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City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 25, 2010
TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL
THROUGH: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER
FROM: DEBRA R. COLLINS, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
SUBJECT: EVICTION STORAGE PROGRAM FOLLOW-UP

At the City Council Public Hearing meeting of February 20, 2010, representatives of Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement (V.O.I.C.E) made comments regarding the difficulty that some public housing residents faced during relocation related to the redevelopment of James Bland. Ms. Hattie Thompson told the members of the City Council some public housing residents that moved to smaller units because of household changes, were forced to leave belongings in the alleys and former units.

In response, Council requested information on the Eviction Storage program and the possibility that the program could have assisted in storing or moving the belongings of these residents. Office of Housing staff discussed Ms. Thompson's comments relating to abandoned belongings with Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority's (ARHA) CEO, Roy Priest. Mr. Priest advised staff that there were not any belongings of value abandoned involuntarily. The only belongings left in vacated units were those that were unwanted by the vacating residents.

The Eviction Assistance and Furniture Storage Program is administered by the Department of Human Services and funded by the Department of Community and Housing Development. It is restricted to only assisting with storage expenses for households entering homelessness. The program does not cover the general storage of belongings or relocation expenses.

- cc Mark Jinks, Deputy City Manager
- Michele Evans, Deputy City Manager
- Bruce Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, Management & Budget
- Mildrilyn Davis, Director, Office of Housing