The flooding incidents create additional safety, health, and environmental issues such as mosquito and mold spore infestation after each occurrence.

We are located a mile west of any recognized flood areas. We are not in a federal flood zone. We believe the circumstances we are experiencing are from development of the City (at both ends) without adequate attention being paid to upgrade the current drainage system. Although we are not standing on our roof tops with signs that say "Help Me," we are asking that you rescue us from these recurring events.

The culvert along East Linden Street is part of a storm sewer system that begins over near Braddock Road Metro Station and outfalls into Hoofs Run on the south side of the City. Our area is located just east of Commonwealth Avenue, south of Maple Avenue, and north of Rosemont Avenue. As shown by the Google Earth Map, the culvert in question

is open and extends from the south side of Maple Avenue to East Linden Street where it is again covered down through Hoofs Run. When the system backs up or is overloaded with drainage water, this open space becomes the release valve for the system and the water pushes out of the culvert, over the lot owned and maintained by the City, and into our property and structures. Each of the four documented overflows has affected the townhouses directly next to the culvert as well as houses on both sides of East Linden Street in the immediate area. The event in June produced over 2 ½ feet of overflow from the culvert and standing water in our yards. No pumps could sustain the immediacy of the onslaught and it took over 24 hours for the culvert drainage system to again function properly.

Each time the East Linden Neighborhood was left to fend for itself as we cleaned up our property and houses. We have lost treasures such as family pictures and artifacts, as well as furniture (some antique), appliances, and tools, without restitution. We have had to replace carpet and drywall, and replace and repair electrical systems. We have had to replace and repair car engines and other parts, and treat car and house interiors to remove the residue and stench. It is not without caution that we proceed with each reconstruction and repair knowing there is not a solution forthcoming from the City on this issue. Therefore we are petitioning the City to move forward expeditiously and before the next occurrence.

Immediate and Short Term Relief that will minimize the damage to our properties from the catastrophic events this neighborhood continues to endure:

The East Linden Neighborhood requests the City of Alexandria be accountable for providing services that will minimize the damage to our properties and make the culvert an insignificant impact on this neighborhood. These should be ongoing and in conjunction with the intermediate and long term solutions. It entails lessening the effects of the flooding while the City attempts to conduct their studies, put their plan together, and provide a resolution to this continual problem. The response from the City Engineer was inadequate and unacceptable. The e-mail stated “we have not been able to identify anything that would alleviate the problem you are experiencing.” Engineers are trained to solve these types of situations.

It is unacceptable that the City of Alexandria does not accept its responsibility in this situation and move quickly to correct this untenable situation. Response from the City Engineer indicates that “the City performed an analysis a few years ago to look at the causes of this flooding and begin exploring some solutions.” We were told the Army Corps of Engineers was conducting a study of Hoofs Run, and now the City is “currently in the process of hiring a consultant engineering firm to assist us with the next phase of the project, namely to identify alternative solutions to this problem and develop cost estimates for these alternatives.”

The East Linden Neighborhood sought advice from an expert land excavator who assessed the land next to the culvert as not being properly maintained by the City. He determined that the City has not properly maintained the land (driveway and culvert

access area) over the years which contributed toward creating additional problems for the houses adjacent to the culvert. This area was originally paved with concrete and when repaired, macadam was added on top of the concrete. Years later stone/gravel was placed on top of that. This process has raised the elevation of the land next to the culvert and in the alley higher than the back lots of the houses. When water erupts out of the culvert it gushes over the top of the driveway and down toward the townhouse lots located next to the driveway. Additionally, this topography does not allow any egress for the water back into the culvert.

Attempts to provide relief on the part of the City have now created more of a drainage problem. The recent attempts of the City to clean up this area obstructed the ditch that was leading water out of the lots into the culvert. There is now additional ponding of water in areas where it did not previously exist.

The recommendation of our independent consultant was to remove the existing concrete, macadam, and stone/gravel and replace it with drainage rock (to create a sort of dry well with progressive pools) so that the water would seep into the area without rushing toward the townhouses. This would not affect any other areas and would serve to reduce the amount of water currently flowing toward the houses. It would also provide a release back to the culvert when the water receded. The impact of the amount of water flowing toward the townhouses would be lessened and the owners would be better able to handle a couple of inches of water versus the amount of water currently being dealt with.

Intermediate solutions on the City of Alexandria's part to properly maintain the culvert and surrounding areas to minimize the extent of damage from the flooding for this neighborhood.

Raising the wall on the east side is another option to reduce the amount of water overflowing the culvert and toward the townhouses. It is obvious that the wall on the east-side of culvert is lower than the west-side of the culvert creating an uneven distribution flow as the water seeks its lowest point. As the culvert fills, the water moves toward the east-side and overflows into the townhouse lots. This process could be alleviated by raising the wall 2 ½ feet to 3 feet higher or at least even with the west-side wall and provide a buffer of sorts to minimize the amount of water cascading over the east-side of the wall.

Capping the culvert is another solution to lessen the effects of the water over run into the homes. There are no other areas in the City that have an exposed culvert such as ours and it is unrealistic for the City to expect the East Linden Neighborhood to be the release valve for the City and hold their water for them. The signs state: "Property of the City of Alexandria, No Trespassing." It is clearly the responsibility of the City of Alexandria to properly maintain the culvert and the surrounding areas.

Long term solutions as you have outlined in your e-mail, which include studies and the necessary funding to get this project completed.

The East Linden Neighborhood understands that studies need to be performed and analysis done to provide a long term solution for this problem. **We request that the East Linden Street Neighborhood be included in all of the appropriate studies, plans, and budgets necessary to get this completed in the most expeditious time frame.** But the City must also understand that fixing the Braddock Road / West Street which runs into our culvert may also seriously impact an already worsening flooding situation on East Linden Street. Until then, some short term solutions also require attention so that we are not continually being flooded.

Summary

The impact of this continual flooding is far more beyond the cleanup. It is affecting the value of our homes and increasing the cost of living in the Alexandria area. Knowing there is no resolution leaves us vulnerable to not only to the immediate cost of flood damage, but to a significant financial loss when selling our homes. Had we known this upon purchase we would have looked elsewhere. There has not been any adjustment to the value assessed on our properties and we look to the City to maintain the full value of our homes by providing the proper and necessary services.

The East Linden Neighborhood has previously taken our cause to City Departments, and individual City of Alexandria Council members to no avail. Although each has shown concern, none have adequately responded with a time for completion or a resolution to our problem. It is unfathomable that the City has not responded with due diligence to correct this situation. Immediately after each flooding event we were advised they would look into it, and most recently requested 30 days to look into the East Linden Neighborhood flooding problem. To date no recommendations for improvement have been offered. We have been instructed that they will prioritize areas of known problems and if approved the budget request will be included in the CIP for FY08, meaning dollars would not be available until July 1, 2007. It is incredible to think that a full year will pass before anything is done to correct this situation. We request the City live up to their enforcement of safety, health, and environmental issues.

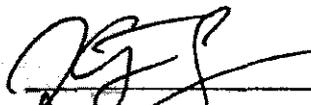
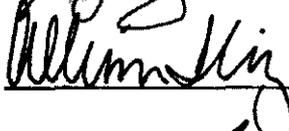
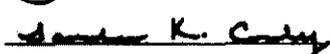
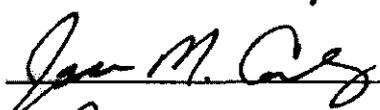
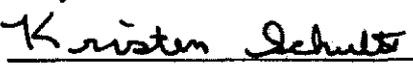
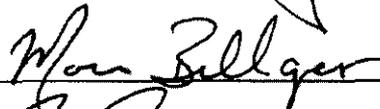
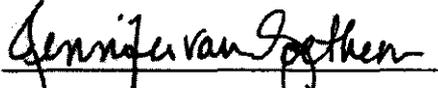
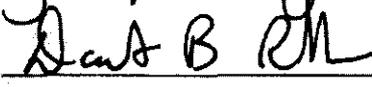
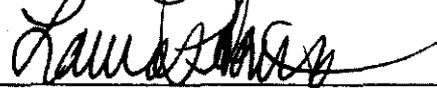
The East Linden Neighborhood requests that we be included in all of the studies, plans, and budget requests, and that any chance to perform some of the short term fixes and intermediate solutions be taken into consideration along the way and prior to next year. We invite you and each of the Council Members to our homes to view and review our concerns, so that each of you might have a better understanding of the situation. We ask that you take our concerns under consideration. We look forward to positive results.

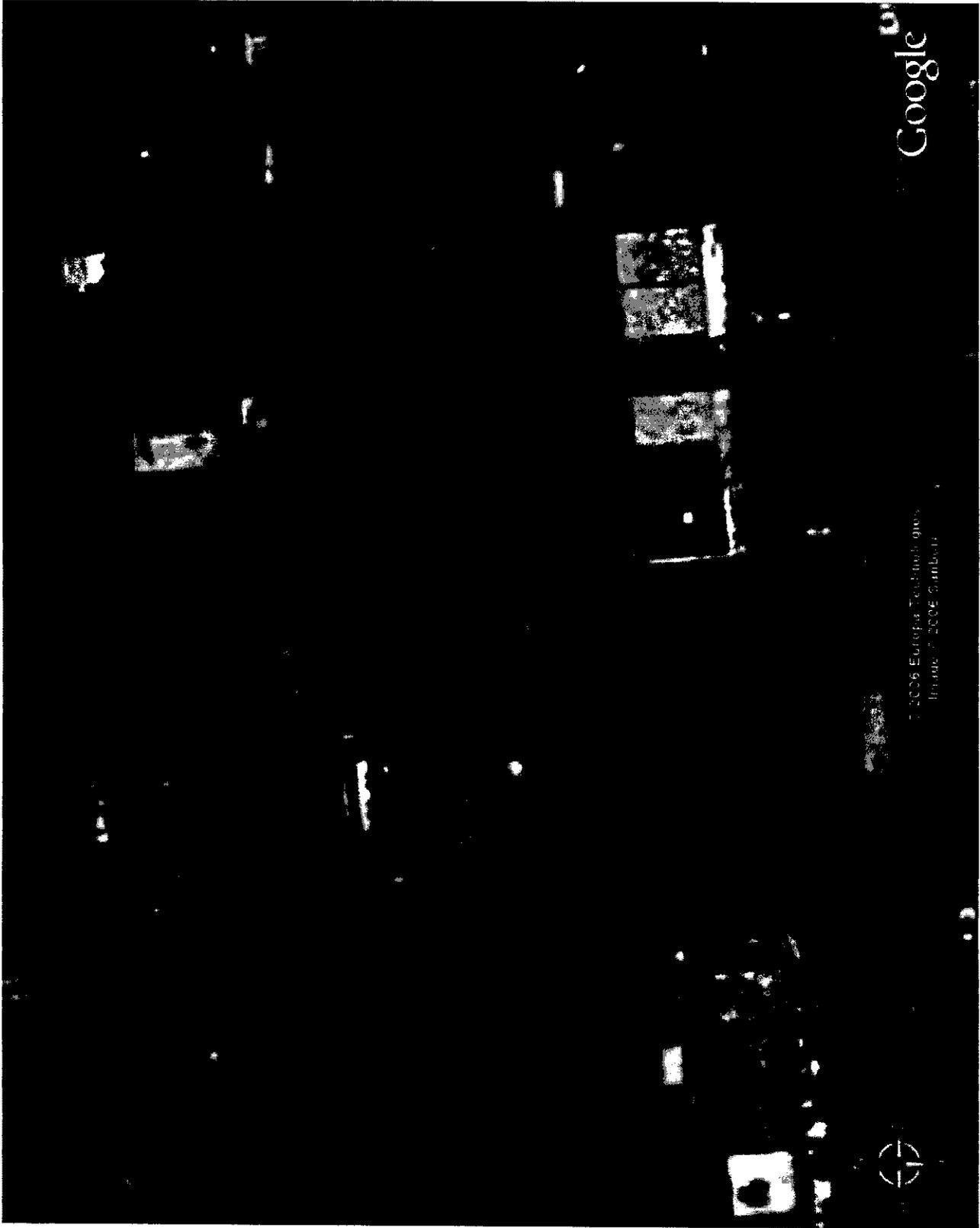
Sincerely,

Signature

Print Name

Print Address

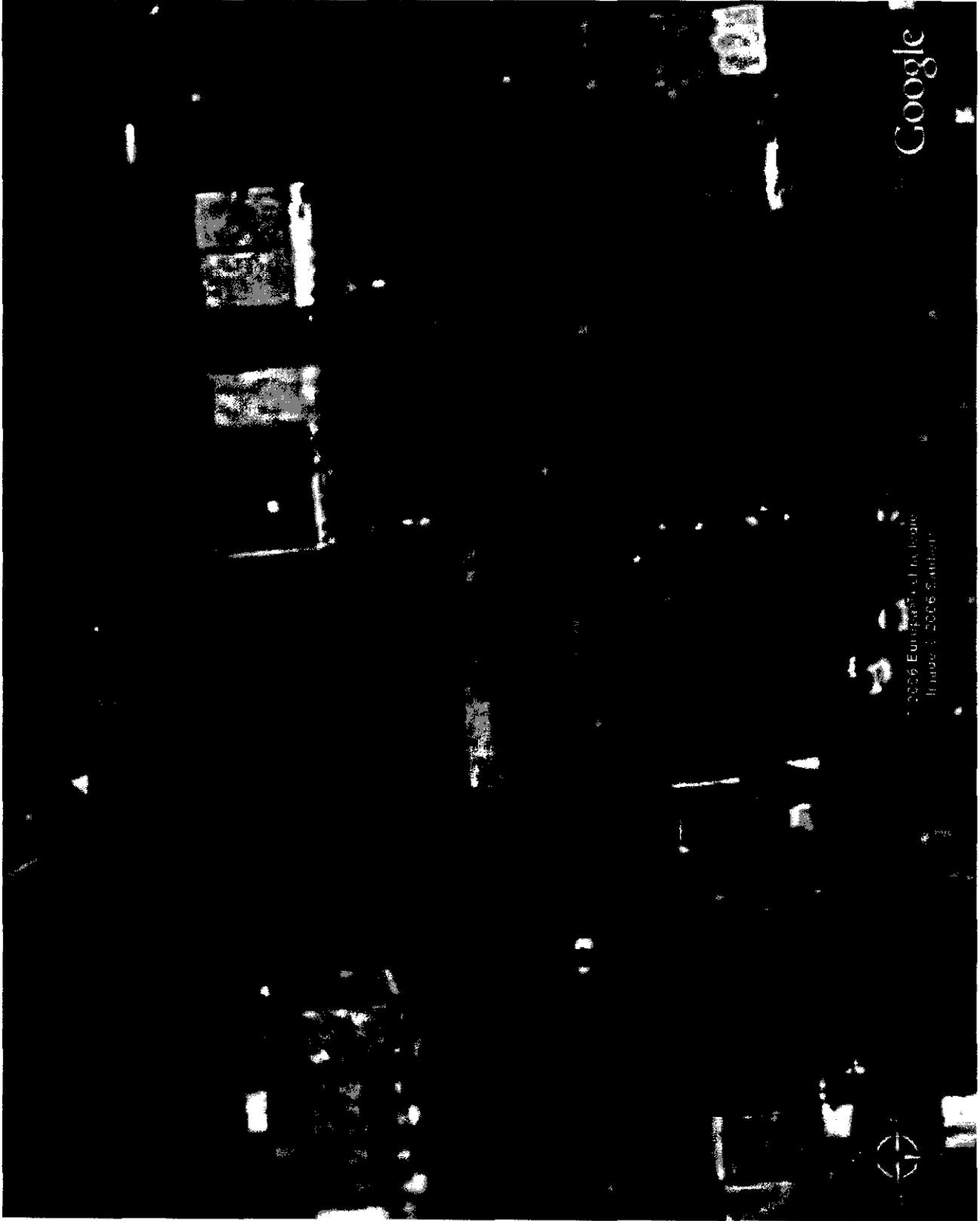
	Kevin Fleming	26A E. Linden St
	Allison Fleming	26A E. Linden St
	Jerome Bristow	26 E. Linden St.
	Sandra K. Conley	24 E. Linden St.
	Jason M. Conley	24 E. Linden St.
	Joe Schulte	27 E. Linden St
	Kristen Schulte	27 E. Linden St
	Hans Billger	22 A E. Linden Street
	Monica Billger	22A E. Linden St.
	Heidi M. van Goethem	25 E. Linden Street
	Jennifer van Goethem	25 E. Linden Street
	DAVID B. RHODES	28 E. Linden Street
	LAURA Z RHODES	28 E LINDEN ST
	Laura Z. Rhodes	26 E. Linden St



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10-24-06

Nancy Coats/Alex
10/23/2006 05:43 PM

To Jackie Henderson/Alex@Alex
cc
bcc
Subject Fw: 2007-2008 BUDGET ITEMS

did you get this?

----- Forwarded by Nancy Coats/Alex on 10/23/2006 05:44 PM -----



<MGLAIA@aol.com>

10/23/2006 05:30 PM

To <DELPepper@aol.com>, <Alexvamayor@aol.com>, <rob@krupicka.com>, <Councilmangaines@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <PaulCSmedberg@aol.com>
cc <Jim.hartmann@alexandriava.gov>, <kirk.kincannon@alexandriava.gov>, <roger.blakeley@alexandriava.gov>, <summerh@erols.com>, <NEONKANB@aol.com>, <MGLAIA@aol.com>, <michelelate@yahoo.com>, <cindy.engelhart@VDOT.virginia.gov>, <jacobshohe@verizon.net>, <MargieLomax@aol.com>, <jeffcukr@yahoo.com>, <booksforsummer@yahoo.com>, <Alexlathers@aol.com>, <atlanticrealty@mris.com>, <Tonymauro@aol.com>, <DMay82@aol.com>, <emehlin@hotmail.com>, <roywright@comcast.net>, <LoWalker@aol.com>, <PamStC@aol.com>, <PASpencer@aol.com>, <janet.barnett@alexandriava.gov>, <Sherrywbrown@aol.com>, <david@goldworksusa.com>, <csavery@verizon.net>, <pdecandio@vcbonline.com>, <mark_higgins@verizon.net>, <gecko@tisaraphoto.com>, <rdigilio@comcast.net>

Subject 2007-2008 BUDGET ITEMS

Dear Mayor and Members of City Council,

I will not be able to appear before you at the October 24, 2006, Public Hearing to speak on the 2007-2008 Budget. Therefore, I am forwarding the list of Budget items that I would present to you and which should, in my opinion, be included in the upcoming budget. None of these are large amounts of money. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I did submit these for last years Budget so needless to say I trust you will give every consideration to these items this year.

Nicholas Colasanto Center/Del Ray Artisans Gallery

- New flooring (Pergo, or otherwise) is needed. The existing has served for many years and is showing wear and tear. Kirk Kincannon and I spoke about this in April 2004 and he felt then that it was very desirable. Now more than two years later it is even more desirable. Del Ray Artisans, *an all volunteer organization*, spends a great deal of time and money on out-reach and community endeavors and the gallery would be certainly more presentable to the public with an improved floor compared to the old tile floor which is cracked and marred. You all know that Del Ray Artisans holds many functions in the Center. These functions bring many from the Washington Metro area to the Avenue. I hope you all appreciate Del Ray Artisan's role in being an early pioneer as the economic engine of the Avenue....which through revitalization brings economic gains and visibility to the City.

- Flood proofing for the Basement of the Colasanto Center such a back water valves, etc., and a French drainage trench to catch the run off from the Mount Vernon School play ground are important preventative maintenance measures which will insure a viable and sound facility which is a valuable asset in the Del Ray community. The remediation efforts have been needed for years. Del Ray Artisans, raises money through activities such as the Adopt-A-Park program. This money is put back towards painting, power washing of the exterior, beautification and landscaping of the facility, however, these funds are insufficient for Capital Improvement projects.
- The rear door (which is deteriorating) needs to be replaced with a hollow metal door (with a window light) and hollow metal frame. The front door needs to be replaced with a much more inviting glass door. GSA has added security lights for the pool and building (which greatly improves the security), repaired missing siding, removed the roof top light poles (which were causing leaks) and repaired the roofing. Thank you to them. We have at Del Ray Artisan's own expense replaced front and rear locks, installed a secure mail box, installed and maintain landscaping around the building, added decorative lighting, painted the front railings, windows and trim. We would like to work with GSA to replace the original historic circle head window (which is deteriorating) at the front of the building incorporating possibly lighted art glass. Other miscellaneous maintenance issues include repairing the chimney cap and repairing a small area of missing siding adjacent to the landscaped garden at the side of the building.
- Develop a plan, in the next year or so, and funding, to add accessible toilets for the pool in order to replace the less than desirable toilets in the basement. As I said, I would be happy to work with the City to plan for this modest addition.
- We propose to continue to work with the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities on establishing a sculpture garden for three dimensional art in Colasanto Park since this would add to the art shows inside the gallery which are primarily two dimensional and small scale sculpture. This would create a more visible and lively gateway to the Del Ray neighborhood. It would be desirable to budget funds for associated improvements, landscaping and design fees.

King Street Gardens Park

- I suggest that the City advance \$15,000 as a loan for King Street Gardens Park in advance of the proffer for the development of 1514-1600 King Street. This fund would be overseen by the Board of the recently created, King Street Gardens Park Foundation, Inc., a 501 (c) (3) non-profit. We are currently, as a Board, working with staff of the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities to guide improvements to the Park and to implement City Council's approved plan. We envision fund raising endeavors such renewing the buy-a-brick program as well as many others. However, we need initial seed money to make strides on improvements to the Park as we mobilize for our fund raising.
- I would like to request that research and analysis be undertaken to determine funds remaining in the "donation account" as referenced to be at \$41,800 in the June 18, 2001, Memo to City Council from Phil Sunderland and the Summary of Revenues and Expenditure through May 21, 1998, referenced to be at \$82,785 in a memo from Vola Lawson. It would be beneficial for the Foundation to see the accounting history of any expenditures against those remaining funds.
- Adequate funds should be provided now to paint the structure which has not been painted since before the Park's dedication on October 4, 1997, rather than wait until 2007-2008. It is sorely in need, and the plantings, which took years to establish, have already been cut back in anticipation of this much needed maintenance.

Chinquapin Gardens Park

- I support sufficient maintenance crews for the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities. We cannot keep adding additional and desperately needed open space City-wide without adequate maintenance crews. Specifically, additional help is needed for the ongoing maintenance at Chinquapin. We understand that the present number of personnel has been the same for the past 20 years.

- We are working with Department Staff on improvements to the community gardens. We are building on the success of the Chinquapin Gardens Advisory Board which has resulted in significant reduction of staff involvement in garden inspections. We have developed a self-monitoring program which virtually has eliminated complaints from the surrounding community about the appearance of the gardens.

Marlin G. Lord

Marlin G. Lord AIA Architect

'On the Avenue'

PO Box 2778 (Mail)

2002 Mount Vernon Avenue

Suite 11

Alexandria, Virginia 22301

703-836-2724

703-836-4382 (fax)

MGLAIA@aol.com.

Marlin G. Lord, Treasurer

Del Ray Artisans

MARLIN G. LORD, CHAIRMAN

CHINQUAPIN GARDENS ADVISORY BOARD

Marlin G. Lord, Treasurer

KING STREET GARDENS PARK FOUNDATION, INC.

5
10-24-06

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: OCTOBER 24, 2006

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: SEAN ^{sum} MCENEARNEY, CHAIR, UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO PRESCHOOL
WORK GROUP

SUBJECT: TRANSMITTAL OF THE UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO PRESCHOOL WORK
GROUP REPORT WITH RECOMMENDATIONS

I am pleased to submit, for your consideration, the final report of the Universal Access to Preschool Work Group, a subcommittee of the Alexandria Early Childhood Commission. The Commission unanimously approved the report and its recommendations at their September meeting.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce for their support during this process and to the Work Group members for their hard work in the development of the Report.

**PLAN FOR INCREASING ACCESS
TO PRESCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES IN ALEXANDRIA**

**A REPORT OF THE EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMISSION
UNIVERSAL ACCESS WORK GROUP**

OCTOBER 2006

**Susan Johnson, Chair
Alexandria Early Childhood Commission**

**Sean McEneaney, Chair
Universal Access Work Group**

**Carol Farrell, Staff
Office for Early Childhood Development**

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UNIVERSAL ACCESS WORK GROUP

October 2006

INTRODUCTION

In 2005, the Alexandria City Council and School Board passed a joint resolution asking the Alexandria Early Childhood Commission (ECC) to develop a plan for increasing access to preschool opportunities in Alexandria. In response, the Commission hosted a community dialogue on universal access to preschool on November 5 of that year. Based on the results of that meeting and of follow-up discussions at Commission meetings, the ECC developed an interim report that was submitted to Council and the School Board on March 6, 2006. The ECC then appointed a planning committee to establish a work group to address the issue. The Chamber of Commerce agreed to act as co-sponsor and offered space in the Chamber offices for the monthly meetings. The first meeting of the Universal Access to Preschool Work Group (Work Group) was held on March 29 and it was decided that the group would meet monthly with the goal of developing a plan to be submitted to City Council. A membership list is included as Attachment 1.

In the meantime, Virginia Governor Tim Kaine appointed the Start Strong Council which is studying the issue of pre-Kindergarten and will make recommendations to the Governor as to what the Virginia pre-K program should look like and what the funding levels should be. Alexandria City Councilman Rob Krupicka is a member of the Council and reports back to the Work Group on the status of the state plan. The first meeting of the Council was held on June 21. The Governor has also held three pre-K summits targeting different audiences from throughout the state to educate and to energize decision-makers at all levels on the subject of early care and education.

The following report includes the recommendations of the Work Group, a survey of existing programs and services, identified gaps in services and a review of issues that impact the development of a plan to address the goal of increased access to preschool programs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) *That the FY 2008 City budget include increased funding for the Children's Fund sufficient to address the sustainability of current early childhood programs which have lost funding or had funding eroded by inflation over*

the past five years and to address federal budget cuts in the Child Day Care Fee System

Children's Fund programs were surveyed to determine their financial status. All programs reported that over the past two to five years, they had either lost funding through the expiration of grants or the loss of state or federal funding. Many had lost ground because their funding through the Children's Fund had either decreased or remained flat. As a result, these programs have not been able to meet the costs of normal and expected increases in salaries, benefits and other administrative expenses and most have had to cut back on services in order to balance their budgets. In addition, many programs report having difficulty in recruiting staff because the salaries they are able to offer are not competitive.

Early childhood programs in Alexandria, as in most communities throughout the country, are supported through a variety of funding streams made up of federal, State and local dollars. Some programs like Alexandria Head Start/Early Head Start are supported almost entirely by federal dollars. The Virginia Preschool Initiative is a blending of federal, state, local, foundation and fundraising dollars. Attachment 2 shows in greater detail the individual programs, the services they provide and their sources of funding.

The Alexandria Children's Fund provides just over \$1 million in local funds (Attachment 3) to support organizations that provide a quality early childhood education and related services to at-risk children from birth to five. To access the funds, child care centers must serve at-risk children and be accredited through the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Children's Fund dollars provide a base level of funding to programs that have been around for a number of years and have documented their effectiveness. As a result, very few dollars are available to new programs.

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) is a federally funded program that provides child care assistance to eligible families through three separate funding streams with different eligibility requirements, TANF, Transitional and Child Day Care Fee System Child Care. The reality of the unpredictability of child care funding recently struck home when the Virginia Department of Social Services notified localities on May 9 that the federal pass-through allocation that many jurisdictions had been drawing down using local dollars had been cut by 82% as of June 1, 2006, because of a projected increase in the need for funds in the two mandated programs (TANF and TCC).

The Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) provides funding for early childhood education services for at-risk four year olds through the Virginia Department of Education. Funding is based on the composite index, which is 0.8 in Alexandria. This means that Alexandria must provide a \$4 match for every dollar the City receives from VPI. In FY 2006, Alexandria drew down \$208,440 of the

approximately \$800,000 available and served 193 children. The match for those dollars was \$834,000 and was made up of city dollars from the Children's Fund, foundations and fundraising. To qualify for the remainder of the funds, Alexandria would have to identify an additional \$2.4 million in local match, including \$1.8 million in cash.

One of the issues identified in the interim report submitted in March was the need to ensure that existing programs that have proven their effectiveness will be able to maintain their current level of services. With the cuts in the CCDF and foundation dollars and no increases in the Children's Fund, the programs must identify other sources of revenue.

Programs currently receiving Children's Fund dollars were asked to provide the Work Group information about their highest level of service over the past five years and the cost, if any, to restore their services to that level. It should be noted that this is not a comparison of comparable services and their cost. For example, an early childhood classroom that operates five days a week at least 9.5 months per year cannot be compared to programs that provide comprehensive services with weekly or monthly contacts. Both services are necessary but not comparable in cost or in outcomes.

SUSTAINABILITY UNMET NEEDS OF EXISTING PROGRAMS		
PROGRAM	UNMET NEED	COST
Alexandria Resource Mothers (NOVUL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶Restore 25 teen mothers to caseloads and lower caseload size from 40 to 25 which would restore the level of quality of services. ▶Waiting list – 20 teens 	\$339,500
Healthy Families Alexandria (NVFS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶Restore HFA to pre-2004 level: 3 additional family support workers and services to 75 additional pregnant and parenting moms, including teens. ▶Unable to serve 211 eligible families in FY06 	\$169,600
Family Support Project (Social Workers on site in participating accredited centers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶Cost of project currently borne by centers which makes it difficult for programs to offer competitive salaries for social work or teaching staff. 	\$123,378
Child and Family Network Centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶Restore three classrooms and services to 48 children that were cut in FY 2007 ▶Waiting list - 	\$322,000
SCAN (Stop Child Abuse Now of Northern Virginia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶Restore one parenting class ▶Waiting list - 	\$9,800
COR (Child Observation Record) Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶Restore new and refresher training for Head Start staff in the use of the COR assessment tool 	\$5,000
Child Day Care Fee System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶Fund the costs of the current waiting list¹ for all of FY 2008, assuming no rate increases 	\$1,111,656 ²

¹ The waiting list on October 6 stood at 364 children. However, based on prior experience with Fee System waiting lists, DHS projects that only 50% or 182 children would actually follow through and be eligible.

² This amount includes the \$384,000 in state cuts plus the projected increase in caseload based on the current waiting list.

- 2) *That the City and Schools launch a concerted outreach effort to attract all families with at-risk children to the K-Prep and that K-Prep continue to be a priority*

The K-Prep program of the Alexandria City Public Schools is entering its third year and offers a two week pre-kindergarten experience during mid-August that is targeted to children who have not had a preschool experience. An evaluation of this program, utilizing the PALS (Phonemic Awareness Literacy Screening), indicates that children who participate in the Pre-K program score higher on the PALS than those who have not participated in any Pre-K experience. This is a good intermediate step pending development of full-time programs but is not currently reaching the most at-risk population. ACPS has indicated that they need assistance in: 1) identifying and recruiting children who have not had a preschool experience; and 2) in identifying and overcoming barriers that prevent these families from having access to this or other Pre-K programs.

- 3) *That the Early Childhood Commission enabling ordinance be amended to expand and reorganize the membership to meet Alexandria's needs for a local coordinating group as required to receive funding through the State Start Strong Council and the Smart Beginnings collaboration with the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation and to ensure that the Commission's focus continues to be on children, birth to 8 years of age, and their families*

The funding recommendations of the Start Strong Council are expected to include a requirement that local councils be established to include a broader range of representatives from the community than the current Alexandria Early Childhood Commission (ECC) includes. This recommendation anticipates that requirement and moves to begin the process now so that, when funding becomes available, Alexandria will be ready to act. Alexandria should also review the three models that were funded in the first year of the Smart Beginnings Early Childhood Foundation grant process to explore options for the city in the next round of proposals.

Although the goal of the Start Strong Council is to serve all four-year-olds, the Work Group feels that it is important to maintain the focus of their work on children from birth to age eight because research clearly shows that young children learn differently from older children and that early intervention starting at birth and the provision of developmentally appropriate education and support services to children and families through age eight produces the best outcomes. Alexandria currently helps fund and support several programs that serve at-risk children starting prenatally, such as Healthy Families Alexandria, Early Head Start and Alexandria Resource Mothers.

- 4) *That the Universal Access to Preschool Work Group continue with its work until such time as the ECC is reorganized and its work can be fully transferred to the Early Childhood Commission*

The Work Group feels that their membership provides a broader representation than the ECC as it is currently constituted (Attachment 4) and that they could continue to provide valuable insight into the process until the membership of the ECC is broadened to include representatives of currently funded programs, community activists, decision makers, policy makers, local politicians and more members of the business community.

- 5) *That the reorganized Early Childhood Commission develop a five-year plan for approval of the City Council and the School Board that will allow the City, the Schools and their early childhood partners to provide universal access to preschool for three and four year olds and provide comprehensive services to all families with children prenatal to eight who are in need of such services in order to be successful and to thrive within the City schools and the Alexandria community as a whole*

The Work Group believes that all children should have access to high quality early care and education programs. However, they also realize that funding is limited and that the first priority should be to provide access to preschool programs to three and four year old at-risk children with a longer term, five-year plan to develop programs that will include all children. They also believe that comprehensive early intervention services should be available to at-risk children and their families, beginning in the prenatal period, through age eight, because intervention that begins at age three or four may be too late to provide the positive outcomes of success in school and in life.

The Work Group also realizes that it will take time to:

- gather and analyze data to develop a better understanding of the problem
- fully develop an early childhood education program that is aligned with the kindergarten through 12 curriculum
- identify a sustainable phased-in financial plan and renewable funding streams
- align the local plan with state and federal initiatives

EXISTING PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The early childhood programs referred to in this section include part-day, part-year preschools and full-day, full-year programs that are referred to as child care centers. Both generally provide either a three- or six-hour core program each day with an established curriculum. In addition, child care centers offer child care services both before and after the core program for a total of ten or more hours per day. Some early childhood programs provide additional services to families

and children, including but not limited to medical, vision and dental screenings and services, mental health screenings and services, family support services, social skills groups, parent education, parent involvement activities, family literacy activities and ESL classes.

Early care and education services in Alexandria are provided through a complex network of programs and services, with multiple funding streams. Most at-risk children are served by full-day programs, some of which are open from September through June. However, most are either open year-round or offer a smaller summer program to accommodate the needs of working parents. Many preschools also provide scholarships for families. The full range of programs available to families is shown in the matrix included as Attachment 5.

Alexandria has 33 child care centers, 17 preschools and 200 family child care providers with a total capacity of 3,684. Most preschools are located in the Old Town and Beverly Hills area of the City as shown in the GIS maps in Attachment 6. Most centers are located in the eastern end of the city. Family child care providers are divided fairly equally between the east and west end. Approximately 65% of all centers that serve at-risk children are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), a percentage far higher than the national average of 8% and State average of 7%.

GAPS IN SERVICES

Alexandria has in place a system of early intervention services, quality early childhood education programs and comprehensive services for children from birth to the age of five. Participating programs strongly encourage parent participation in their child's education because parent involvement is one of the primary indicators of school success. The full system with numbers of children served, slots available in programs, and waiting lists is described in greater detail in Attachment 5.

Unfortunately, funding for early childhood programs has not expanded and, in some cases, has begun to recede. The Children's Fund has not received an infusion of new funds, other than an occasional cost of living increase, since it was first established in 1993. Foundations that have provided long term funding for many of Alexandria's programs have begun to look to funding programs in other localities or have changed their funding priorities. Non-profits have all suffered to one degree or the other from donor fatigue as a result of Katrina and other disasters worldwide. As recently as May 9, the Virginia Department of Social Services notified localities of an 82% cut in funding for one of the Fee System budget lines that will result in 52 fewer children being served if the funding is not restored. On the positive side, funding is available in the 2007 state budget for early childhood programs and the governor has appointed the Start Strong Council to develop a plan for universal pre-K.

IDENTIFICATION OF NEED

Census data from 2000 indicated that there were 7,962 children under the age of five living in the City of Alexandria. Adjustments at the midpoint of the ten year census cycle indicate that the current number falls between seven and nine thousand. Data gathered by the Alexandria City Public Schools for children entering kindergarten in the fall of 2005 (Attachment 7) indicates that the parents of 281 (28%) children reported that their child had not participated in an organized preschool program prior to entering public school. Seven percent of parents did not respond to this question, which means that as many as 350 children may not have had a preschool experience.

The school system experiences a 35% turnover in student enrollment between the beginning and the end of the school year. Therefore, approximately 123 of those 350 children might not have lived in Alexandria the year before, leaving 227 children that the City might have reached with a preschool program or other resource had slots and/or funding been available.

ACPS data from the 2004-2005 school year also indicates that almost twice as many Hispanic students who participated in a preschool program or Head Start the year before entry into kindergarten passed the fall 2004 PALS (Phonemic Awareness Literacy Screening) than those who did not. The same is true for students with limited English proficiency. At-risk children (those eligible for free or reduced price lunch) who had a full-day preschool experience or Head Start passed the PALS at a rate 21 percentage points higher than those who did not.

ACPS recently completed a profile of 2005-2006 kindergarten students whose parents had reported that their children had not had a preschool experience (Attachment 7). Some of the highlights of the report were:

- 35% of the entering kindergartners in the 2005 -2006 class had no structured preschool experience
- Families whose children were not enrolled in preschool prior to entering ACPS in the fall of 2005 were clustered along the western border of the city, on the east and west sides of northern Mount Vernon Avenue and along central Duke Street.
- Students in home care settings were disproportionately Hispanic, speak a language other than English and are classified as disadvantaged using the proxy of free and reduced price lunch status.
- Students in home care were less prepared to enter school, i.e. they scored 10 -26 points below that of students with other types of pre-kindergarten experience on the PALS (Phonological Awareness of Literacy Screening) and were less likely to attend the Kindergarten Prep program.
- Students with no preschool experience had less successful first years in school; they were more likely to be retained in kindergarten (8%) and referred to summer school (40%).

One of the report's recommendations was to "develop specific educational programs, resources and support for students and their families who enroll in kindergarten with no preschool experience."

QUALITY

Although between 65-70% of child care centers serving at-risk children have demonstrated quality by accreditation through NAEYC, there are still several centers serving at-risk children that are not accredited and the level of quality in family child care continues to be very uneven. Eligibility for local dollars can be tied to accreditation. However, CCDF regulations require that localities allow parents to choose from any legally operating child care program, regardless of quality. Parents are encouraged to inform their decisions by accessing the VaDSS licensing website at www.dss.virginia.gov/facility/search/licensed.cgi which lists the complaints and compliance issues for each licensed center and family child care provider.

Almost 500 at-risk children, from birth to age five, were served in family child care homes in Alexandria in FY 2006, including many four-year-olds. Families choose family child care even when center-based care is available, for a variety of reasons, including the need for care during non-traditional hours, the flexibility of home-based care and the relationships they establish with their providers. Therefore, it is imperative that family child providers develop their skills so they can provide quality care.

The Office for Early Childhood Development (OECD) is responsible for the implementation of the City's child care ordinance which sets minimum standards for family child care providers, including a six-hour yearly training requirement. Providers who wish to contract with the agency for CCDF funds must also complete a 45-hour course developed in collaboration with NVCC. While attending the course, providers are partnered with mentors who help providers put into practice the early childhood theory learned in the course. Providers who have a city permit and have completed the NVCC course are listed on the City's web site at www.alexandriava.gov/dhs/children_and_youth_services/oecd_Child_Care_Provider_List.html.

The OECD has historically provided extensive training and workshops for providers and has recently developed a course jointly with Northern Virginia Community College that addresses the diversity of the provider population. They have used mentors to follow-up with providers to reinforce the learning, with what appears to be excellent results in the development of provider competences. The OECD will be working with NVCC in the fall to develop an evaluation plan for this effort. Another strategy for improving the quality of family child care would be to establish a tiered system of rates that reward quality care as measured by

research-based, validated observation tools. Another benefit for providers would be that they could use the tiered system to advertise their services and attract customers.

TRANSITION FROM PRE-K TO KINDERGARTEN "Making sure schools are ready for children."

Any discussion of increased access to Pre-K programs for at-risk children includes the goal of children's readiness for school. Less often do we talk about the need for schools to be made ready for children. The Harvard Family Research Project, in a 2002 review of research and practices, states that "The literature on early intervention provides a strong rationale for the importance of continuity in the transition from early childhood to school age settings. Early intervention research suggests that participants' early gains, especially cognitive gains, fade as they move through primary grades (Shore, 1998). This drop-off may be attributed, at least in part, to dramatic differences between parent involvement, classroom organization, and teaching style in early care and education programs and in elementary schools (O'Brien, 1991)."

In 1998 the National Education Goals Panel outlined 10 keys to "ready schools" that included continuity between preschool programs and elementary schools and strong transition programs from home to school. Research has shown that strong transition projects, such as those in some local Head Start programs, counteract the "fade-out effect" that is often seen in Head Start children by the third grade.

Although Alexandria has a variety of transition programs in place for Head Start children and for children from some private programs, there is no coordinated plan in place for all children. The K Prep program provides an opportunity for children whose parents are aware of the program and take advantage of it and has proven to have excellent outcomes for children. However, this excellent program is still missing many of the most at-risk children. The existing transition program components could be better integrated into the preschool initiative which then provide better access for at-risk families to information about programs such as K Prep and increase the participation of kindergarten teachers in transition activities.

CONCLUSION

Research has shown that the best outcomes for children result from positive early childhood experiences and early intervention services from birth to age eight. The ideal plan would provide these services to all children. However, because funding resources are limited, the recommendations in this report target services for at-risk children and families who would not otherwise have the opportunity to participate.

The Work Group recommends that the community provide access to a variety of services ranging from home-based services and play groups for the youngest children to intensive home visiting services for the most at-risk families and, finally, preschool experiences for three and four year olds. To ensure that children have the opportunity to participate, it is vital that parents and the community at-large be educated about the importance of early childhood experiences.

Data gathered by the Work Group would seem to indicate that there are sufficient slots in centers, preschools and child care centers for preschool age children in Alexandria but experience has shown that many of these slots are taken up by school age children and not all of the slots are of high quality. Research has demonstrated that the quality of early childhood programs is as important as their accessibility in achieving the outcome of children entering school ready to learn. The city is also at risk of losing many of these slots because of the lack of available facilities and the loss of funding.

To assist City Council and the School Board in making funding decisions during the FY 2008 budget process, the Work Group has prepared a chart (Attachment 8) which provides information regarding the unit(s) of service provided by each program, the cost of each and the minimum group size that represents the most cost efficient delivery of that particular service.

ALEXANDRIA EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMISSION UNIVERSAL ACCESS WORK GROUP MEMBERSHIP CHART

NAME/ORG	TELEPHONE	EMAIL
Veronica Aberle, Director of Nursing Alexandria Health Department 4480 King Street Alexandria, Virginia 22302	(703) 838-4400 x269	veronica.aberle@vdh.virginia.gov
Mary Agee, President and CEO Northern Va. Family Service 10455 White Granite Drive Oakton, Virginia 22124	(703) 219-2100	magee@nvfs.org
Lavern Chatman, President CEO Northern Va Urban League 1315 Duke Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314	(703) 836-5205	chatmanlj@aol.com
Suzanne Chis, Director ADHS - Family Services 2525 Mt. Vernon Avenue Alexandria, Virginia 22301	(703) 838-0701	suzanne.chis@alexandriava.gov
Debra Collins, Director Alexandria Dept of Human Services 2525 Mt. Vernon Avenue Alexandria, Virginia 22301	(703) 838-0701	debra.collins@alexandriava.gov
Cathy David, Assistant Superintendent Alexandria City Public Schools 2000 N. Beauregard Street Alexandria, Virginia 22312	(703) 824-6912	cdavid@acps.k12.va.us
Rodger Digilio 1115 King Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314	(703) 548-6066 (w) (703) 548-1311 (h)	rdigilio@comcast.net
Amy Donahue 250 S. Whiting Street #404 Alexandria, Virginia 22304	(202) 744-7435 (h)	amys@donahue.net
Robert H. Dugger 10 Wolfe Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314	(202) 833-4100 (w) (703) 739-6039 (h)	rob.dugger@tudor.com rhugger@aol.com
Carol Farrell, Director ADHS - Office for Early Childhood Development 2525 Mt. Vernon Avenue Alexandria, Virginia 22301	(703) 838-0785	carol.farrell@alexandriava.gov

J. Glenn Hopkins, President & CEO Hopkins House Association 1224 Princess Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314	(703)	hopkins@hopkinshouse.com
Joan Huffer, Board Member The Campagna Center 10 Wolfe Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314	(202) 224-2042 (w) (703) 739-6039 (h)	jmhuffer@aol.com
Karen Hughes, Executive Director The Campagna Center 418 S. Washington Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314	(703) 549-0111	
Julie Jakopic, Board Member Economic Opportunities Commission 3210 Landover Street Alexandria, Virginia 22305	(301) 951-6614 (w) (703) 548-5351 (h)	jjakopic@dsqonline.com
Susan Johnson, Chair Early Childhood Commission 2918 N. Rosser Street Alexandria, Virginia 22311	(703) 931-6738	susanandsteve@comcast.net
Carol Keller, Co-Chair Early Childhood Education Directors Association of Alexandria 821 N. Latham Street Alexandria, Virginia 22304	(703) 370-8200	abra_admin@verizon.net
Barbara Mason, Executive Director Child and Family Network Centers 3701 A Mt. Vernon Avenue Alexandria, Virginia 22305	(703) 836-0214	bmason@cfnc-online.org
Sean McEneaney Chamber of Commerce 908 Allison Street Alexandria, Virginia 22302	(703) 635-4407	smceneaney@comcast.net
Eula Miller Northern VA Community College 3928 Colonel Ellis Avenue Alexandria, Virginia 22304	(703) 845-6224 (w) (703) 370-6358 (h)	mleula@comcast.net
Melvin Miller Alexandria Community Member 3928 Colonel Ellis Avenue Alexandria, Virginia 22304	(703) (703) 370-6358 (h)	
Tyrone Moorer, Vice-President Northern Va Urban League 1315 Duke Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314	(703) 836-5294	noval2858@aol.com
Lori Morris, Alexandria Community Trust 510 King Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314	(703)	lmorris@311cameron.com

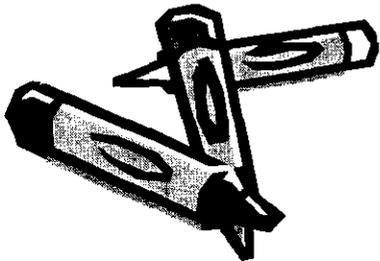
Rebecca Perry, Superintendent Alexandria City Public Schools 2000 N. Beauregard Street Alexandria, Virginia 22312	(703) 824-6610 (w)	rebecca.perry@acps.k12.va.us
Jack Powers, Director ADHS - Community Programs 2525 Mt. Vernon Avenue Alexandria, Virginia 22301	(703) 838-0901 (w)	jack.powers@alexandriava.gov
Steve Rideout, Judge, (Ret) Alexandria J&DR Court Coalition for Alexandria's Youngest Children 710 Fitzhugh Way Alexandria, VA 22314	(703) 836-8482 (703) 655-6149	swrideout@comcast.net
Jim Roberts, Area Director United Way of the National Capital Area Arlington/Alexandria 300 N. Washington Street, Suite 100 Alexandria, Virginia 22314	(703)	jroberts@uwnca.org jbroberts@erols.com
Arthur Schmalz Alexandria School Board 2901 Holly Street Alexandria, VA 22305	Res: (703) 549-7710 Bus: (703) 714-7467 Fax: (703) 714-7410	
Sharon Shackelford, Co-Chair Early Childhood Education Director's Association of Alexandria 3701 A Mt. Vernon Avenue Alexandria, Virginia 22305	(703) 836-0214 (w) (703) 548-0883 (h)	sshackelford@cfnc-online.org
Aretha Shedrick, Alexandria PTA Council P.O. Box 23035 Alexandria, Virginia 22304		aretha/shedrick@ssa.gov
Sissy Walker, Alexandria Preschool Director's Association 498 N. Latham Street Alexandria, Virginia 222304	(703) 549-7441 (w) (703) 370-4161 (h)	dwalkers@comcast.net bhcp@starpower.net
Dr. Alton Wallace 11803 Maher Drive Ft. Washington, MD 20744	(703) 845-6621	awallace@ida.org
Jonelle Wallmeyer, Alexandria Community Trust 510 King Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314	(703) 739-7778	jonelle.wallmeyer@actforalexandria.org
Deborah Warren, Co-Chair Coalition for Alexandria Youngest Children Community Services Board 700 N. St. Asaph Street, 4th Floor Alexandria, Virginia 22314	(703) 838-6400 Ext 166	deborah.warren@alexandriava.gov

Francine Williams, Director Alexandria Head Start 418 S. Washington Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314	(703) 549-8685 (w)	fwilliams@campagnacenter.org
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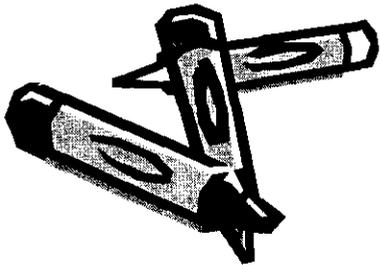
CHILD AND FAMILY NETWORK CENTERS

- Serves 158 children at six sites
- All sites accredited by NAEYC
- Provides comprehensive services to families and children, including family support, health, family literacy, ESL
- Matched \$ 1.6 million in funding from foundations, contributions, fundraisers and other sources
- Per family cost \$10,500
- Per child cost - \$11,674



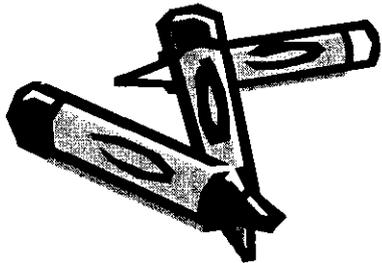
HEALTHY FAMILIES ALEXANDRIA

- Served 245 families in FY 2005
- Provides intensive home-visiting services to pregnant women and families who screen in as high risk for child abuse or neglect
- Matched \$452,159 in funds from foundations, contributions and other sources.
- Per family cost - \$3,100



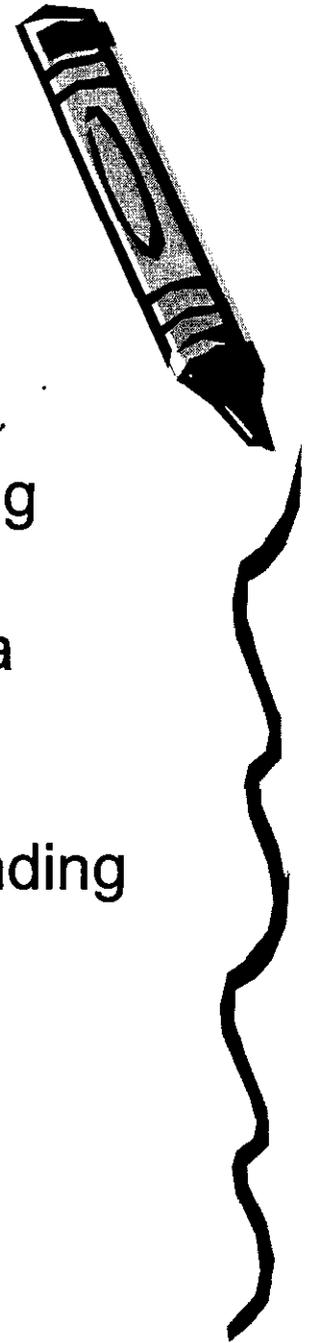
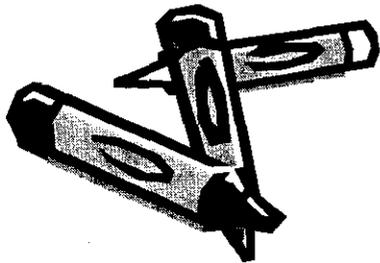
FAMILY SUPPORT PROJECT

- Provides supportive services to families of at-risk children enrolled in participating child care centers in the City
- Served 261 families at four programs at 10 sites
- Cost per family - \$1,257

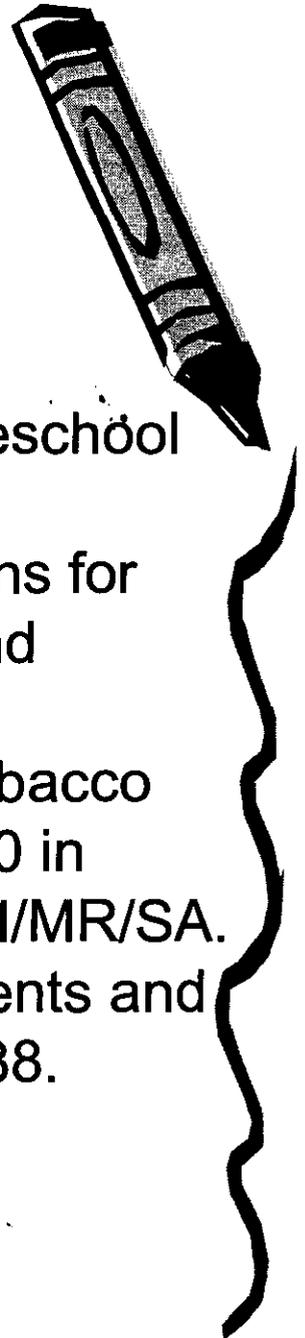


RESOURCE MOTHERS

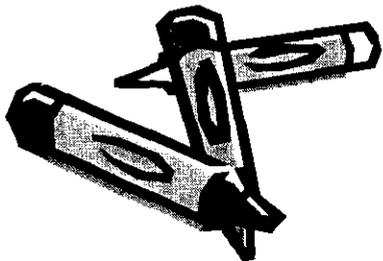
- Mentoring, advocacy, home visitation and case management for first time pregnant and parenting teens
- Goals of the program are primarily the birth of a healthy baby and the prevention of unplanned second pregnancies
- Drew down an additional \$456K from other funding streams, including the State of Virginia and foundations.
- Per client cost - \$1,572



Preschool Prevention Team (CSB)

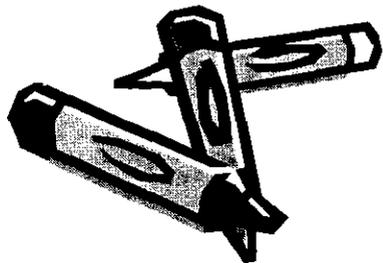


- ❑ Provides mental health prevention services to at-risk preschool children and their families
- ❑ Services include social skills sessions, individual sessions for children and/or their parents, classroom observations and assessments and staff trainings and consultations.
- ❑ Draws down approximately \$75,000 from the Virginia Tobacco Settlement Foundation and receives more than \$100,000 in in-kind professional and administrative support from MH/MR/SA.
- ❑ Served a total of 500 children and 1500 caregivers (parents and teachers) children and families at a per child cost of \$538.



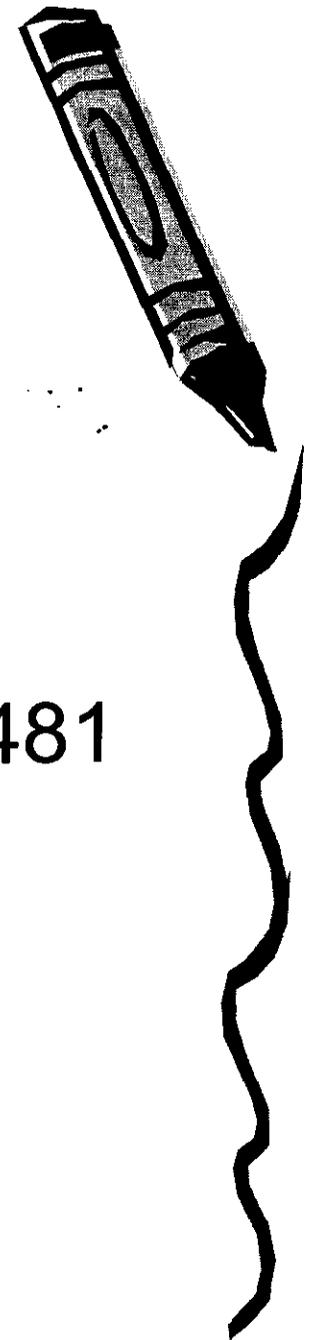
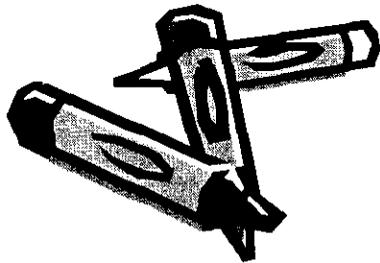
PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAM (SCAN)

- ❑ These funds help pay for one English and one Spanish-language parenting class.
- ❑ Forty-five parents were recruited. Twenty-nine parents completed *The ABCs of Parenting*.
- ❑ Cost per family - \$1,360



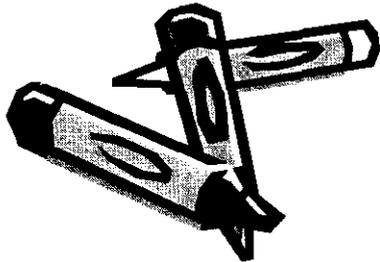
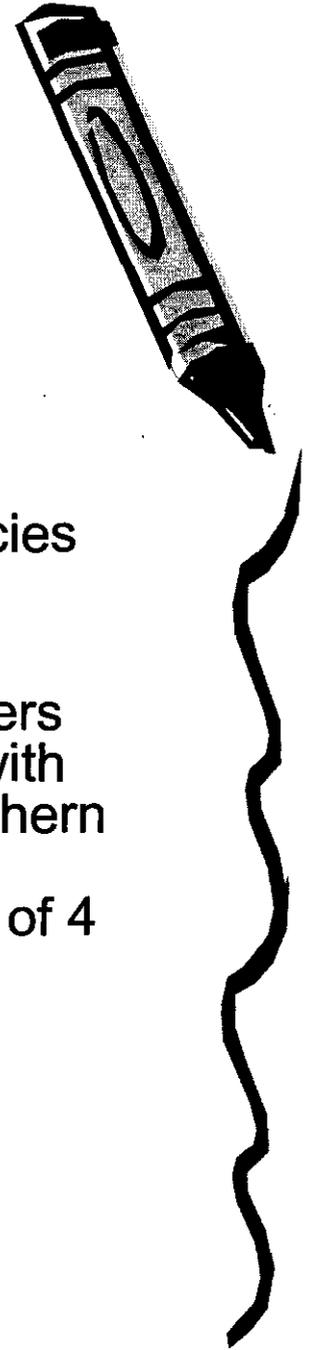
City Child Care Operating Expenses

- City child care staff
(OECD and *JobLink*) \$1,526,481
and general operating expenses



EARLY CHILDHOOD RESOURCE MAPPING

- ❑ Child Care Centers – 33 sites with 1,736 slots and 51 vacancies
- ❑ Preschools – 16 sites with 1,102 slots (number of vacancies not available)
- ❑ Waiting lists for all sites reporting - 500
- ❑ Family child care providers - 136 agency approved providers with 59 registered pending training (DHS only contracts with providers who have completed a 45 hour class at the Northern Virginia Community College Alexandria Campus) – Total capacity of agency approved providers – 544 (an average of 4 children per provider)



**FY 2007 CHILDREN'S FUND RECOMMENDATIONS
JUNE 12, 2006**

NAME OF PROJECT	SPONSORING ORGANIZATION	COMP SCVS	LOCAL MATCH	FY 2004 FUNDING	FY 2005 FUNDING	FY 2006 FUNDING	FUNDING REQUEST	COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION
PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS								
Child and Family Network Centers	Same		X	\$210,065	\$210,065	\$238,955	\$306,000	\$264,860
Child and Family Network Centers	Same		X		\$30,000	\$30,000		
NON-PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS								
Healthy Families Alexandria	No. Va. Fam. Services		X	\$315,000	\$315,000	\$328,090	\$350,000	\$323,108
Family Support Project	Alexandria Accredited Preschools	X		\$180,500	\$195,682	\$195,682	\$202,466	\$192,686
Resource Mothers	No. Va. Urban League		X	\$63,018	\$63,018	\$63,018	\$168,000	\$62,013
Prenatal Project	Alex. Health Department	X		\$47,419	\$47,419	\$47,419	\$0 ¹	\$0
COR Training Project	Charlotte N. Umoja	X		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$15,000 ²	\$0
Preschool Prevention Team	Community Services Board	X		\$62,430	\$62,430	\$65,590	\$71,073	\$64,546
Parent Nurturing Project	Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN)	X		\$10,200	\$10,200	\$10,200	\$20,200	\$9,987
							\$1,132,739	\$917,200
SET ASIDES RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING								
VIRGINIA PRESCHOOL INITIATIVE/SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CHILDREN							\$60,000	\$60,000
MOUNT VERNON HEAD START CLASSROOM							\$35,000	\$35,000
EARLY CHILDHOOD TRAINING BUDGET							\$25,000	\$25,000
TOTAL SET-ASIDES							\$120,000	\$120,000
TOTAL CHILDREN'S FUND REQUESTS							\$1,252,739	
TOTAL FUNDING AVAILABLE/TOTAL RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING								\$1,037,200

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¹ The funding for this project has been transferred to the Alexandria Health Department FY 2007 budget.

² The funding for this training has been included in the Department of Human Services FY 2007 budget.

CHAPTER 10 Alexandria Early Childhood Commission

§ 12-10-1 Creation of commission.

§ 12-10-2 Composition; appointment; chairperson and vice chairperson.

§ 12-10-3 Meetings--quorum; rules of procedure; annual report to council.

§ 12-10-4 Functions.

§ 12-10-5 Staff assistants.

Sec. 12-10-1 Creation of commission.

There is hereby established a commission to be known as the "Alexandria Early Childhood Commission," hereafter referred to in this chapter as the commission. (Ord. No. 3399, 9/16/89, Sec. 1; Ord. No. 3725, 5/14/94, Sec. 1)

Sec. 12-10-2 Composition; appointment; chairperson and vice chairperson.

(a) The commission shall consist of 25 members, each of whom shall be a resident of the City of Alexandria. Of the 25 members, five shall serve *ex officio*, 10 shall be appointed by the school board and 10 shall be appointed by city council. The term of each member appointed by the board or council shall be three years. The terms of such appointed members shall be staggered so that, in every three-year period, the board and the council each appoints two members whose terms shall begin in the first year of the period, four members whose terms shall begin in the second year of the period, and four members whose terms shall begin in the third year of the period.

(1) *Ex officio members.* *Ex officio* members of the commission shall be the incumbent of the following positions, or the incumbent's representative: the city manager, the superintendent of schools, the director of human services, the director of the Alexandria Health Department and the president of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce.

(2) *Members appointed by the school board.* School board appointees shall be one school board member, one early childhood teacher working in an Alexandria preschool, one early childhood teacher working in an Alexandria day care center, one child psychologist, one representative of the Northern Virginia Association for the Education of Young Children, one representative of the Head Start program, three members at large and one parent of a pre-kindergarten through grade three child eligible for a free or a reduced price lunch.

(3) *Members appointed by city council.* City council appointees shall be one developmental pediatrician representing Alexandria Hospital, one member of the economic opportunities commission, one member of the social services advisory board, one representative of the Alexandria chapter of the Northern Virginia Family Day Care Association, one representative of the Alexandria Child Care Directors Association, one parent of a pre-kindergarten through grade three child eligible for a free or reduced price lunch and four members at large.

(b) The commission shall elect from among the appointees of the school board and city council a chairperson, a vice-chairperson, who shall serve in the absence of the chairperson, and a secretary, who shall be responsible for the keeping of the minutes.

(c) The commission may establish such committees as it deems necessary to execute its duties and responsibilities. (Ord. No. 3399, 9/16/89, Sec. 1; Ord. No. 3533, 9/14/91, Sec. 1; Ord. No. 3725, 5/14/94, Sec. 2)

Sec. 12-10-3 Meetings--quorum; rules of procedure; annual report to council.

The commission shall meet at least once each month from September through June, and may meet in July and August. All meetings of the commission and its committees shall be open to the public to the full extent required by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. All members of the commission shall be entitled to vote, and the decisions of the commission shall be determined by a majority vote of the members present and voting. A quorum, which shall be at least 50 percent of the non-vacant seats on the commission, shall be required for the commission to transact business. A member present but not voting shall be considered in counting a quorum. In matters concerning the procedure for meetings not covered by this chapter, the commission may establish its own rules, provided these are not contrary to the mandate or spirit of this chapter. Otherwise, the rules of procedure set out in Robert's Rules of Order shall apply. The commission shall render to the city council each year, by June 30, a written report of its activities under the provisions of this chapter, along with any comments and recommendations it may choose to make. (Ord. No. 3399, 9-16-89, Sec. 1)

Sec. 12-10-4 Functions.

The functions of the commission shall be the following:

- (a) to develop an Early Childhood Development Plan ("ECDP") for the city and propose it to city council and the school board with funding recommendations, which plan shall include, at a minimum, those elements required by the Virginia Council for Child Day Care and Early Childhood Programs for funding its early childhood development programs;
- (b) to prepare a yearly report on the status of early childhood development programs in the city, which report shall assess the achievement of the objectives set forth in the ECDP;
- (c) to monitor the coordination of activities required to implement the ECDP, such as the provision of support services to individual programs;
- (d) to advise the department of human services, office for early childhood development, on matters pertaining to its child day care responsibilities;
- (e) to determine and propose curricula and evaluation standards for preschool early childhood development programs in the city;
- (f) to determine and propose standards to be used for assessing the qualifications of teachers and staff in public and private preschool programs and of family day care providers;
- (g) to develop and propose an evaluation design to measure the effectiveness of preschool early childhood development programs;
- (h) to seek sources of additional funding for early childhood development programs in the city;
- (i) to encourage and facilitate communication among early childhood programs, family day care providers, parents of young children and appropriate city and private agencies;
- (j) to monitor the coordination of preschool activities with the department of recreation, parks and cultural activities, the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority, the city's public schools and other appropriate agencies;
- (k) to monitor the coordination of preschool activities with the Alexandria Interagency Coordinating Council for Public Law 99-457 (Education for the Handicapped Act Amendments of 1986) (services to developmentally delayed infants and toddlers);
- (l) to conduct public hearings on matters under its purview; and
- (m) to utilize media resources to raise public awareness and provide information on early childhood development issues. (Ord. No. 3399, 9/16/91, Sec. 1)

Sec. 12-10-5 Staff assistants.

The director of human services and the superintendent of schools shall be jointly responsible for providing staff support to the commission to assist it in the exercise of its functions. (Ord. No. 3399, 9/16/91, Sec. 1)

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
SURVEY OF
EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS AND SERVICES
August 2006**

	PROGRAM	AREA OF SERVICE	AGE RANGE	FUNDING SOURCE(S)	# SERVED BY AGE				# UNSERVED BY AGE				
					0-1	2	3	4	0-1	2	3	4	
Early Intervention Services	Healthy Families Alexandria (Northern Virginia Family Service)	Intensive home visiting services to high-risk pregnant women and teens	Prenatal to 5	Children's Fund State of Virginia Foundations Grants	116	40	25	26	66				
	Prenatal Services and Child Health(Alexandria Health Dept.)	Comprehensive perinatal care, nutrition services (WIC) and nurse home visiting 1500 children 700 women	Prenatal care, family planning, WIC and Well-Child through age 4	Children's Fund & VA Dept. of Health (VDH) Federal Grant	These funds have allowed the Health Department to cut the waiting time for the first prenatal visit to fewer than 3 weeks.								
	Alexandria Resource Mothers	Intensive support services to pregnant and parenting teens	Prenatal to 3	Children's Fund State of Virginia Foundations Grants	74	40							
	PIE (Parent Infant Education)	Early intervention screening and treatment for developmental delays	Birth to 3	State of Virginia Federal Grant									
	Preschool Prevention Program	Science-based prevention program to increase social skills and decrease aggressive behavior & parent/teacher education/support	Two and one-half to 5	Children's Fund Virginia Tobacco Settlement Fund	429 social skills sessions 252 individual child mental health sessions 138 parent/child playgrps 28 parent workshops and many more.....								
	Alexandria City Public Schools K-Prep Program	Two week program at 11 schools to provide exposure to kindergarten prior to school opening for rising kindergarteners	All rising kindergarteners but targeted to those without a preschool experience	School Board Funded				363 ¹					
	Alexandria City Public Schools Preschool Program	Free quality early childhood education and comprehensive services in a center-based	4	Title I, Part A				16					

¹ Mostly 5 year olds

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
SURVEY OF
EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS AND SERVICES
August 2006**

	PROGRAM	AREA OF SERVICE	AGE RANGE	FUNDING SOURCE(S)	SERVED BY AGE				UNSERVED BY AGE					
					0-1	2	3	4	0-1	2	3	4		
		program												
	² CATCH (Child Assessment & Treatment Center for Health)	Medical, dental, developmental & mental health screenings.	0 – 5	City, State and Federal Funds	6	8	3	11						
	Child Find	Screening, evaluation and treatment for children diagnosed with a developmental delay	Targeted to children three to five but available to children of all ages if screened in and eligible											
Child Care Slots	Full-day child care centers (Accredited)	Quality early care and education and comprehensive services in a center-based program	Six weeks to 5 years (a few provide school age care)	Children's Fund CCDF ³ VPI ⁴ Parent fees	876									
	Full-day child care centers (Licensed)	Early care and education in center-based care	Six weeks to 5 years (a few provide school age care)	CCDF Parent fees	744									
	Part-day, part-year preschools (Accredited)	Quality early care and education and comprehensive services in a center-based program	Six weeks to 5 years	Parent fees	474									
	Part-day, part-year preschools (Licensed)	Early care and education in center-based program	Six months to 5 years	Parent fees	300									
	Part-day, part-year preschools (Exempt) ⁵	Early care and education in center-based program	Six months to 5 years	Parent fees	644									

² This program is only 4 months old and is looking at how best to expand services beyond children in foster care & founded Child Protective Service cases.

³ Child Care and Development Fund - Federal funding for assistance with child care costs for low-income families.

⁴ Virginia Preschool Initiative – state funding for at-risk four year olds based on the composite index that, for Alexandria, equals \$1,080 per child.

⁵ Programs that have applied for a religious exemption from licensure.

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
SURVEY OF
EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS AND SERVICES
August 2006**

	PROGRAM	AREA OF SERVICE	AGE RANGE	FUNDING SOURCE(S)	# SERVED BY AGE				# UNSERVED BY AGE				
					0-1	2	3	4	0-1	2	3	4	
Preschool Programs	Alexandria Head Start (The Campagna Center – delegate agency/City – grantee) (Duplicated count)	Quality early childhood education, before and after school child care, and comprehensive services in a center-based program	Three to 5 years (mostly 4s)	Federal Head Start grant Children's Fund General Fund Grants				265					70
	Early Head Start (Grantee – The Campagna Center)	Quality early childhood education in center-based care, family child care and in the child's home.	Birth to 3	Federal Early Head Start grant CCDF	60 children/families birth to three								
	Child and Family Network Centers	Quality early childhood education in center-based care with comprehensive services	Three to 5	Children's Fund Foundations Virginia Preschool Initiative CCDF				158 ⁶			65 ⁷		23 ²
	Virginia Preschool Initiative (Duplicates count in full-day, accredited programs)	Quality early childhood education in center-based care	At-risk children who are four no later than September 30	Virginia Department of Education (20% of \$5400 or \$1080 per child)				204					
Financial Assistance	TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) Child Care	Financial assistance with child care costs to families on public assistance to allow them to participate in training, education or job search.	Birth through 12 and up to 21 if child has special needs.	Federally mandated program for all eligible families	0-15 mos 13	16-23 mos 5	2-5 yrs 49		Funding is available for all eligible families.				

⁶ 143 is the current enrollment. If the program receives additional funding for Head Start slots in Arlington, they will be able to add an additional 16 children in Alexandria, where classroom space has been already been identified.

⁷ This is the wait list as of 8/16/2006. The program receives new applications each day. Typically, by September, the program has a wait list of 85 to 100.

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
SURVEY OF
EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS AND SERVICES
August 2006**

	PROGRAM	AREA OF SERVICE	AGE RANGE	FUNDING SOURCES	# SERVED BY AGE				# UNSERVED BY AGE							
					0-1	2	3	4	0-1	2	3	4				
	Transitional Child Care	Financial assistance with child care costs for up to twelve months after a family leaves public assistance, if eligible.	Birth through 12 and up to 21 if child has special needs.	Federally mandated program for all eligible families	0-15 mos 3	16-23 mos 6	2-5 yrs 40					Funding is available for all eligible families.				
	Child Day Care Fee System	Financial assistance for income eligible families to allow them to work, to school or participate in training	Birth through 12 and up to 21 if child has special needs.	Federal program available to the limit of available funding Currently has waiting list of 191 families.	0-15 mos 46	16-23 mos 43	2-5 yrs 266					The waiting list for the Fee System is 364 children.				
Comprehensive Services	SCAN (Stop Child Abuse Now) ▶ABC's of Parenting Classes (Eng/Spanish) ▶Success by Six® Playgroups ▶Parent Support Groups (English/Spanish)	▶Parent education that results in behavioral changes ▶Facilitated parent-child interaction and modeling to stimulate early childhood development ▶Parenting information, workshops and referrals to services. ▶Self-help education parent support groups using Circle of Parents® model	Birth to 5	Children's Fund Community Partnership Fund, United Way, Alexandria Women's Giving Circle, Virginia Family Violence Prevention Program, and other grants/donations	25	28	17	10					Waiting list of 20 families			
	Family Support Project ⁸	Comprehensive health and social services provided to families and children and certain accredited child care centers	Six weeks to five years	Children's Fund	314 families/children ages 2 through 5											

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⁸ This program serves a limited number of centers in the City and the current level of funding serves only the families and children enrolled in those centers. Accreditation is a requirement for participation in this project and, at this point, no other centers serving at-risk children have met that requirement.

Legend

● Family_Provider

□ Alexandria

Alexandria Child Care - Family Providers

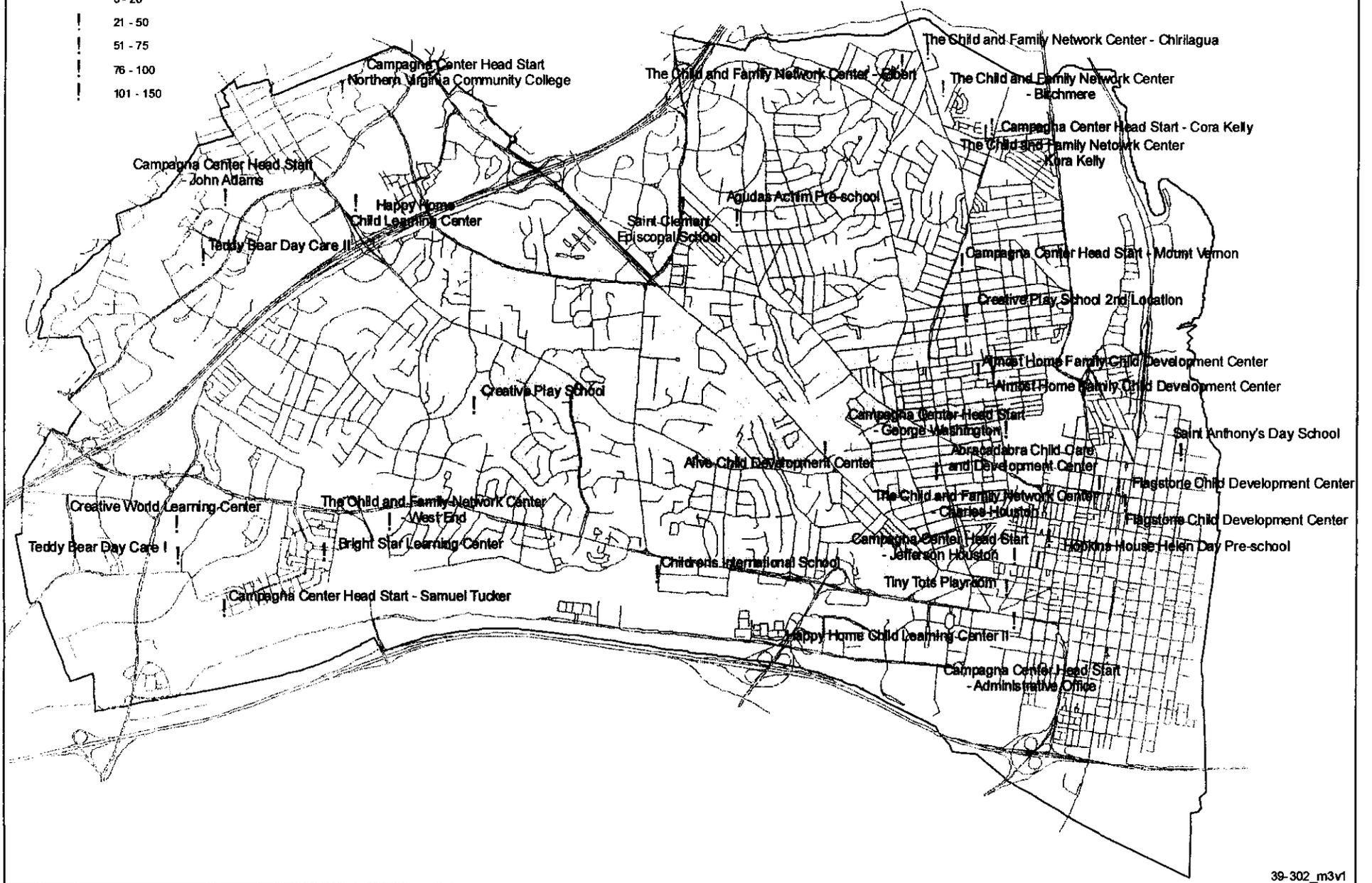


Alexandria Child Care Centers

Child Care Centers

Enrollment

- 0 - 20
- 21 - 50
- 51 - 75
- 76 - 100
- 101 - 150



Child Care Centers Preschools

Enrollment	Enrollment	Enrollment
0 - 20	# 0 - 20	
21 - 50	# 21 - 50	
51 - 75	# 51 - 75	
76 - 100	# 76 - 100	
101 - 150	# 101 - 150	

Alexandria Child Care Centers and Preschools



Profile of the 2005-2006 Kindergarten Students With No Preschool Experience

September 2006

MONITORING AND EVALUATION SERVICES

INFORMATION
FOR



DECISION-MAKING

ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Profile of the 2005-2006 Kindergarten Students With No Preschool Experience

MONITORING AND EVALUATION SERVICES

ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Christina Theokas, Ph.D.
Primary Author

Monte E. Dawson
Executive Director

Lydia A. D'Alois, Ph.D.
Analyst

Brian Reid, Ph.D.
Analyst

Rose Alston
Administrative Secretary

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Profile of the 2005-2006 Kindergarten Students with no Preschool Experience

Report Highlights

- The percentage of entering kindergarteners with no preschool experience in Alexandria is declining: 35% of the 2005-2006 class did not have a structured preschool experience, compared to 53% in 2001-2002.
- The families, whose children were not enrolled in preschool prior to entering ACPS in 2005, were clustered in three main parts of the city, along the western border of the city, on the east and west sides of northern Mount Vernon Ave. and along central Duke Street.
- Students in Home Care settings were disproportionately Hispanic, speak a language other than English at home and are classified as Disadvantaged using the proxy of free and reduced price lunch status.
- Students in Home Care were less prepared to enter school, that is they scored 10-26 points below that of students with other types of pre-kindergarten experience on the Phonological Awareness of Literacy Screening and were less likely to attend the Kindergarten Prep Program.
- Students with no preschool experience had less successful first years in school; they were more likely to be retained in kindergarten (8%) and referred to summer school (40%).

Overview

Alexandria City Public Schools have consistently collected data on the pre-kindergarten status of children registering for kindergarten. The student registration form asks parents to indicate if their child attended Head Start, a full-day child care center, a half-day preschool or nursery school program or was in home-based care with a family child care provider, baby-sitter or parent/relative. Over the past five years, on average, approximately 30% of entering kindergarten students have not had a structured preschool experience (see Appendix 1). In addition, the status of approximately 18% of students is unknown. Anecdotal evidence suggests that these students were most likely also in home care, thus increasing the number of students with no preschool experience to nearly 50%. The percentage of students in home care or with an unknown status has declined over the past five years from 53% to 35%. Although the percentage of students has been steadily declining, the city of Alexandria and the Early Childhood Task Force hope to proactively address the issue and expand quality preschool access for all residents. Their efforts are in response to research that demonstrates that preschool programs can provide both academic and social benefits for children, particularly children from low socioeconomic or educationally disadvantaged backgrounds.

A preschool work group was convened to further explore which children do not attend preschool and potential contributing factors. Staff from various city offices and community members have collaborated to share information (Deborah Warren, Division Director, Child, Family and Prevention Services; Veronica Aberle, Nurse Manager, Alexandria Health Department; Carol Farrell, Director, Department of Human Services, Office of Early Childhood Development; Allison Anderson, GIS Specialist, Department of Planning and Zoning; Cathy David, Deputy Superintendent, ACPS; Monte Dawson, Executive Director Monitoring and Evaluation, ACPS; Sean McEneaney, Chamber of Commerce; Susan Johnson, Chair, Early Childhood

Commission). ACPS explored the following five questions to add to the body of knowledge regarding the needs of young children who do not attend preschool:

1. Where were the families of ACPS kindergarten students with no preschool experience living during the 2004-2005 school year?
2. Do the ACPS kindergarten students with no preschool experience currently have younger siblings? Will they attend preschool during the 2006-2007 school year?
3. What are the salient demographic characteristics of the kindergarten students with no preschool experience (e.g., gender, ethnicity, free or reduced lunch status, LEP status, SPED status, home language)?
4. Did the 2005-2006 kindergarten students with no preschool experience arrive at school ready to learn?
5. How successful were the 2005-2006 kindergarten students with no preschool experience?

To answer the above noted questions, data were drawn from two sources. First, data were extracted from school records for all kindergarten students entering ACPS for the 2005-2006 school year (N = 1,018). These data allow for comparisons among children with different types of preschool experience. Types of data extracted included demographic characteristics, test scores, and school status variables. Second, a brief survey was developed and mailed in August 2006 to those families whose children did not have a structured preschool experience (see Appendix 2). The survey was in both English and Spanish. The total sample of children with no preschool experience included 363 families; however ACPS records indicated that 46 of those students left ACPS before the conclusion of the school year. Thus a possible 317 families were surveyed, of whom 95 chose to complete the survey (participation rate = 30%). The survey results were linked with the demographic and academic data collected from student records, so the data could be analyzed by various subgroups of interest. The survey data should be interpreted with caution, as they represent a nonrandom sample of the families. These families may differ in ways from families who chose not to respond to the survey. The data are presented for illustrative purposes and to bring some light to bear on the questions posed by the Early Childhood Task Force.

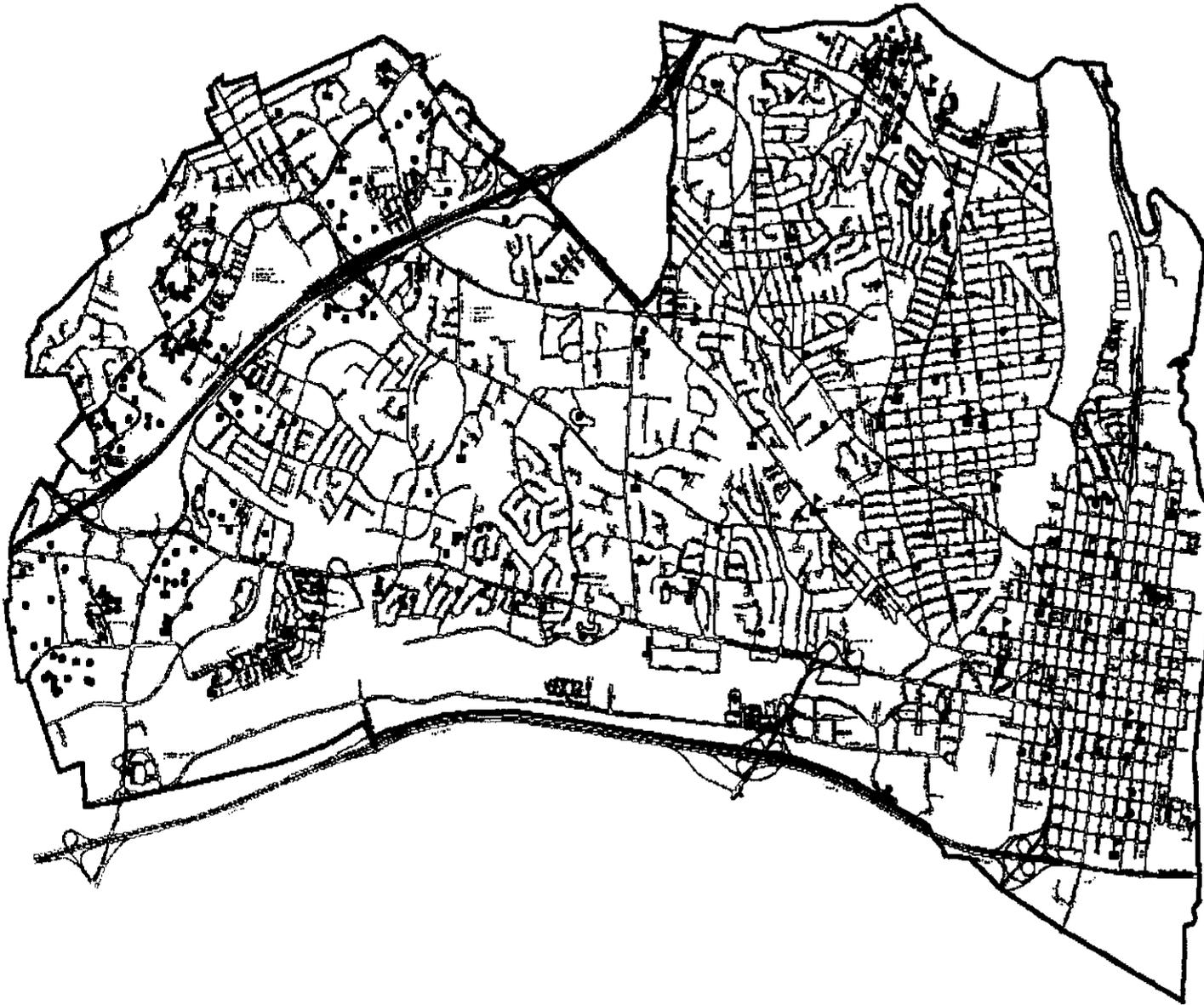
Results

Question 1: Where were the families of ACPS kindergarten students with no preschool experience living during the 2004-2005 school year?

Ninety-five percent of the families who responded to the survey indicated that they were living in Alexandria during the 2004-2005 school year.

In collaboration with Allison Anderson at the Alexandria Department of Planning and Zoning, Figure 1 was created which visually depicts the location of the residences of the families with kindergarteners with no preschool experience, as well as the location of preschools available in Alexandria, as of the Fall 2005. The families live disproportionately along the western border of Alexandria with a cluster in the north on either side of Mount Vernon Ave and another cluster along Duke Street.

Figure 1



Kindergartners with no Preschool Experience

2005 - 2006 School Year

Legend

- Students with no Preschool
- 🏠 Preschools

0 1,950 3,500

Feet

1:30,000

N



This map was produced by the GIS Division of the Department of Planning and Zoning, City of Alexandria, Virginia.

Map Date: 08/08/2006
Map Scale: 1:30,000
Map Projection: UTM

The map data was derived from the City of Alexandria's GIS database. The data was last updated on 08/08/2006. The map is for informational purposes only and should not be used for legal or financial decisions.

Map Produced:
08-08-2006
GIS Division



Question 2: Do the ACPS kindergarten students with no preschool experience currently have younger siblings? Will they attend preschool during the 2006-2007 school year?

Forty-seven percent (N = 45) of the ACPS 2005-2006 kindergarteners that did not attend preschool have younger siblings that are preschool age. Of this group of children, parents reported that 57% will not attend preschool this year.

Parents were also asked about the characteristics of preferred daycare/preschool options for their neighborhood. A majority (60%) indicated that they would like full-day programs as opposed to half-day programs (21%; 19% were undecided). Parents were also asked if they preferred family care (14%), programs affiliated with a religious institution (17%) or center-based programs (40%; 29% were undecided).

Question 3: What are the salient demographic characteristics of the kindergarten students with no preschool experience (e.g., gender, ethnicity, free or reduced lunch status, LEP status, SPED status, home language)?

Table 1 displays the pre-kindergarten status of 2005-2006 students by relevant demographic characteristics. Gender is the only characteristic that is equally distributed within all types of preschool experience. Home Care students are majority Hispanic 44%, followed by Black (31%). Head Start and full-day programs are majority Black (49% and 46% respectively), while half-day programs are predominantly White (61%). Nearly 50% of the Home Care students are classified as ESL and 60% speak a language other than English at home. The language most often spoken at home is Spanish (38%), but other languages are represented as well. In addition, 58% of Home Care students are classified as disadvantaged, which is more than students who had full-day or half-day preschool experiences, but less than children who attended Head Start (72%). Home Care students are least likely to be classified as receiving special education services (6%). In sum, these frequencies demonstrate that the population of children not attending preschool may be doing so less by choice and more due to lack of financial resources or an ability to be able to research and find options in the community due to communication barriers.

experienced by children in more advantaged homes. The brief survey sent to parents of children not attending preschool included two questions to understand how often parents and children read together and the number of books the child has. Table 2 shows that overall, 53% of parents read to their child at least once per day. Only 17% read a few times a month or rarely to their child. The frequency with which children are read to varied by disadvantaged status and ethnicity, within this small sample of families who did not send their child to preschool, 68% of non-disadvantage families read to their children everyday, while only 37% of disadvantaged families did. This behavior also varied across ethnic group, White parents were most likely to read to their children every day (76%), followed by Black (45%) and Hispanic (33%). A similar pattern was observed for the number of books children own.

TABLE 2
Frequency of Parental Book Reading and Children's Books in Home
by Ethnicity and Disadvantage Status

	Total (%)	White (%)	Black (%)	Hispanic (%)	Disadvantaged (%)
Parental Bookreading					
At least once a day	53	76	45	33	37
Few Times a week	31	24	48	23	40
Few times a month	11	0	4	27	13
Rarely	6	0	4	17	10
# Books					
1-2	13	0	15	20	15
3-9	19	5	30	17	25
>10	68	95	56	63	60

Readiness for school was also examined with an additional piece of data. ACPS offers a free Kindergarten Prep Program (K-Prep) at all elementary schools except for Samuel Tucker and Mount Vernon, as these two schools follow a modified calendar and begin school during the summer. The program is two weeks and is designed to introduce new kindergarteners to their respective schools and classrooms to help them be prepared for early success in school. Participation in K-Prep was analyzed for all entering kindergarten students by pre-kindergarten status. K-Prep participation was approximately 32% for the 2005-2006 kindergarten class. There was limited variation by pre-kindergarten status, although children who were in home care participated the least (28%), followed by Head Start children (32%), half-day (34.5%) and full-day students (35.4%).

The final piece of data examined to answer the question regarding children’s readiness for school was children’s scores on the Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS) that is done with all kindergarten students in the fall. Table 3 displays PALS results by pre-kindergarten status of kindergarten students. As can be seen, Home Care students were least likely to pass the test (65%). Their average scaled score was 10-26 points below that of students with other types of pre-kindergarten experience.

TABLE 3
Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening Results by Pre-Kindergarten Status
Fall 2005

	Head Start (%)	Full Day Care (%)	Half Day Care (%)	Home Care and UNK (%)
Pass				
Yes	83	78	89	65
No	17	22	11	35
Average Scaled Score	55	53	69	43

Question 5: How successful were the kindergarten students with no preschool experience?

Three discrete pieces of data were examined to learn how the kindergarten class functioned and performed over the school year. Table 4 presents the data by pre-kindergarten status. All students demonstrated excellent attendance, with insignificant differences between groups. However, Home Care students were most likely to be retained in kindergarten (8%) and referred to summer school (40%). These results are consistent with what you would expect, given that the students enter kindergarten less ready to learn (e.g., lower PALS scores, fewer literacy experiences at home). They are not able to “catch up” over the course of a school year and need more time to learn kindergarten skills. Nearly half (48%) are not ready to progress to first grade without some form of intervention. Many students from Head Start or those that attended full day programs were also referred to summer school, but the frequency of retention of those students was far less.

TABLE 4
School Functioning by Pre-Kindergarten Status

	Head Start (%)	Full Day Care (%)	Half Day Care (%)	Home Care and UNK (%)
School Attendance	95	96	95	94
Retained in Kindergarten	3	4	2	8
Referred to Summer School	33	30	14	40

Conclusions and Recommendations

The data presented in this report represent a first effort at examining the demographic characteristics and school performance of ACPS students who have not had a structured preschool experience, prior to entry in kindergarten. The themes observed are compelling and in many cases reinforce conceptions of the Early Childhood Task Force and research that has been conducted about the advantages of quality preschool education for children, especially less advantaged children. Although the data are limited in some respects (e.g., the small sample size for the survey data), the findings nonetheless warrant attention and suggest potential avenues for intervention to support the positive development of Alexandria’s youngest children.

The following are recommendations to consider as the Early Childhood Task Force continues its work:

- Review data on research based programs, types of experiences and time needed that will help kindergarten students “catch up” to their peers in regard to literacy and school readiness skills.
- Develop specific educational programs, resources and support for students and their families who enroll in kindergarten with no preschool experience.
- Provide community outreach to families for whom English is a second language that focuses on resources in the community for preschool age children, educational opportunities available at ACPS (e.g., K-Prep) and how to create a literacy rich environment in the home. ACPS staffs Bilingual Parent Liasons that can be utilized in this capacity. In particular, they can target families that report younger siblings in the home when they enroll kindergarten students.
- Finally, the data collected during kindergarten registration should be reviewed for potential changes that might improve the quality of the data regarding pre-kindergarten experiences and thus the understanding of the needs of children and their families.

APPENDIX 1
Alexandria City Public Schools
Pre-Kindergarten Status of
End of Year Kindergarten Students 2001-02 through 2005-06

Year	Head Start	Full Day Care	Half Day Care	Home Care	Unknown ^a	Total
2001-02	132 (13%)	194 (19%)	156 (15%)	353 (34%)	197 (19%)	1032
2002-03	135 (13%)	212 (21%)	145 (14%)	395 (39%)	131 (13%)	1018
2003-04	160 (15%)	199 (19%)	179 (17%)	208 (20%)	313 (30%)	1059
2004-05 ^b	170 (17%)	194 (19%)	199 (20%)	271 (27%)	170 (17%)	1004
2005-06 ^c	198 (19%)	259 (25%)	204 (20%)	281 (28%)	76 (7%)	1018

^a Anecdotal evidence suggests that students with an unknown pre-kindergarten status were probably in Home Care.

^b As of April 5, 2005.

^c As of October 31, 2005

APPENDIX 2

Survey Questions for Families with Children Who Did Not Preschool

[Red Bracketed Text] indicates frequency of response.

1. Was your family living in Alexandria during the 2004-2005 school year?
 Yes [95%] No **If no, where were you living?**
 - Another city in Virginia [3%]
 - Maryland
 - D.C.
 - Another state [1%]
 - Out of the country [1%]

2. Are there presently any children in your household that are preschool age (less than 5 years old)?
 Yes [47%] No [53%]

If yes, Will he or she attend preschool this year?
 - No [57%] Yes [43%]

3. What type of preschool options would you like in your neighborhood?
Choose one: Half Day [21%] Full Day [60%] Don't Know [19%] Choose one: Center Care [40%] Family Based Care [14%] Religious affiliation [17%] Don't Know [29%]

4. How many times in the past month did you read (stories) with your child who was in kindergarten last year?
 More than once a day [17%]
 About once a day [36%]
 A few times a week [31%]
 A few times a month [11%]
 Rarely [6%]
 Not at all [0%]

5. About how many books does your child, who was in kindergarten last year, have?
 0 [0%]
 1-2 [13%]
 3-9 [19%]
 >10 [68%]

To assist the Council in making decisions regarding funding recommendations, the following cost per unit information is offered:

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION COST PER SERVICE UNIT			
SERVICE	UNIT	COST/UNIT	MINIMUM GROUP SIZE¹
Preschool classroom/9.5 mos. w/ comprehensive services	Child/Family	\$9,800/year/child	16
School-based preschool classroom/9.5 months	Child	\$9,000/year/child (not including in-kind contributions)	16
Private preschool classroom 12 months	Child	\$10,000/year/child	No minimum/eligible children are integrated into existing classrooms
Head Start/12 month prog	Child	\$7,700/year/child	16
Early Head Start/12 month program	Child	\$13,000/child/Classroom \$13,000/child/Family Child Care \$7,000/child/Home Based	
Healthy Families Alexandria/home visits for 12 months	Families/Children and Teen Mothers/Child	\$3,580/year/family	25 families per family support worker
Alexandria Resource Mothers	Teen Mothers	\$1,200 per teen mom and child	25 -30 families per caseworker
Family Support Project	Children/Families		No minimum
Preschool Prevention Project	Children/Families/Teachers	\$223 per person	No minimum
SCAN Parenting Classes	Family (2 parents/2 children)	Up to \$1,360 per family	n/a
SCAN Success by Six Collaboration (Developmental Playgroups)	Parents/Children	\$231/family	n/a
SCAN Educational Parent Support Groups	Parents/Children	\$402 per participant	
DHS Teen Parent Education Groups	Pregnant or Parenting Teen	\$1,500/teen	15 teens
Child Day Care Fee System	Family/Child	\$6,108/year/child	No minimum

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¹ Most programs have a minimum group size for the most cost efficient delivery of services. One exception to this rule would be income eligible children being served in child care centers where they are integrated into existing classrooms along with children whose parents pay the full cost of care. An example would be children whose families are eligible for one of the DHS child care assistance programs.



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10-24-06

**ITEM 5
PRELIMINARY 2007-2008 BUDGET HEARING
HOUSING -- ONE-PENNY AND A BOND
OCT. 24, 2006**

Mayor Euille and members of the City Council, I am speaking on behalf of the Alexandria Housing Action coalition. As you know, we are a diverse group with interests spanning the Urban League; Tenants and Workers United; the Commission on Aging; Community Services Board; faith communities; fire, police and teachers unions; and the Chamber of Commerce.

I am here to request the continuation of the one-penny for housing preservation and the issuance of a second bond for housing, either this fiscal year or in 2007-2008.

Alexandria has laid a strong foundation for the addition and preservation of affordable housing. By working together, we have:

- Made affordable housing a city goal
- Allocated one percent of the property tax for affordable housing
- Approved a \$22 million bond for housing
- Created the Alexandria Housing Development Corporation
- Updated the guidelines for voluntary developer contributions
- Begun to look at project approval processes and local codes that would facilitate affordable housing
- Hired Helen McIlvanie to head preservation efforts
- And most importantly, the City has established a "team" approach to secure affordable housing -- "team" meaning creative and cooperative work by the offices of the Manager, Housing, Planning and Zoning and TE&S.

To date, we have preserved five projects that include over 300 affordable units and we have increased the contributions of affordable units in new developments. However, the final proof of our efforts must be the continuous securing of affordable housing for our workforces and lower income households.

The coming year will be an important one for preservation. First, the demand for affordable rental will increase. Some hopeful homebuyers must accept rentals. Second, the opportunity to secure apartments will improve with the decrease in condo conversions. Third, a weaker real estate market will allow the City to secure more properties, dollar for dollar. We must be in position to act quickly, when those opportunities present themselves.

To keep our momentum, the one-penny for housing must be continued. We also ask the Council to issue a second bond for housing this fiscal year or in 2007-2008. By acting quickly we can obtain better interest rates.

We also urge the City to continue to support the other important home ownership, rental assistance, tax abatement programs that are now in place.

Thank you.
Nancy Carson and James Hoben
Co-Chairs
Housing Action

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10-24-06

October 24, 2006
Docket #5 – Speaker #40

My name is Justin Clarke. I reside at 1503 Hancock Avenue.

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council, I would like to voice my support for parks spending as a priority in the City's 2008 budget. I am speaking as a member of the Del Ray Citizen's Association where I am it's Adopt A Park Committee Chair.

First, I would like to endorse the remarks made by Larry Altenburg of the Del Ray Citizens Association and strongly urge the Council to use Open Space funds to purchase 1 & 7 E. Del Ray Avenue and 2309 Mount Vernon Avenue. There are several reasons why these acquisitions would be a prudent use of City funds.

- A. Most importantly, both sites scored 15 out of 15 in a ranking by the Open Space Steering Committee
- B. The Mount Vernon Avenue site was also identified as a valuable location of open space in the adopted Mt. Vernon Avenue Plan.
- C. In addition, the Del Ray Community is committed to enhancing the Commonwealth greenway. We have used Adopt A Park funds to commission a land use study of the corridor by graduate students at Virginia Tech. Purchase of the East Del Ray Avenue properties would strengthen this vital green corridor and expand Del Ray's small network of pocket parks.

My second point is that park maintenance needs to be incorporated in the 2008 City budget. I am inspired by the network of volunteers who pick up trash in our parks, spend their free time maintaining them or supplementing them with plantings. That said, all of our park space is well used, and some of it overused. I strongly urge the City to fully adopt continued review of planting projects and facilities throughout the City's heavily used parks.

My third point concerns the inclusion of residents in park planning projects. I am encouraged by the planning efforts for Mason Park, but request that City staff be allocated to support public outreach for park improvement initiatives. To that end the Del Ray Citizens Association looks forward to the opportunity to help plan for expansions to Simpson Park in association with the Route 1 realignment.

In conclusion,

1. I urge the City Council to purchase 1 & 7 East Del Ray Avenue and 2309 Mount Vernon Avenue with Open Space funds.
2. I also encourage the Council to place maintenance and upkeep of existing park facilities and plantings as a priority in the 2008 budget.
3. And I encourage City staff to continually engage the residents of Del Ray in upcoming park planning projects including work already underway in Mason and Simpson parks.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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10-24-06

My name is Carla Hays Jones and I'm the Executive Director of Eclipse Chamber Orchestra, now in its 15th season, which performs 3 concerts annually at the George Washington Masonic Memorial. At this very minute, the Orchestra is in a recording session for Naxos at the Masonic Memorial. For the last couple of years, fundraising musicales have been held to raise money to begin the recording project, but we need additional funds, and, Council, this is where your increase is so important. You could assure that the project is completed. Thank you.

Elleo Stanton

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10-24-06

PROPOSAL TO CITY COUNCIL FOR A TASK FORCE AS
RECOMMENDED BY THE HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA RESOURCES
COMMISSION

Members:

1 member from City Council
Director of the Office of Historic Alexandria
Representative from the City Attorney's Office
Representative from General Services
3 members of HARC

Purpose:

- 1) To affirm the City's duty and obligation to care for the historic sites that it owns.
- 2) To determine a long term plan for the preservation, restoration, and maintenance of our historic resources together with a firm commitment for funding utilizing the Alexandria Historic Facilities Capital Improvement and Maintenance Survey as well as the cyclical maintenance plan developed by the Office of Historic Alexandria. This task force will report its findings to City Council by March 1, 2007.
- 3) To discuss how roadblocks to maintenance, such as insufficient bids for projects, might be overcome.
- 4) To assist the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission in establishing an endowment for providing additional funds to these sites and providing funds for the non-City owned historic sites in the City of Alexandria. The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission has launched a project to provide the initial money for this endowment by producing an activity book for children about our historic sites.

October 23, 2006

The Honorable William D. Euille
City of Alexandria
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Re: East Linden Street Culvert and Storm Sewer Issues

cc: Vice Mayor and Council Members

Dear Mr. Mayor:

This letter is to address the storm water management issue the East Linden Neighborhood has been trying to get resolved, to no avail. At every juncture our correspondence receives a reply, and we appreciate Ms Baker again providing a response to the concerns of the East Linden Street culvert situation. However, we continue to find the responses inadequate and it is now necessary to further our actions for a response that will show some efforts on the part of the City of Alexandria to provide the following:

- Immediate and short term relief that will minimize the damage to our properties from the catastrophic events this neighborhood continues to endure.
- Intermediate solutions to properly maintain the culvert and surrounding areas to minimize the extent of damage from the flooding for this neighborhood.
- Long term solutions as outlined in Ms Bakers e-mail, which include studies and the necessary funding to get this project completed.

It is no longer acceptable for the City to simply respond with an explanation that the City's standard for storm sewer design is for what is expected to occur on a ten-year interval. The flooding of our homes and vehicles on East Linden Street has occurred on numerous occasions since 2001 and we have not received any satisfaction from our previous discussions with different City Departments. The final straw of these episodes was the flooding this past June and here we are in October with no plausible solutions.

We are not talking inches of water puddling in our back yards or in the street on Braddock Road and West Street. We are talking events marked by several feet of water overflowing the culvert and running directly into our homes and vehicles. Incidents large enough that a Metro bus ended up on one neighbor's front yard, and cars traveling down the street became submerged and unable to continue to operate due to the flooding. These incidents blocked access to East Linden Street and required tow truck assistance to remove the vehicles and allow traffic to continue after the water receded. Should emergency vehicles been required for this area, they would not have been able to pass.

The burden of these situations has been placed directly on home owners of East Linden Street and we can no longer be reasonably expected to be the release valve and recipient of the City's overflow until conditions permit the water to flow elsewhere. The circumstances are severe enough to have become a public nuisance with safety, health, and environmental implications. The City of Alexandria must step forward and accept its responsibility before it becomes negligent in its duties.

It is imperative that you understand the history of events that have led us to this letter. It was not just the event of the June 2006 rain that brought us to the point of addressing this matter. Rather it is the culmination of events leading up to and including the June rain that necessitates a response and resolution from the City that will ensure the safety of its residents and minimize the cost and damage incurred from each recurring flood event.

This letter will:

- Define the problem in detail;
- Offer viable and acceptable short term solutions
- Provide the City with documentation of our area with circumstances to be studied.

Although we have been told that "this was a one time occurrence," or "we haven't had this in over 100 years," the City has documented four events in the last four years which produced flooding from the culvert:

June 18, 2002 – June 19, 2002	Precipitation amount: 0.63 inches
June 19, 2003	Precipitation amount: 1.61 inches
September 18, 2003	Precipitation amount: 2.28 inches
June 25, 2006	Precipitation amount: 5.19 inches

Flooding occurs even with small amounts of precipitation, however, along with the number of events having increased over the past years, the amount of flood water being pushed toward our homes has also increased dramatically. Even though we have taken precautions of our own, each successive flooding event is of greater impact and more costly to repair. The flooding incidents create additional safety, health, and environmental issues such as mosquito and mold spore infestation after each occurrence.

We are located a mile west of any recognized flood areas. We are not in a federal flood zone. We believe the circumstances we are experiencing are from development of the City (at both ends) without adequate attention being paid to upgrade the current drainage system. Although we are not standing on our roof tops with signs that say "Help Me," we are asking that you rescue us from these recurring events.

The culvert along East Linden Street is part of a storm sewer system that begins over near Braddock Road Metro Station and outfalls into Hoofs Run on the south side of the City. Our area is located just east of Commonwealth Avenue, south of Maple Avenue, and north of Rosemont Avenue. As shown by the Google Earth Map, the culvert in question

is open and extends from the south side of Maple Avenue to East Linden Street where it is again covered down through Hoofs Run. When the system backs up or is overloaded with drainage water, this open space becomes the release valve for the system and the water pushes out of the culvert, over the lot owned and maintained by the City, and into our property and structures. Each of the four documented overflows has affected the townhouses directly next to the culvert as well as houses on both sides of East Linden Street in the immediate area. The event in June produced over 2 ½ feet of overflow from the culvert and standing water in our yards. No pumps could sustain the immediacy of the onslaught and it took over 24 hours for the culvert drainage system to again function properly.

Each time the East Linden Neighborhood was left to fend for itself as we cleaned up our property and houses. We have lost treasures such as family pictures and artifacts, as well as furniture (some antique), appliances, and tools, without restitution. We have had to replace carpet and drywall, and replace and repair electrical systems. We have had to replace and repair car engines and other parts, and treat car and house interiors to remove the residue and stench. It is not without caution that we proceed with each reconstruction and repair knowing there is not a solution forthcoming from the City on this issue. Therefore we are petitioning the City to move forward expeditiously and before the next occurrence.

Immediate and Short Term Relief that will minimize the damage to our properties from the catastrophic events this neighborhood continues to endure:

The East Linden Neighborhood requests the City of Alexandria be accountable for providing services that will minimize the damage to our properties and make the culvert an insignificant impact on this neighborhood. These should be ongoing and in conjunction with the intermediate and long term solutions. It entails lessening the effects of the flooding while the City attempts to conduct their studies, put their plan together, and provide a resolution to this continual problem. The response from the City Engineer was inadequate and unacceptable. The e-mail stated "we have not been able to identify anything that would alleviate the problem you are experiencing." Engineers are trained to solve these types of situations.

It is unacceptable that the City of Alexandria does not accept its responsibility in this situation and move quickly to correct this untenable situation. Response from the City Engineer indicates that "the City performed an analysis a few years ago to look at the causes of this flooding and begin exploring some solutions." We were told the Army Corps of Engineers was conducting a study of Hoofs Run, and now the City is "currently in the process of hiring a consultant engineering firm to assist us with the next phase of the project, namely to identify alternative solutions to this problem and develop cost estimates for these alternatives."

The East Linden Neighborhood sought advice from an expert land excavator who assessed the land next to the culvert as not being properly maintained by the City. He determined that the City has not properly maintained the land (driveway and culvert

access area) over the years which contributed toward creating additional problems for the houses adjacent to the culvert. This area was originally paved with concrete and when repaired, macadam was added on top of the concrete. Years later stone/gravel was placed on top of that. This process has raised the elevation of the land next to the culvert and in the alley higher than the back lots of the houses. When water erupts out of the culvert it gushes over the top of the driveway and down toward the townhouse lots located next to the driveway. Additionally, this topography does not allow any egress for the water back into the culvert.

Attempts to provide relief on the part of the City have now created more of a drainage problem. The recent attempts of the City to clean up this area obstructed the ditch that was leading water out of the lots into the culvert. There is now additional ponding of water in areas where it did not previously exist.

The recommendation of our independent consultant was to remove the existing concrete, macadam, and stone/gravel and replace it with drainage rock (to create a sort of dry well with progressive pools) so that the water would seep into the area without rushing toward the townhouses. This would not affect any other areas and would serve to reduce the amount of water currently flowing toward the houses. It would also provide a release back to the culvert when the water receded. The impact of the amount of water flowing toward the townhouses would be lessened and the owners would be better able to handle a couple of inches of water versus the amount of water currently being dealt with.

Intermediate solutions on the City of Alexandria's part to properly maintain the culvert and surrounding areas to minimize the extent of damage from the flooding for this neighborhood.

Raising the wall on the east side is another option to reduce the amount of water overflowing the culvert and toward the townhouses. It is obvious that the wall on the east-side of culvert is lower than the west-side of the culvert creating an uneven distribution flow as the water seeks its lowest point. As the culvert fills, the water moves toward the east-side and overflows into the townhouse lots. This process could be alleviated by raising the wall 2 ½ feet to 3 feet higher or at least even with the west-side wall and provide a buffer of sorts to minimize the amount of water cascading over the east-side of the wall.

Capping the culvert is another solution to lessen the effects of the water over run into the homes. There are no other areas in the City that have an exposed culvert such as ours and it is unrealistic for the City to expect the East Linden Neighborhood to be the release valve for the City and hold their water for them. The signs state: "Property of the City of Alexandria, No Trespassing." It is clearly the responsibility of the City of Alexandria to properly maintain the culvert and the surrounding areas.

Long term solutions as you have outlined in your e-mail, which include studies and the necessary funding to get this project completed.

The East Linden Neighborhood understands that studies need to be performed and analysis done to provide a long term solution for this problem. **We request that the East Linden Street Neighborhood be included in all of the appropriate studies, plans, and budgets necessary to get this completed in the most expeditious time frame.** But the City must also understand that fixing the Braddock Road / West Street which runs into our culvert may also seriously impact an already worsening flooding situation on East Linden Street. Until then, some short term solutions also require attention so that we are not continually being flooded.

Summary

The impact of this continual flooding is far more beyond the cleanup. It is affecting the value of our homes and increasing the cost of living in the Alexandria area. Knowing there is no resolution leaves us vulnerable to not only to the immediate cost of flood damage, but to a significant financial loss when selling our homes. Had we known this upon purchase we would have looked elsewhere. There has not been any adjustment to the value assessed on our properties and we look to the City to maintain the full value of our homes by providing the proper and necessary services.

The East Linden Neighborhood has previously taken our cause to City Departments, and individual City of Alexandria Council members to no avail. Although each has shown concern, none have adequately responded with a time for completion or a resolution to our problem. It is unfathomable that the City has not responded with due diligence to correct this situation. Immediately after each flooding event we were advised they would look into it, and most recently requested 30 days to look into the East Linden Neighborhood flooding problem. To date no recommendations for improvement have been offered. We have been instructed that they will prioritize areas of known problems and if approved the budget request will be included in the CIP for FY08, meaning dollars would not be available until July 1, 2007. It is incredible to think that a full year will pass before anything is done to correct this situation. We request the City live up to their enforcement of safety, health, and environmental issues.

The East Linden Neighborhood requests that we be included in all of the studies, plans, and budget requests, and that any chance to perform some of the short term fixes and intermediate solutions be taken into consideration along the way and prior to next year. We invite you and each of the Council Members to our homes to view and review our concerns, so that each of you might have a better understanding of the situation. We ask that you take our concerns under consideration. We look forward to positive results.

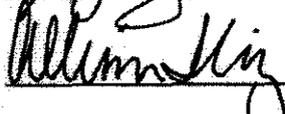
Sincerely,

Signature

Print Name

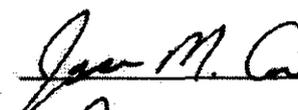
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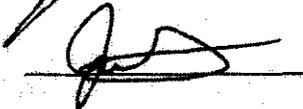
 Kevin Fleming 26A E. Linden St

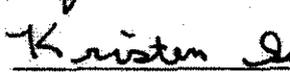
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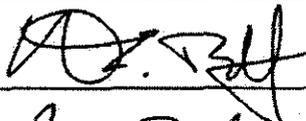
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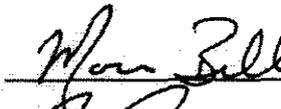
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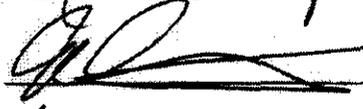
 Jason M. Conley 24 E. Linden St.

 Joe Schulte 27 E. Linden St

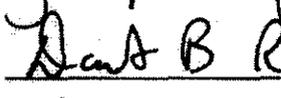
 Kristin Schulte 27 E. Linden St

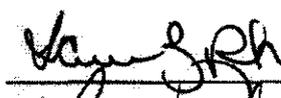
 Hans Billger 22 A E. Linden Street

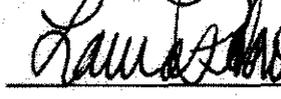
 Monica Billger 22A E. Linden St.

 Hans M. van Goethem 25 E. Linden Street.

 Jennifer van Goethem 25 E. Linden Street

 DAVID B. RHODES 28 E. Linden Street

 LAURA Z RHODES 28 E LINDEN ST

 Laura Z Rhodes 26 E. Linden St



**St Martin de Porres Senior Center
City Council Meeting**

Contract amount for 2006 \$68,050.04
Amount requested for 2008 \$78,491.80

This is only a 15% (\$10,441.76) increase over last year and represents a 30% (\$18,113.49) increase since 2002 corresponding to program growth in average daily clients served and programs offered.

St. Martin's program has grown 50.29% (\$198,631.08) since June 2002. The City of Alexandria contract has increased 12.71% (\$7671.73) since 2002.

The average clients served daily by St. Martin's in 2002 was 50 clients. For fiscal 2007, St. Martin's projects average clients served to increase to 65 daily.

This is a 30% increase in clients served.

Programs offered for the senior clients have grown.

In 2004 St. Martin's offered 462 activities/programs throughout the year.

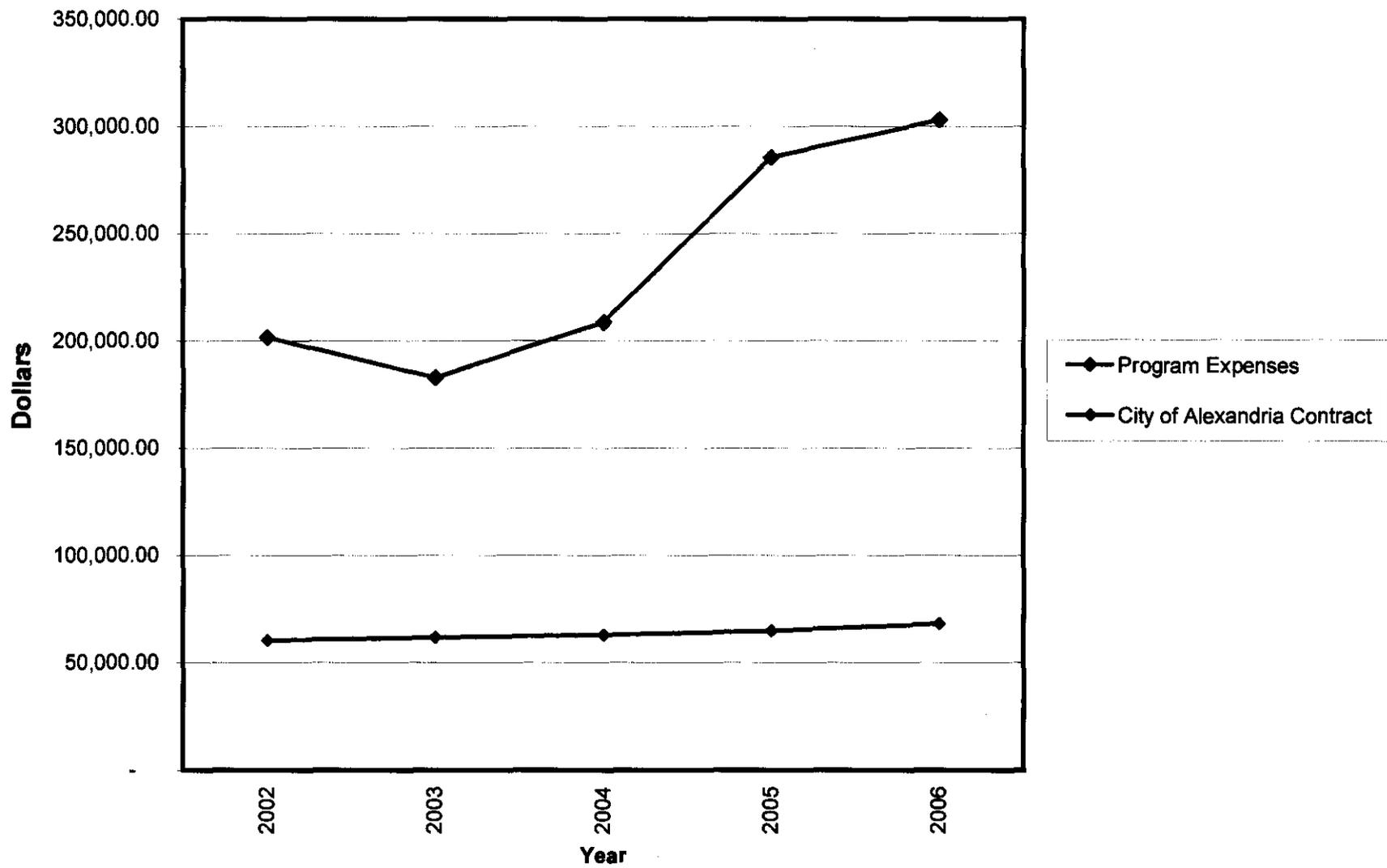
In 2006, St. Martin's offered 605 activities/ programs throughout the year.

This is an increase of 141 activities/programs or 30.4%.

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Comparison of St. Martin's Expenses versus City of Alexandria Contract Funding

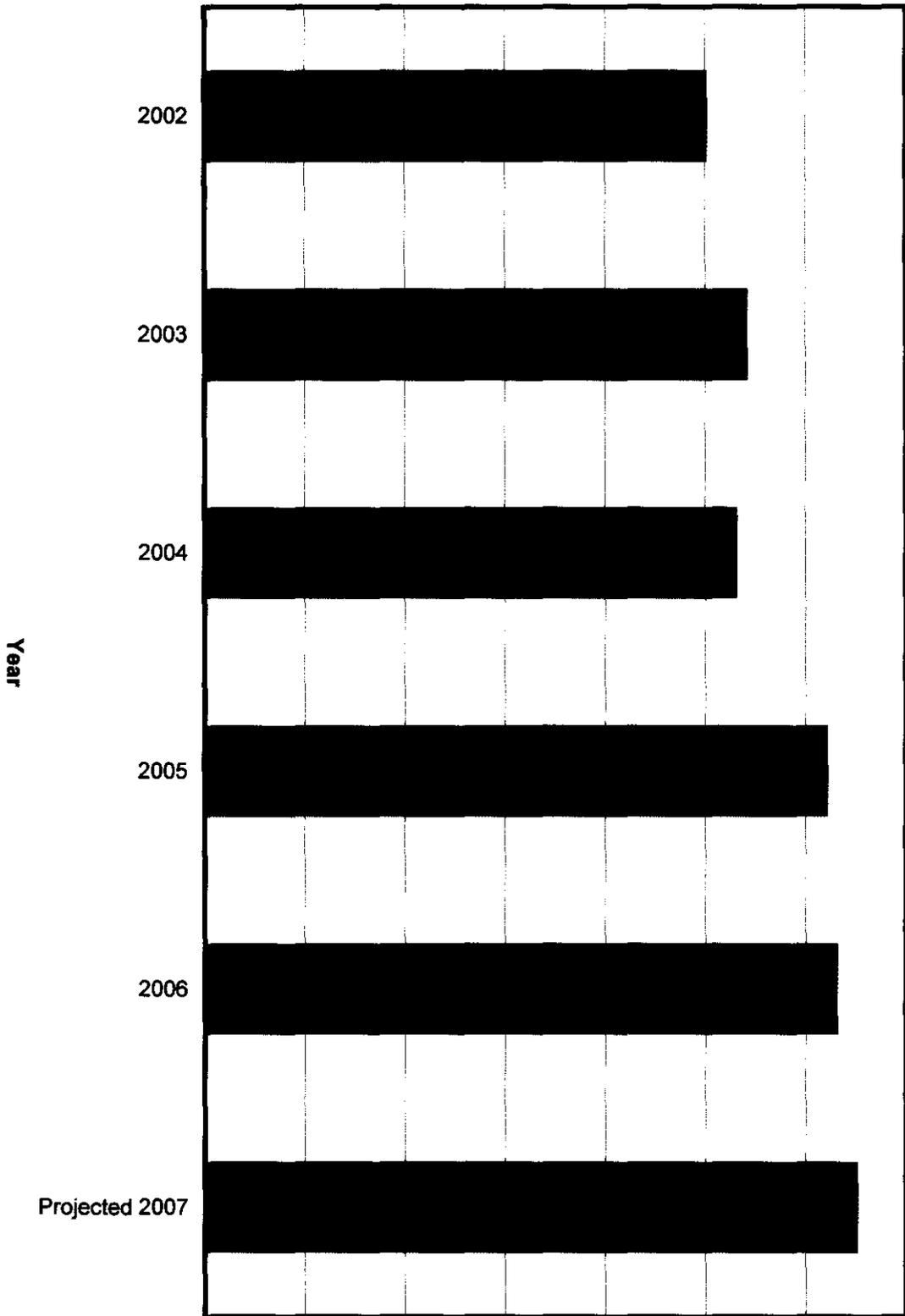


**Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington
 St. Martin de Porres Senior Center
 Funding History
 July 1,2002 - June 30, 2006**

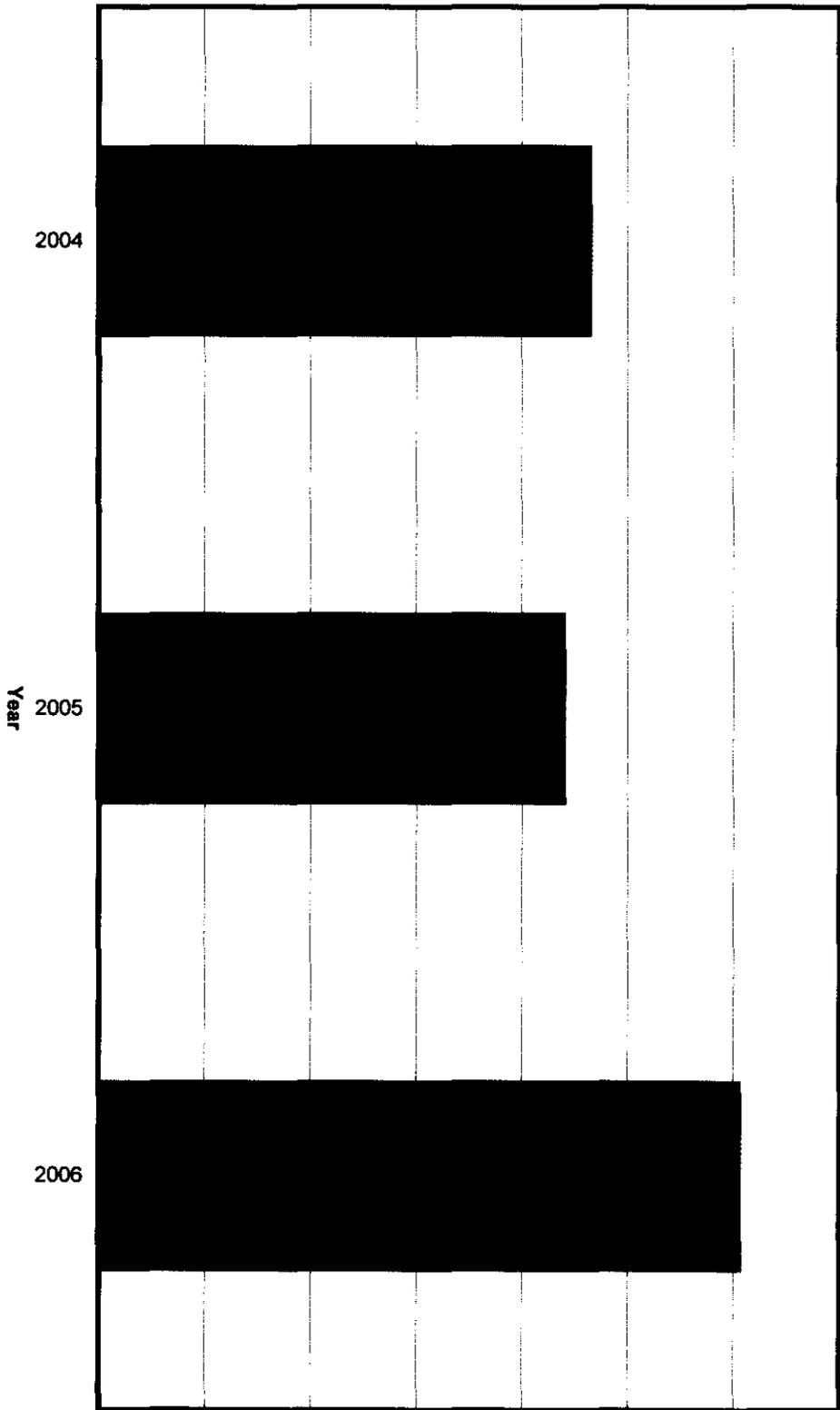
Actual (based on audited financial statements)

Fiscal Year	Expenses	% increase	City of Alexandria contract	% increase
2002	201,567.50		60,378.31	
2003	182,685.30	-9.37%	61,646.25	2.10%
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2005	285,502.39	36.82%	64,809.56	3.07%
2006	302,936.42	6.11%	68,050.04	5.00%
Overall 2002-2006		50.29%		12.71%
Proposed 2008 - City of Alexandria			78,491.80	15.34%

**Average Clients Served Daily
2002-2007**



**Activities Offered
2004-2006**



Harry Street
5

5-24-06

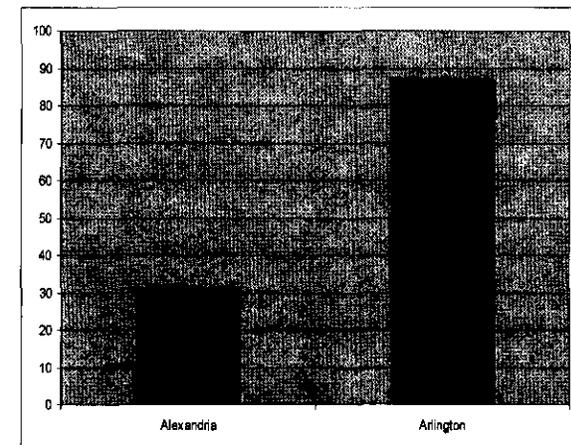
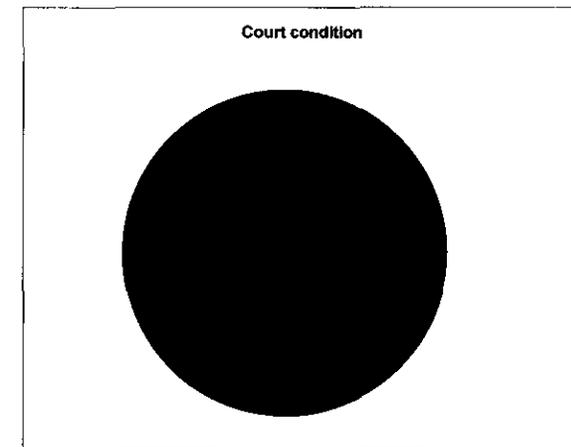
Importance of Tennis

- Tennis is a lifetime sport
 - Ages 3-100 years can play
 - Good aerobic exercise
 - Opportunities for all skill levels
 - Low cost (shoes, racquet and balls)
- Retirement age people are interested in tennis
 - Provides social framework
 - Good physical exercise
 - Good recreational facilities attract and retain retirees
- Alexandria has no golf courses; tennis is the only outlet

Alexandria must invest in Tennis!

Tennis Courts in Alexandria

- **Situation** (See survey dated Nov 1, 2005)
 - 31 Courts in 14 locations
 - 45% in poor condition, 13% fair
 - 16 Courts have lights at 6 locations
 - 10 of them in fair to poor condition
- **For Comparison**
 - Arlington 87 courts at 26 locations
 - 68 Courts have lights at 19 locations
- **Per capita**
 - Alexandria .24 courts per 1000 residents
 - Arlington .44 courts per 1000 residents

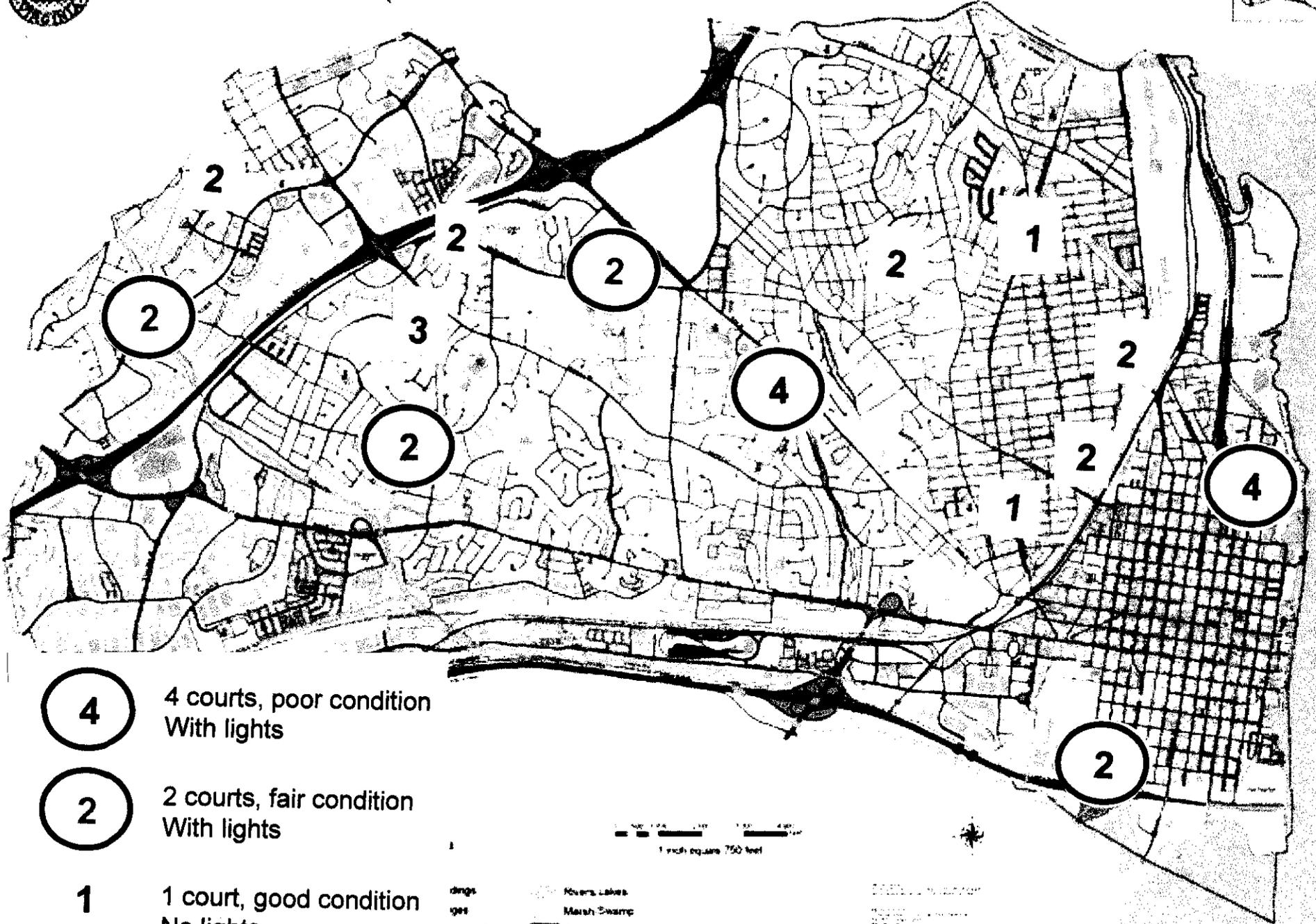


Recommendations

- With limited assets, we need to make sure what we have is in good condition and well maintained
- Hire a professional for surface restoration recommendations
- At a minimum, priority should be to restore courts with lights to good condition
 - Resurface Montgomery Park (4) and Nannie Lee (2)
 - Existing plastic tile surface is unsuitable and must be replaced
 - Resurface Minnie Howard courts (2)
 - Existing asphalt surface needs repair
 - Improve setting and surface at William Ramsey
 - Needs landscaping and asphalt surface repair
 - Improve access to Patrick Henry courts
 - Parking and walkway to courts need improvement
- Need a regular maintenance and improvement plan



Alex 55



4 courts, poor condition
With lights



2 courts, fair condition
With lights

1

1 court, good condition
No lights

1 inch equals 750 feet

- Hospital
- Streams
- Piers
- Rings
- Rivers, Lakes
- Marsh, Swamp
- Street Paving
- Roads & Alleys
- Sheds & Markets
- Churches
- Mosques
- Public Buildings
- Schools
- Parks
- Cemeteries
- Other



Northern Virginia
Family Service

NORTHERN VIRGINIA FAMILY SERVICE
ALEXANDRIA CITY BUDGET HEARING

Tuesday, October 24, 2006

Good evening. I am Mary Agee, President & CEO of Northern Virginia Family Service. I want to thank you for your generous support not only to us but also to the non-profit community in providing quality social service programs for the city's residents.

Following me you will hear from one of our volunteer members of our Healthy Families Resource Development Council. Healthy Families is our signature program in Alexandria, providing intensive home visiting services to at-risk parents. Thank you for the continued support of \$328,000, which we more than doubled through additional state and private funding.

But many of you may not be aware of all the other ways the city supports our programs. We are in our third year of support from the housing department for a transitional housing program for homeless families. Through the city grant of over \$130,000 we provide intensive case management services and community-based living for up to 14 families.

This year the city also stepped forward through the community partnership fund to support the Alexandria Medication Access Program with a grant of \$40,000. We help income-eligible clients, primarily elderly, secure free, ongoing, chronic prescription medications directly from the pharmaceutical companies. During the past several years of providing this critical program in other jurisdictions, NVFS has leveraged over \$4 million worth of free medications. We look forward to bringing the same rate of return to the city.

There are other programs provided by NVFS that serve the residents of Alexandria that do not receive direct grant support. For example, this past year 21 adults graduated from our Training Futures job training program based in Tysons. This represents nearly 20% of all graduates. Through our Survivor's Fund program initiated following 9/11, we have served 57 individuals from Alexandria, who were highly impacted by the events at the Pentagon.

We hope you will continue to see the viable and critical role that non-profits like NVFS fulfill in Alexandria and continue to financially support the programs. Thank you.

City Council Public Hearing on the FY08 Budget –October 24, 2006
Comments of Mary Riley, Chair, Community Services Board

Mr. Mayor, Council members, I'm Mary Riley, Chair of the *Alexandria Community Services Board*, which oversees the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment at this early stage in the budget process.

For the past two years, you have supported the Department's need to address pressing risk management issues in the CSB's residential programs that house aging and medically complex individuals with disabilities. And staff have worked hard to reallocate internal resources to fill a gap in case management services, particularly for elderly consumers. Furthermore, the Department has applied for and been awarded several important grants to deliver services to underserved populations, such as at-risk youth at the Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention Facility.

For several years, you've been under increasing pressure from citizens to cut back on growth in City government and provide some relief from high property taxes. But please don't provide that relief at the expense of programs that serve our neediest residents. At the CSB, we work hard just to maintain current levels of services, but there are many areas in which needs exceed current service levels. Examples of some of the highest priority needs are supportive housing for people with disabilities and services for children in homeless shelters.

I provided all of you with a copy of the testimony from the CSB's public hearing this year in which numerous community leaders and school personnel described the tremendous need for prevention and treatment services for children in Alexandria's public schools. Furthermore, we continue to experience great difficulty in recruiting nurses and psychiatrists, as our salaries for those positions are well below the average for similar positions in the region. We must also respond to the increasing need for Spanish-speaking therapists.

As you consider the public comments you hear this evening, please remember: Alexandria's median annual household income is more than \$65,000, but about half of the approximately 3,700 residents we serve make less than \$5,000 per year. Most, because of their disabilities or life circumstances, do not have a voice in this process. Department staff have developed a budget that represents what we will require to continue existing services and meet the highest-priority needs for these residents.

I want to thank you for your commitment and on-going support of Alexandrians who struggle with disabilities, and ask that you continue your support of the Department in your FY08 budget deliberations.

Thank you.

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10-24-06

**Testimony Kira Brooks
Budget Hearing, Alexandria City Council
October 24, 2006**

Good Evening Mr. Mayor and Members of City Council

My name is Kira Brooks. I am a resident of Alexandria and I am a volunteer serving on the Healthy Families Alexandria Resource Development Committee. I am here today to thank you for your continued support of the Healthy Families Alexandria program through a grant from the Children's Fund. We also wish to thank the Early Childhood Commission for their strong support of this program.

Healthy Families Alexandria is an important part of the City's strategy of engaging families who are at risk of poor child outcomes. Many of the parents in our program have told us that they were abused as children.

- **20% of our parents are teens, some of them as young as 13;**
- **95 % have incomes of less than \$20,000**
- **One fourth of them did not graduate from high school.**

Healthy Families Alexandria supports parents to develop strong attachments to their children during the critical early years of life; to provide their children with opportunities to develop to their full potential, and to ensure that children receive adequate health care.

Last year (FY 2006), Healthy Families served 212 families and 207 children. Since its inception fourteen years ago, Healthy Families has served more than 1,000 overburdened families with consistently high outcomes.

Healthy Families is a proven prevention program that maximizes positive outcomes for at-risk families. Last year, there were no substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect among the families receiving our services.

Compare the cost- benefit of prevention versus treatment. For every dollar invested in Healthy Families, the City save \$3-\$7 in intervention costs later on. The investment you are making now will produce returns not only for the families we serve, but for the City as a whole. We ask you to continue your support for this valuable program.

Thank you.

We the undersigned are seniors who attend St. Martins Senior Center, a facility that is non-denominational and offers multi services to people of at least forty (40) countries. Please do not overlook us and be very generous with additional operational funds so that we can continue to serve our elderly in the city of Alexandria.

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER
Eleana A. Waytuch	5408 Pinkenscha Rx #101	703-820-8554
Sarah McCalla	5001 Seminary Rd., #1409	703-845-0219
E. Mrs. M. Bendopras	250 th Van Dorn St L407	703-931-7144
Lula Timmons	4704 Broadaxe Rd.	703-671-0258
William Freeman	301 Beauregard St.	703-354 7197
Vadjiyah Teymorova	200 N. Pickett #1613 Alex. VA. 22304	(703) 567-3528
Abraham Babaie	" " " "	" " "
WILLIAM Y. SUN	205 YOKUM PKWY #623 alexandria VA 22304	(703) 461-9514
Robert Schneecke	718 N. OVERLOOK DR 22305	703 548 2873
Anne M. Schneecke	" " Alex. Va "	" "
Fatima Nasir	301 N. Ripley St. Alex. VA.	703.751.0583
Maryam Dalgaster	301. Ripley St. 7717 Alex	703.751.0939
Tareq Tehler	4362 Raleigh AVE APT #	101-703 823 2785
Sard Hashimi	4429 Duke St. 208 Alex.	703.461 8644
Zubaida Nadi	North Howard St. APT 206	703.9105.9205
Si You Kim	21810 Jordan ST 103 Alexandria, VA 22304	703-751-1753
Kua Si Kyng	301 N Ripley ST 602 ALEXANDRIA VA 22304	703-823-9039
Raleigh Ave APT 404, M. N. NAWAB		703 823 9196
Ha Sood Park	301 N, Ripley St,	703-945
		703-823-7459

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NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER
Pauline Lynch	4901 Seminary Rd	703-998-9036
Olive Wirtz	6003 Southward Way	703-313-1431
Katherine Muldrow	2500 N. Vandorn St. #309	703-379-1662
Mehdi Radstanes #	4901 Kenmore Ave VA 22304	703-567-6914
Said	4429 DUKE ST. #203 ALEX 22304	703-461-8644
AGHA ESFAHANI	317 HOWARD 101 ALEX 22304	703-823-1417
Teresa Leiby	486 Taylor Pl. Alex 22304	703-751-9141
Barbara Ripley	5445 N. Morgan St. #209 Alex. Va. 22321	703-567-5021
RAJABALI	5445 N. MORGAN ST #101	703-567-5021
SHER TOOKHI	4600 Dulce Street #14	703-757- 000 3086
A. Bahari	4612 RALPH AV	#102-703)5671
Shu Ying Li	114 Jordan St 102	704 461 0298
Kuniko Hatano	361 N Ripley St. Alexandria VA 22304	703 461 0684
H abuba	4921 Seminary Rd Alex.	703 567 0035
Ruby D. Banks	4311-Duke-St-ALEX	703-212-8963
Sarah McCalla	5001 Seminary Rd., #409	(703) 845-0219
Gloria Lesser	5001 Seminary Rd # 627 Alex.	703-845-9348
KHURSID-KHAXI	106 S. HUDSON ST.	703.3702030
Ch. Kressen	3422 Gunston Rd	703-9985366

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NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER
Dora Titus	4801 Kenmore Ave #113 Alexandria, Va. 22304	703-370-5112
Lula Timmons	4704 Braddock Rd. Alex, Va.	703-0328
William Freeman	301 Bearman Road St.	703-354-7197
Beverly Johnson	299 Bendhurst #102	7/683-5675
Dorothy A. Mitchell	4502 Hillbrook Dr.	703-941-2329
Erma Colyer	200 N. Prescott	703-823-0767
Eleanor Wright	5408 Rickertschell Dr	703-820-8554
Gertrude Olson	508 Ft Williams Pkwy	703 823 9361
Ally Woods	4334 Raleigh	461-0718
Pearl McCray	5340 Holmes Run Pkwy	703-370-9768
Pasqua Seale	N. Morgan St 5512-208	717-754
MS. KHURSHID KHAN	703 370 2030, 106 S. HUDSON ST.	
KIDANU	301 N RIPLEY	703 823-5894
DICK SALSONE	301 N RIPLEY	703-751-8841
Lucy Cosimano	46 Garden Ln	703-751-2227
Maria Shadrskemin	426 N. PATRICK ST.	703-544-2882
Teresa Reilly	486 Naylor Pl.	703-751-9141
Gayle Levy	309 Yoakum Pkwy #912	703 823 5457
Herb Sprung	309 Yoakum Pkwy #712	703 823 5457

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NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER
MOHAMMAD	301 N RIPLEY ST # ¹¹¹³	703-751-0039
EHTERAM Lanue Thomas	301 N RIPLEY ST #1113 4600 Duke St #1011	703-751-0039 703-4639443
Lucy Casimiro	46 Garden Dr.	703-751-2227
JULIA Peckingsh	4600 Duke St	823-6926
Maria Solozno	808 Invernon	703-3701735
F. Rahm	301 N. RIPLEY	703-751-3483
sara popal	Raleigh AVE APT 404	703-751-9405
HON G	784 N. HOWARD ST	703-461-8765
vadjibeh Teymostian	200 N. Pickett St #1613 Alex VA 22304	(703) 567-3528
Alie Babae		
NEVA Cucinelli	402 Jefferson St Alexandria, Va. 22314	703-869-1004
CLAUDIA WINKLER	4535 TANEY AVE. APT 203	703-823-2668
Katherine Muldrow	2500 N. VANDORN ST 309	703-379-1662
GUILLERMO N. FUENTES	2248 N. EARLY ST	703-379-6280
VICTORIA M. FUENTES	2248 N. EARLY ST	703-379-6280
Alexandra Espinal	4600 Duke St. Apt. 914	703-751-9841
JOSEFA GABRIEL	4324 Raleigh Apt 203	703-370-9550
Hilda Peña	4600 Duke St Apt 1309	703-823-0230
Filly Cou	622 N Howard St.	703-370-8154

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NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER
Nelsie Davender	301 N. Ripley St-1212	703-370-0697
Louise Gaines	301 N Ripley St #1109	703-370-4003
Ruth Hood	3101 N Hampton ^{#910}	703 585-8596
Myrtle L Riden	301 N. Ripley St 510	703 823 1130
Guinsup Kim	904 N Iverson St 101	703-370-8911
Ki up woo	6925 Columbia Pike APT 14	703-345-4108
Elsie Campbell	3517 Wilson Ave	703-683-8508
Luella Duling	#5 - Commonwealth Ave	703-683-3211
Mara Fernandez	120 STENKINS ST	703 823 3199
Alexandra Espinal	4600 DUKE ST. #716	703-751-9841
Naomi Dick	30940 AKUM PKWY	703.370.4829
Genevieve Sauter	P.O. BOX 9844, ^{ALEX} 22304	703.461.7103
Khanas Taha	5335 Duke St. #203	703.664.0883
Carmen Shafer	240 GRETNA GREEN CT. ALEX	703.566.9102
Rosa Saavedra	4600 DUKE ST. 1031	703.374.215
Ann Leost Teleri	310 N. Ripley St	703-751-2329
James S. King	914 N IVERSON #101	703.370.3971
PEDRO SOLARZANO	808 N IVERSON ST APT 103	703-370-1735
WESTON J. L. PECKINPAUSE	ALEXANDRIA VA 22304 4600 DUKE APTS 32 ALEXANDRIA VA	703-82369

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10-24-06

**St Martin de Porres Senior Center
City Council Meeting**

Contract amount for 2006 \$68,050.04
Amount requested for 2008 \$78,491.80

This is only a 15% (\$10,441.76) increase over last year and represents a 30% (\$18,113.49) increase since 2002 corresponding to program growth in average daily clients served and programs offered.

St. Martin's program has grown 50.29% (\$198,631.08) since June 2002. The City of Alexandria contract has increased 12.71% (\$7671.73) since 2002.

The average clients served daily by St. Martin's in 2002 was 50 clients. For fiscal 2007, St. Martin's projects average clients served to increase to 65 daily.

This is a 30% increase in clients served.

Programs offered for the senior clients have grown.

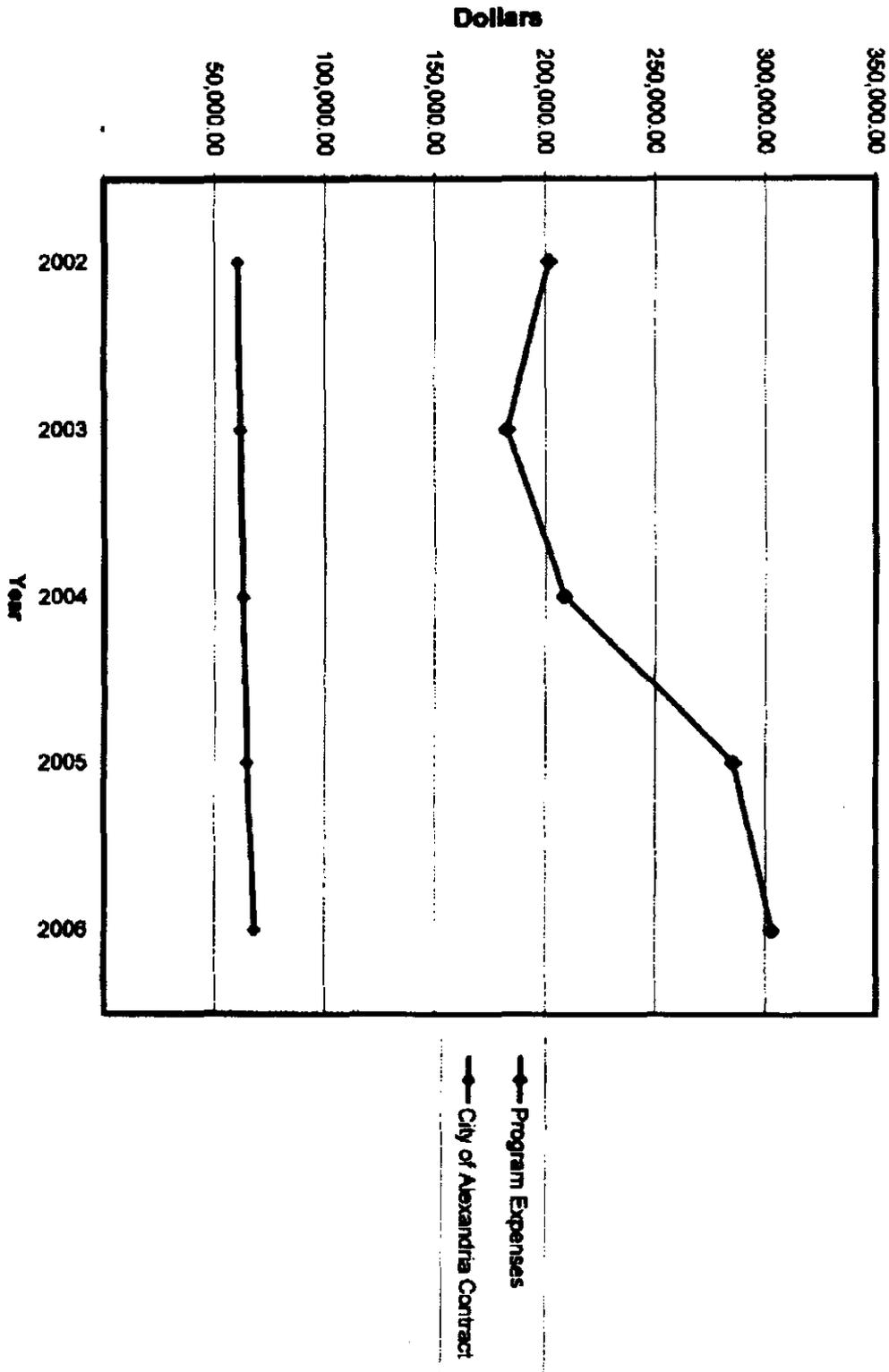
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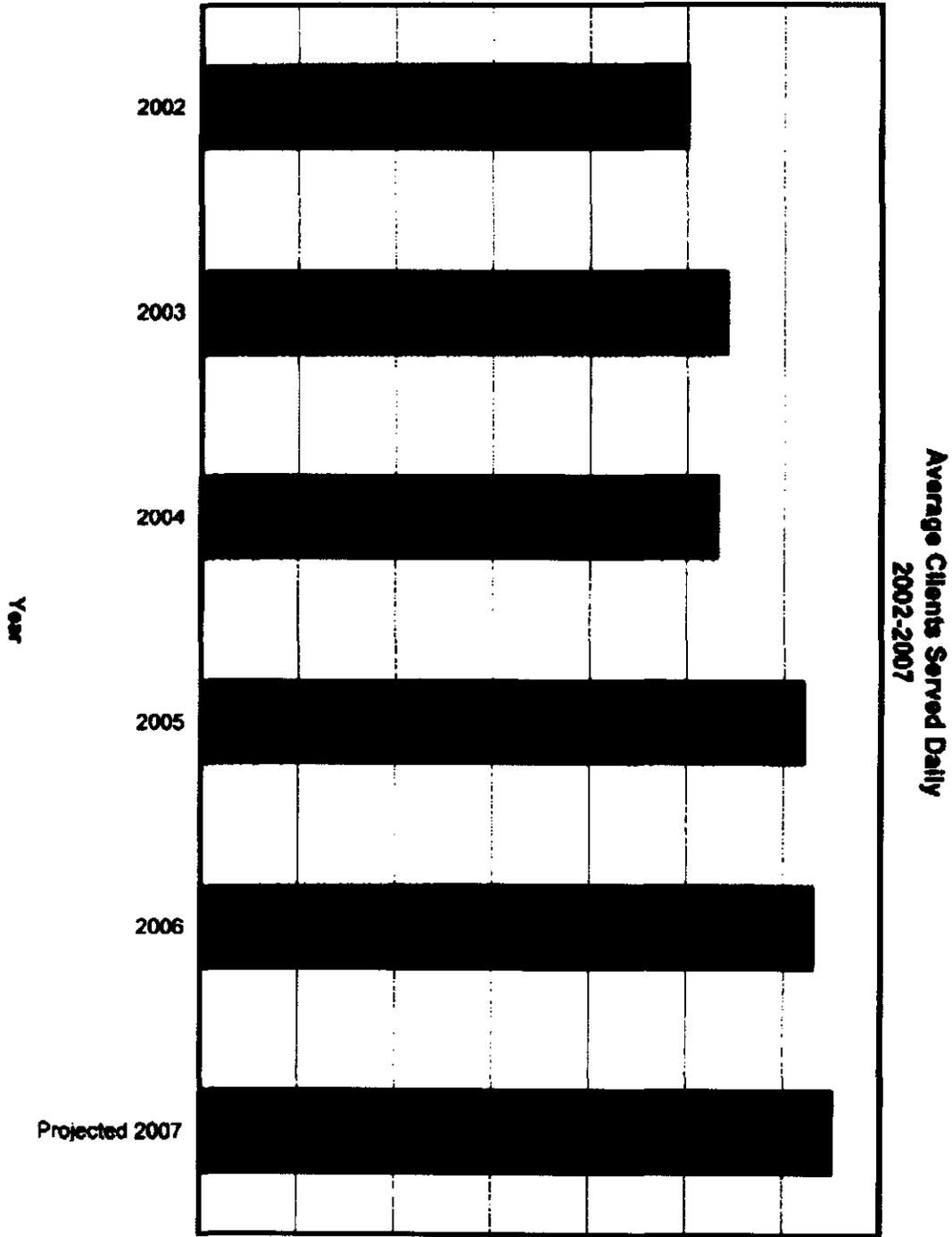
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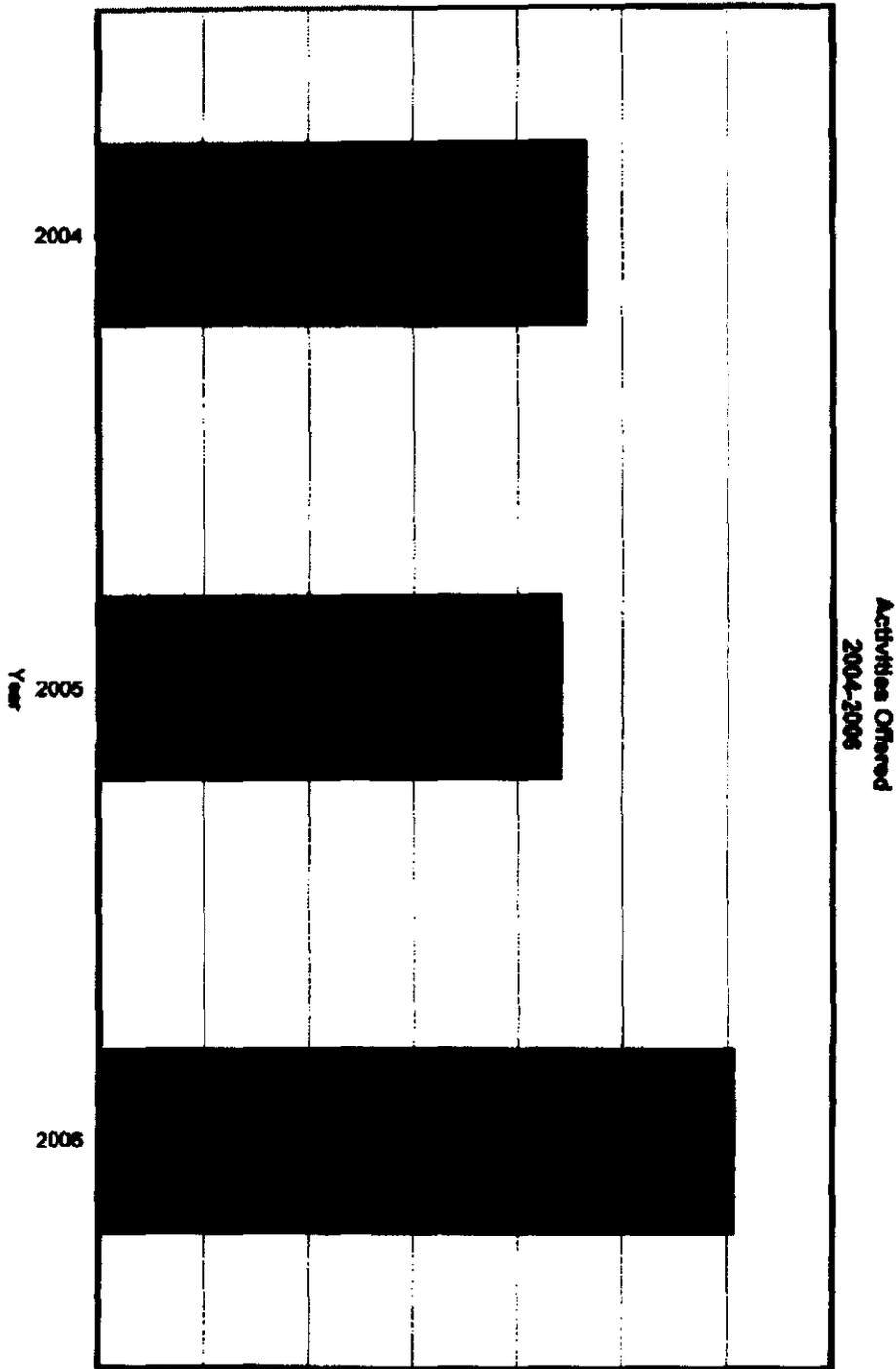


Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington
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BFAAC TESTIMONY ON FY 2008 BUDGET OUTLOOK

Good evening, Mr. Mayor and Members of Council. I am Tracy Rickett, Chair of the Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee. BFAAC appreciates the opportunity to present our preliminary views on the FY 2008 budget and we urge you to continue the practice of public involvement in the budget process. With public involvement in mind, we are particularly supportive of the reforms Council recently made to the Add/Delete process as part of its Budget Resolution, and believe those changes will increase public involvement in and transparency of the budget process.

We would like to emphasize two themes today, both of which have been consistent BFAAC points over the years: 1) the importance of adhering to sound financial policies and procedures; and 2) the importance of maintaining a long-term perspective.

With regard to sound financial policies and procedures, we are pleased to see that the revamped budget process makes use of

performance measures, as we have long recommended. We agree with the concept of determining the cost of current services as a foundation for building the budget. Last year, the City revised the budget calendar and changed some of its processes in order to develop the budget in a more deliberate and transparent way. Expenditure targets were used for the first time and BFAAC saw that as a positive step. We continue to think that targets should be set at a level that challenges the City Manager to propose innovative ways to restrain spending.

We believe that any subsequent revisions to the expenditure targets should be made early enough in the budget process to allow the Manager adequate time to prepare appropriate adjustments.

Also as in years past, we urge the Council to continue to adhere to its current debt policy guidelines. As we observed in our report on the FY 2007 budget, the City will be at or near the ceiling of one of its self-imposed debt policy guidelines through FY 2011, leaving very little room to incur additional debt without violating those guidelines. This means that some major new capital projects may need to be deferred or scaled back to avoid exceeding the guidelines.

With regard to maintaining a long-term perspective, BFAAC has consistently expressed concern about the dangers of the City's heavy reliance on inherently cyclical real property taxes. Not since the early nineties, have we seen the kind of drop off that we are beginning to see now in the growth of real property tax revenue. Accordingly, despite the constraints imposed by the Commonwealth, the City needs to continue to try to diversify its revenue sources.

Last year BFAAC recommended that the City take prompt action to develop an overall economic development strategy. BFAAC commends Mayor Euille's initiative in establishing the Economic Sustainability Work Group. As you know, we reviewed the City's economic development expenditures in a report last year and recommended that economic development, planning, policy guidance and oversight should be a City staff function.

Because of their long-term implications, BFAAC has long urged the Council to closely scrutinize personnel expenditures, which account for most of the City's operating budget. New hires in any year will impact the budget for many years to come. We continue to recommend

that the budget documents present total personnel cost, including compensation and benefits, in a clear and comprehensive fashion. All forms of compensation should be included in the proposed budgets (COLA, merit increases, etc). We support the recent modifications Council made in the budget process that should accomplish this goal.

We are pleased that the City and Schools have begun to address ways to control health care costs while maintaining a benefit competitive with neighboring jurisdictions. As health care costs continue to increase, we continue to urge the City to consider cost containment strategies in its employee health benefits. Last year, BFAAC presented a report that described and evaluated some health care cost containment options. We are happy to see that some of our proposed options have been adopted.

In closing, BFAAC looks forward to working with Council and Staff , and we thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.

HOPKINS HOUSE



A Center for Children and their Families

1224 Princess Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
www.HopkinsHouse.org

Telephone: 703/549-4232
Facsimile: 703/683-3056
E-Mail: Info@HopkinsHouse.org

October 12, 2006

The Honorable William D. Euille
Mayor, City of Alexandria
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mayor Euille and Members of City Council:

At the request of the Hopkins House Community Outreach & Public Education Committee, we write to you and the Members of the City Council on two issues:

First: In the current (FY07) year, the State allocation to Alexandria for childcare assistance to needy families was reduced by \$384,000, leaving 52 needy Alexandria children without access to affordable childcare; and,

Second: Over the past year in the City of Alexandria, the number of children whose families are waiting for help to afford quality childcare has grown to over 360.

The net result of these two unfortunate events is that the light at the end of tunnel has dimmed for some of our City's most vulnerable children and their families.

In the absence of quality childcare, our City's children face the increased prospect of lower achievement in school, increased teen pregnancy, and greater dependence on welfare.

We know that the City Council, City staff and others have worked hard over these past months to persuade the State government to restore the \$384,000 childcare allocation and to help reduce the childcare assistance waiting list. We thank you for this effort and offer whatever support Hopkins House can give to further these goals.

Continued...



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Vice Chair

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Richard G. Cole, Jr.
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer
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Gregory H. Leisch
Erik M. Lensch

Amy L. Maddox
Alvin Nashman
Lee Quill
Noel A. Shepherd

We understand that the City, alone, cannot solve these problems entirely. But, while we pursue a solution in Richmond, there are things we can do here in Alexandria:

First: We urge City Council to add \$384,000 to the FY08 City budget to restore the opportunity for 52 of Alexandria's children to attend quality childcare; and,

Second: We recommend that City Council task a working group to propose options to ensure a permanent and reliable solution to the growing list of needy children waiting for childcare assistance.

Thanks to you, the members of Council and City staff, we have made a great deal of progress in the City reducing welfare roles and supporting the dream of parents for a better life for themselves and their children. This progress must not end.

We invite City Council to call on the Hopkins House Community Outreach & Public Education Committee if we can be of assistance in carrying the message to the State that every child, especially our most vulnerable children, deserves quality childcare.

Thank you,


J. GLENN HOPKINS
President


AMY MADDOX
Vice-Chair
Community Outreach &
Public Education Committee

Sherry Brown

5
10-24-06

Good evening. I'm speaking for the Alexandria Arts Forum. You could be budgeting \$1,186,000 for grants to the arts. Arts Commission guidelines allow organizations requesting general operating funds to apply for 20% of their budgets. Organizations with small budgets actually get that. But most are capped: last year at \$13,500; this year at \$10,800.

Why less? The money has stayed the same while the number applying has increased significantly so individual organizations experienced a 20% cut. Please understand: we're very grateful for this investment. I hope you agree we use it wisely.

Investment's the right word here because Alexandria gets back more than it gives. Americans for the Arts documented that for every \$1 granted, the City treasury received more than \$3 and that same dollar adds another \$3 to Alexandria's overall economy. It's only because you get that much money back that I have the nerve to ask for more at a time like this.

An increase of about \$42,000 to \$257,112 would let us restore the cap to last year's amount. It's 19.6% more but before you throw things at me, the upcoming cycle is the 5th since we've had an increase. If this amount were divided over that time, it's less than 4% a year.

I brainstormed possible funding sources based on who we serve: parking revenue; school budget; social services. They're strapped themselves. The obvious source for this increase is to implement a percent for art requirement immediately on all City-funded development projects and eventually, with legislative approval, on all projects.

I asked a local development lawyer and a local architect how their clients might react and neither was opposed. They asked how much and didn't keel over when I suggested 1%. They asked that procedures are spelled out clearly up front and that public art be defined broadly.

Kiplinger's recently named the most livable cities. We didn't make the list (but it's ok; neither did Arlington). The top cities are characterized by strong arts commitments. The Mayor of Nashville, number one, just received the National Award for Local Arts Leadership in part because he established a percent for art program. Five of the top seven cities have such programs including two of the oldest in the country.

Please increase grants and implement percent for art to fund it.

Lots of people join me in thanking you; some are here tonight.

Mayor Eiuille, Members of City Council. I am Betsy Anderson, Vice Chair of the Alexandria Commission for the Arts and Chair of the Public Art Committee. I am also a Torpedo Factory Artist, immediate past president of the Art League and member of the Alexandria Arts Forum, from which you've already heard this evening.

Let me begin by thanking you for your support for the arts in Alexandria. The recent debut of the second "Art in City Hall" exhibit is only one example of your initiative and leadership. Your support for the Commission, its grants program and non profit arts groups over the last 20 plus years has nurtured art in our community as a vibrant agent of change. The establishment of the Torpedo Factory 32 years ago put Alexandria at the forefront of a national and international movement that increasingly recognizes and utilizes art, as a social, cultural, and especially economic, development tool.

Yet, today we are at a crossroads. Today, the dominance of Alexandria as the premier arts destination in the region is at stake. Other contenders are rising up to challenge us for the rewards, tangible and intangible, which a robust arts infrastructure brings to a community. Traditionally, we compete with the nation's capital for tourists, business travelers and art consumers. But our other neighbors in the region have also become increasingly sophisticated and better funded in the collegial combat for disposal income. Witness the development of the new national harbor, to name only one example, which will bring 300 acres and one million square feet of retail, dining, entertainment, office and residential development—even a convention center--to our doorstep just the other side of Wilson Bridge.

As proverbial “starving artists,” we understand--perhaps better than most--that the competition for scarce resources is intense. That is why the time has come for Alexandria to enact a Percent for the Arts program.

Over the last 40 years, “Percent for the Arts” has become the most common way of funding public art in the United States and has been established in some 300 communities across the nation--including neighboring Arlington, VA, Richmond, VA Rockville, MD, Prince George’s County, MD and Baltimore, MD. Drawing upon a small portion of both city funded capital improvement *and* private commercial development projects, a Percent for the Arts program will greatly enhance the viability of the arts in Alexandria and will not add to the considerable tax burden already shouldered by City residents.

The Arts Commission and the Arts Forum have endorsed Percent for the Arts and have been working with the Department of Recreation on a comprehensive proposal and discussion draft for your consideration. We will be coming back to you with the ordinance in order to seek your help to enact the Percent for the Arts. In that regard, we very much appreciate the funding you have made available to us to retain a part-time coordinator to help us develop a proposed program, as well as an international arts festival.

for Percent for the Arts

We are proud that Alexandria was among the very first to comprehend and act upon the awesome power of art as an agent for change. It is nearly impossible to conceive of Alexandria today without its purpose and identity as an arts destination. Indeed, we were proud and excited when the City was again named to American Style magazine’s list of “Top 25 Arts Destinations.” Yet, of the 25 cities on this list, only 4 have NO Percent for the Arts program: Buffalo, NY, Athens, GA, Savannah, GA and Alexandria, VA.

Allow me to leave you with this: Public art, and by that I mean not just art installed in public places, but all community-based arts programs, enhances the quality of life for its citizens by encouraging a heightened sense of place and enhancing a community's prestige and identity. Whatever incremental steps you take with this budget to increase or maintain your support for the Commission and its grants program, while appreciated, cannot begin to achieve what a Percent for the Arts program would bring to Alexandria.

Thank you.

5
10-24-06



<boydwalker@hotmail.com>

10/27/2006 04:15 PM

Please respond to
<boydwalker@hotmail.com>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,
<timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>,
<council@krupicka.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: October 24 City Council Meeting Comments on Budget

COA Contact Us: October 24 City Council Meeting Comments on Budget

Time: [Fri Oct 27, 2006 16:15:02] IP Address: [70.108.125.159]

Response requested:

First Name: Boyd
Last Name: Walker
Street Address: 1307 King St.
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22314
Phone: 703-732-7269
Email Address: boydwalker@hotmail.com
Subject: October 24 City Council Meeting Comments on Budget
Greater Alexandria Preservation League
Comments at Oct 24, 2006 City Council Meeting
Dear Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Macdonald and members of the Alexandria City Council,
I am from the Greater Alexandria Preservation League, the group formed from the Upper King Street Preservation Group, and I have come before you today to ask for four things for Historic Preservation in Alexandria:
1. We need at least 2 new positions in Preservation, expanding the department from the current 4 positions to 6 positions, in order to provide technical support, and to continue to cover the three design review meetings per month in a professional manner.
2. We need \$100,000 included again in this years budget to continue updating our National Register Historic Districts, including Parker Grey, which has recently been started. We need to update the

Old and Historic District listing and look to any areas of expansion like the gap along Cameron Street, and Robinson Terminal North.

Comments: 3. We also need to continue funding the survey of 100 year old buildings, 77 of which have been on a list to be surveyed since 1998. If these buildings, and any others that would of become eligible since 1998, are listed they would have the same protection as any buildings in the Old and Historic District and could receive federal tax credits, and be under the Review of the Old and Historic District BAR.

4. Fund professional development within Historic preservation so that the staff can learn best practices from other cities as well as promote what Alexandria has to offer to Historic Preservation Conferences, where many people have an interest in heritage tourism and learning more about Alexandria. I am going next week to my 6th National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference and it is not since the very first one I went to in Providence Rhode Island that I have known of someone from the city going. The department has to be well staffed enough , and funding provided to pay for each employee to attend one conference a year.

Lastly we need to continue to proceed with a public planning process for the Waterfront, and I would like to see the city would proceed with a two day Historic Preservation Summit in May, National Historic Preservation Month, that would include site visits as well as discussion.

Boyd Walker



<neilson1@verizon.net>

10/31/2006 05:25 PM

Please respond to
<neilson1@verizon.net>

To <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,
<timothylovain@aol.com>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>,
<council@krupicka.com>, <delperpe@aol.com>,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Baseball Diamonds in Alexandria

5
10-24-06

COA Contact Us: Baseball Diamonds in Alexandria

Time: [Tue Oct 31, 2006 17:25:56] IP Address: [149.2.132.3]

Response requested:

First Name: Michael
Last Name: Neilson
Street Address: 4110 Fort Worth Place
City: Alexandria
State: Virginia
Zip: 22304
Phone: 703 751 6053
Email Address: neilson1@verizon.net
Subject: Baseball Diamonds in Alexandria

Dear Mayor Euille and Members of Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you last week about the state of athletic fields in the City and the City's budget for the coming year. I want to follow up briefly on behalf of the sport that I have been involved with in Alexandria since about 1995, youth baseball.

We basically have two and one half 60 foot diamonds that are in adequate condition for youth baseball games (Simpson, Brenman and Stevenson which is shared with soccer). It is important that we have fields available at the times when games have to be scheduled. For many working parents who coach or simply drive their kids to games, games must be scheduled no earlier than 5:30 and most games are scheduled later than that at 6 or 6:30. In the early spring and later fall, this requires a lighted field for weeknight games.

With limited fields, we need to get sufficient use out of what we have. To those of us active in baseball, we think it makes a great deal of sense to light the field at Brenman, using the modern full cut-off lights that keep the light directed solely on

the field.

Comments:

As you consider the budget, I also hope you are aware that Alexandria Little League has contributed a significant amount of funding for Simpson Field. During my second year as league president in 2002, we raised approximately \$40,000. All of that money was spent on Simpson Field. To some extent Alexandria Little League added some new amenities such as an additional batting cage and new bull pens for the 60 foot diamond. However, Alexandria Little League also contributed the funds that replaced the old rusted fencing and backstop which is fundamental to having a facility and should fall within the City's obligations. However, it needed to be done and the contribution was made to improve the safety and attractiveness of the facility.

I mention ALL's fundraising (from families, friends of the league and the league's generous sponsors) because I believe the league would be prepared to help with private fund-raising to partner with the City on meeting the cost of lighting an additional diamond. With 20% growth in league participation in 2006, the enhancement of another diamond with lighting is needed and would be highly valued by the community.

Thank you for your consideration. I hope you will ask for a demonstration of full cut-off lighting from the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities.

Sincerely,

Michael Neilson

5
10-24-06

Peter A. Morrison & Cindy DeGroot Morrison
2411 Leslie Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22301

3 November 2006

Mayor Bill Euille and Members of City Council
City Hall
Alexandria, VA 22314

Re: November 4, 2006 City Council Retreat - Capital Improvement Program Related Expenses, Item B.
Potomac Yard and West Eisenhower Fire Stations

Dear Mr. Mayor and Members of City Council,

As you consider the proposed Capital Improvement Program, we ask that the planned upgrades to the Windsor Avenue Fire Station (Station 202) as fully funded and that the fire suppression and emergency medical services be continued. The maintenance of services and scheduled improvements are crucial to the public safety of the extended Del Ray neighborhood.

While increases in the City's population will require additional level of services, these services should not just be taken from existing neighborhoods to meet future needs elsewhere. That process risks the existing and established public's safety. New residents can and should receive new services, as the anticipated residents of Potomac Yard and Eisenhower Valley will have the services of new fire stations.

Among the criteria used in determining which home to buy in the Del Ray neighborhood seven years ago, the old real estate adage of "location, location, location" held true. The concern was for location of the neighborhood schools, the Metro station and the Fire Station. Buying a home within a very short distance and brief response time was a very conscious decision. Response times are critical in an emergency, and we have seen the importance of this many times when our immediate neighbors have needed the services of the fire station for a home fire, multiple medical calls and a potential gas leak. In response to medical emergencies, the fire truck from Station 202 arrived prior to ambulance or other services. Separating the fire from the ambulance services therefore makes little sense when minutes are crucial, and lives are at risk.

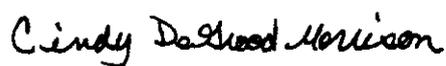
Instead of removing critical public safety or emergency services from Station 202, the symbiotic relationships between Potomac Yard, the Crystal City area of Arlington and Del Ray all need to be judiciously planned for future growth. Future improvements must keep pace with the recognized increases in population size, desire to improve public safety and provide more effective response in city-wide emergencies, and done so with careful planning in open public discussions, with full citizen participation. Station 202 provides a cornerstone for those services within Del Ray and supports Alexandria as a whole.

We therefore request that funding be approved for previously planned upgrades to the Windsor Avenue Fire Station (Station 202) and that the fire suppression and emergency medical services be maintained at levels to fully ensure public safety.

Respectfully,



Peter A. Morrison



Cindy DeGroot Morrison