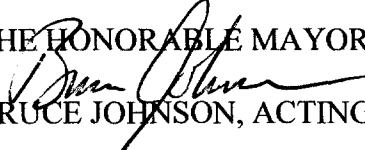


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: OCTOBER 21, 2011

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM:  BRUCE JOHNSON, ACTING CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: REPORT ON RECENT EMERGENCIES IN THE CITY AND DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE ENHANCEMENTS TO CITY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND SAFETY AND SECURITY PROGRAMS

ISSUE: Report on recent emergencies in the City and discussion of possible enhancements to City Emergency Management and safety and security programs.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council receive this report and provide input on the possible alternatives for use of the \$1.2 million of end of year surplus FY 2011 monies that had been proposed as a source of funds for enhancements to our emergency management and safety and security programs. Council will have an opportunity to discuss this further at its November 1 budget work session, when we discuss the budget recommendations of the Strategic Plan Goal 6 Public Safety group.

Council will be asked to make a decision on the use of the \$1.2 million as part of the fall re-appropriation ordinance that it will consider in November.

DISCUSSION: This August and September the City government responded to four major events: the earthquake on August 23, Hurricane Irene August 26-28, Tropical Storm Lee on September 8-9 and the tenth anniversary of the September 11 attacks the weekend of September 9-11. The City opened its EOC for Hurricane Irene and its back-up EOC for Tropical Storm Lee. We declared a state of emergency for Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee to ensure that we had access to necessary resources and to obtain any federal or state funding that would be available for storm response.

The most property damage that we experienced was a result of the earthquake and the flooding caused by Tropical Storm Lee. All four events were major ones that required extra, unbudgeted staffing and overtime expenditures for our staff response.

The earthquake damaged City Hall, Gadsby's Tavern, the Courthouse, the Public Safety Center and other City facilities. Staff is continuing to work on the restoration of these buildings and is working with our insurance carrier on the possible reimbursement for some of the damage that occurred.

Tropical Storm Lee resulted in serious flash flooding, similar to the flooding that occurred in June 2006, creating swift rapidly rising waters in Cameron Run and Backlick Run that affected Eisenhower Avenue and South Pickett Street businesses. The Fire Department rescued stranded motorists and building occupants caught in rapidly rising, swift flood waters. Due to our limited ability to respond to swift water flooding incidents, we called on neighboring jurisdictions for equipment and response teams. Since the severe flooding was experienced throughout the region, resources were scarce and travel was difficult resulting in long waits for outside assistance.

Transportation and Environmental Services Director Rich Baier provided Council with a report on the flooding (Attachment 1), and he and Fire Department and Office Emergency Management staff met recently with representatives of affected businesses to discuss the flooding

We recognize the need to improve our ability to respond in these emergency situations as well as to monitor water levels in our streams and warn the community when flash flooding is imminent. I recommend that Council consider allocating funds to acquire swift water rescue equipment and to provide for the firefighter training needed for this type of emergency.

Staff's preparation for the tenth anniversary of September 11, and our public safety response over that weekend was outstanding. The event, which coincided with the Festival of the Arts on King Street, as well as other actual and potential emergencies, also highlighted the need for increased Police training to prepare better for civil disturbances and other events requiring rapid police response in emergency situations.

We have learned that we must be prepared to plan for and address all aspects of potential terrorist threats. Because the William G. Truesdale Adult Detention Center holds a large number of federal prisoners, some of whom are incarcerated because of their suspected roles in planning terrorist activities, securing the center is a high priority. I concur with the Sheriff's recommendation that we provide a secure outdoor location on the Public Safety Center site to hold inmates when the need arises to evacuate the detention center.

Finally after our response to four major emergencies in less than two months, we have concluded that we need to move up the planning for our permanent Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in the Public Safety Center. Once this project is completed, we would have a permanent EOC ready to open immediately in an emergency. This would eliminate the need to use staff resources to set up and take down the center (now at the Fire Training Center at the Lee Center) each time it is need for emergency operations. This was a problem during our response to the earthquake. It also would provide the Fire Department with full use of its training center which is in demand year round.

Earlier this month following my October 9 presentation to Council on our year end surplus, I asked our public safety and emergency response agencies to develop a proposal to improve our emergency response readiness capabilities as discussed above.

reimbursements finally approved by FEMA and our insurance carrier, the costs could be reduced to \$0.70 million.

The fiscal impact of the public safety enhancements discussed above is \$638,950 leaving a balance about \$0.5 million which could be used as a budget reserve for already incurred FY 2012 emergency costs (if not reimbursed), for emergency costs in the remainder of FY 2012, or for FY 2013 public safety costs.

ATTACHMENTS: October 3, 2011 Memorandum from Richard J. Baier

STAFF:

Richard J. Baier, Director, T&ES
Earl Cook, Chief of Police
Dana Lawhorne, Sheriff
Adam Thiel, Fire Chief
Michele Evans, Deputy City Manager
Jeremy McPike, Director, General Services
Blaine Corle, Deputy Chief of Police
Mark Penn, Emergency Coordinator
Yon Lambert, Deputy Director, T&ES

City of Alexandria, Virginia**MEMORANDUM**

DATE: OCTOBER 3, 2011

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

THROUGH: *Bruce Johnson*
BRUCE JOHNSON, ACTING CITY MANAGER

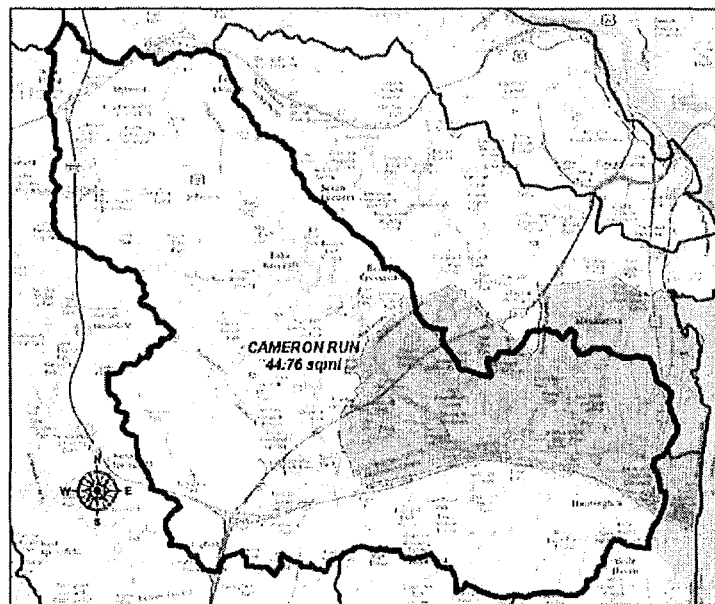
FROM: RICHARD J. BAIER, P.E., LEED AP, DIRECTOR, *RJB for R.B.*
TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

SUBJECT: ALEXANDRIA TECH CENTER & CAMERON RUN FLOODING ON
SEPTEMBER 8, 2011

This memo is in response to questions posed to staff regarding the flooding of Cameron Run on September 8, 2011, and particularly the flooding of the Alexandria Technology Center and Eisenhower Avenue.

Background of Flooding on Cameron Run

Cameron Run drains approximately 44.8 square miles of highly urbanized lands to its confluence with the Potomac River. The Cameron Run watershed includes areas within Fairfax County, the City of Alexandria and the City of Falls Church. Two of the tributaries that convey stormwater runoff to Cameron Run from Alexandria are Holmes Run and Backlick Run. Almost 70 percent (31.5 square miles) of the Cameron Run watershed is located within Fairfax County; the remaining areas are located within the cities of Falls Church and Alexandria (See map below).



Cameron Run Flood History

The following is a list of major flooding events in Cameron Run since 1966, with the corresponding recorded flows (if available), in cubic feet per second:

- 1966 Flash Flood of September 14 – Peak Flow: 9,600-cubic feet per second (cfs)
- 1969 Flash Flood of July 23 – No Flows Recorded
- 1972 Tropical Storm Agnes, June 20-25 – Peak Flow: 19,900-cfs (Maximum Recorded Flood)
- 1975 Tropical Storm Eloise, September 23-27 – Peak Flow: 14,400-cfs
- 2006 Flash Flood of June 22-28 – Peak Flow: 16,500-cfs
- 2011 Flash Flood (Tropical Storm Lee) September 8 – Peak Flow: 16,200-cfs

The Cameron Run watershed has been studied many times since the first recorded major flooding event in 1966. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) conducted studies in the 1970's in support of the Flood Control Channelization Project in Cameron Run, including parts of Backlick Run and Holmes Run, that was constructed in the late 1970's. The Alexandria Technology Center performed a study of the local watershed and submitted a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) to FEMA in 1996, requesting to remove the area from the mapped 100-year flood plain. This request was approved by FEMA, allowing the buildings within the Alexandria Technology Center to be built at their current elevations.

Following the June 2006 flash flood event, USACE performed a flood investigation of Cameron Run for the City of Alexandria to determine the probable contributing factors to the Cameron Run flooding from that event. The study was completed in July 2007. This modeling was later provided to FEMA in support of the update to the City's Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). These new maps became effective in June 2011. This analysis effectively rescinded the LOMR granted by FEMA to the Alexandria Technology Center in 1996, placing that area back into the 100-year flood plain.

The Army Corps July 2007 report studying the June 2006 flood analyzed various probable causes of why the flood levels increased over time. The factors considered during the June 2006 flood event included construction activities at the U.S. Route 1 interchange, barge blockage at George Washington Memorial Parkway, development in the floodplain of Cameron Run between U.S. Route 1 upstream to Telegraph Road, channel sedimentation upstream and downstream of the I-495 bridge, tidal influences on the Potomac River, backwater effects from the Capital Beltway bridge, discharges from Lake Barcroft Dam and the assumptions made in the FEMA 1996 LOMR.

The study concluded that the LOMR prepared by the consultants working on behalf of the Alexandria Technology Center, as submitted to and approved by FEMA, was incorrect and had been based on hydraulic data from the 1960's that had been superseded in the 1970's. The LOMR incorrectly predicted a lower 100-year flood elevation than what should have been anticipated. Therefore, the 2011 FIRM issued by FEMA placed this area back into the 100-year floodplain.

The report also concluded that channel sedimentation downstream of the City, from the Capital Beltway to the Potomac River, had a significant impact on flood elevations upstream of the Capital Beltway bridge and had the channel been at its 1965 condition, flood elevations during the June 2006 event may have been 2.7 to 3.2 feet lower at the Alexandria Technology Center area. The study did not find any link between the Route 1 interchange construction or discharges from Lake Barcroft Dam and the flooding of Cameron Run.

September 8, 2011 Remnants of Tropical Storm Lee

The storm that occurred in between September 5 and 8, 2011, dropped significant amounts of precipitation, including highly unusual and rare volumes.

Fairfax County rain gauges in the upper western portion of the Cameron Run watershed reported receiving over seven inches of rain on September 8 with a six hour peak of over 4 inches. This corresponds to a return frequency of approximately 15 years. Other gauges near Franconia and Ft. Belvoir recorded on that day 500-year and 1000-year return period rainfall, respectively. A combination of conditions in the watershed including saturated ground from several days of heavy rain culminated in producing a flash flood in Cameron Run similar in magnitude to the event of June 2006. The peak flow of the 2006 event recorded at the USGS gauge was 16,500-cubic feet per second. The peak flow recorded September 8, 2011, was 16,200-cfs.

The USGS gauge in Cameron Run also reported a 100% increase in depth and a 294% increase in flow between 5:35 p.m. and 6:55 p.m.

Actions Taken Since June 2006 Flood Event

Following the June 2006 flooding in Cameron Run significant work has been performed in the channel to maintain the flood carrying capacity. Ten thousand cubic yards of debris was removed from Cameron Run between June 2006 and August 2007. Three weirs that dissipate energy in the channel were repaired between 2008 and 2009 after being damaged during the June 2006 event. Woody vegetation that can block the free flow of water in the channel was removed from the banks of Holmes Run, Backlick Run, and Cameron Run, in the spring of 2011. Six hundred cubic yards of sediment was removed from Holmes Run in the spring of 2011.

Design was completed on the removal of approximately 8,400 cubic yards of debris from Cameron Run in December 2010. Staff anticipated that this work would be completed in the spring of 2011 and communicated this to property owners of the Alexandria Technology Center. A request was submitted to the City's Purchasing Division to issue an Invitation to Bid in January 2011. However, as a result of a large number of priority purchasing solicitations and the understaffing of seasoned procurement staff the invitation to bid was not issued until September 13, 2011, after the September 8 flood event.

Questions have been raised by the property owners as to whether this sediment removal would have prevented the flooding that was experienced at the Alexandria Technology Center on September 8. The severity of the storm was of such a magnitude that flooding would have occurred even if the sediment removal had taken place prior to the storm. It is possible that the

On September 8, at 12:23 p.m., the National Weather Service (NWS) issued a new Flash Flood Warning in effect until 3:15 p.m. At 2:59 p.m., NWS extended the Flash Flood Warning until 6:15 p.m., and at 5:35 p.m., NWS again extended the Warning until 9:15 p.m. These warnings were broadcast via local television and radio stations, as well as NOAA Weather Radio. In addition, the Alexandria Office of Communications and Public Information shared these warnings instantly with approximately 30,000 subscribers/followers via eNews and social media (Facebook/Twitter). Flash flood warnings also occurred on September 7, 2011.

At 2:10 p.m. on September 8, flow in Cameron Run peaked without overflowing its banks, and began to recede. The stream continued to recede until 4:05 p.m. Then, the stream began to rise again, initially at a relatively slow rate.

Around 4:30 p.m., the Alexandria Emergency Management Coordinator received a call from a Simpson Properties representative. During the call a telephone number was exchanged to notify Simpson Properties in the event that flash flooding might occur.

At approximately 5:30 p.m., as the stream began to rise more quickly, Emergency Management called the designated Simpson Properties representative to advise that flooding might occur, and to recommend that protective actions be taken. At the same time first responders from the Police Department and Fire Department were notified that the streams appeared to be rising.

Between 5:30 and 6:45 p.m., Cameron Run rose an incredible eight feet in just an hour and fifteen minutes, flooding Eisenhower Avenue and the Alexandria Technology Center.

By 6:50 p.m., Fire Department reports of swift water rescues were coming in from Eisenhower Avenue (Alexandria Technology Center), as well as Police reports of the need for rescue in the 600 block of South Pickett Street. Life threatening conditions persisted and swift water rescues continued for approximately an hour and a half. The Cameron Run gauge data subsequently revealed that the stream peaked at 7:35 p.m.

In order to communicate the threat of potential flash flooding, the City relies on systems such as eNews, NOAA Weather Alert Radio and the media. Because staff is aware that certain areas of the City are prone to flash flooding, staff does try to target certain areas, such as the Alexandria Technology Center for notification. However, the City is not currently staffed to provide individual notice to potentially affected property owners. Because the City also does not employ technical experts such as hydrologists and meteorologists, it relies solely on the National Weather Service to predict flooding events.

The timely prediction of flooding along the streams in Alexandria is extremely difficult due to both the flashy nature of the streams and the limited real-time data about the water in the watershed that leads to the City's streams. The Cameron Run watershed is extremely large, extending into Fairfax County well beyond Lake Barcroft. Since the September 8 storm, staff is working with the United States Geological Survey (USGS), National Weather Service hydrologists and meteorologists, Fairfax County, and the Commonwealth of Virginia Integrated Flood Observing and Warning System (IFLOWS) office to develop a series of gauge stations throughout the entire watershed. These stations will provide additional data to the National

Weather Service that will improve their flood predictions. Even with this additional data, the risk of flooding is primarily related to rainfall throughout the 44.8 square mile drainage area. Slight changes in meteorological conditions can have a dramatic impact on the risk of flooding, allowing very little warning time.

Status of USACE Flood Mitigation Study

The US Army Corps of Engineers is finalizing a study of mitigation measures that could be implemented in the Cameron Run floodplain areas to reduce the risk of flood damage. This study focused on two areas of the Cameron Run watershed, the Alexandria Technology Center and the Avalon Bay Community, located on the left bank of Cameron Run west of Telegraph Road, north of the Capital Beltway, and along Eisenhower Avenue and the Backlick Commercial Area, an area of industrial and commercial buildings near the South Van Dorn Street and Pickett Street intersection along the left bank of Backlick Run. Alternatives such as flood proofing, floodwalls, sediment removal, upstream detention, and channel modifications were considered to reduce future flood risk and damages. For the alternatives that were technically feasible, 10 percent concept plans and project construction costs were developed. An economic analysis was conducted to compare the economic benefits and costs of each potential plan to determine the project's cost effectiveness. Currently, only one of the 21 plans evaluated had a Benefit-Cost Ratio greater than 1.0 and would serve to mitigate flooding only for the Backlick Commercial Area. Only projects with a Benefit-Cost Ratio greater than 1.0 are eligible for federal funding. The USACE will present this information to the stakeholders in these two areas this fall. The meeting with the Alexandria Technology Center Business Association will be held at their next available meeting on October 20, 2011. Staff from T&ES, Fire, Emergency Management, and Procurement will also be attending.

Coordination with Fairfax County

City staff regularly coordinates with staff from Fairfax County regarding flooding along Cameron Run and will continue to coordinate on efforts to improve flood prediction and notification to at-risk properties. Following the June 2006 flood event, the USACE conducted a flood mitigation study for Fairfax that identified the construction of levee walls and a pump station along Cameron Run as a means to protect the Huntington area. The project cost was estimated at over \$20 million and did not meet the federal cost-benefit threshold. This project has not been funded by Fairfax County at this time, although the County is evaluating funding options. Fairfax County has also indicated to staff recently that they have no plans to remove sediment from Cameron Run downstream of the beltway bridge.

If you have any questions, or would like additional information regarding the flood event of September 8, please contact, Emily Baker at 703 746 4045.

cc: Mark Jinks, Deputy City Manager
Michele R. Evans, Deputy City Manager
Earl L. Cook, Police Chief
Adam K. Thiel, Fire Chief
Mark Penn, Emergency Management Coordinator
Laura B. Triggs, Acting Chief Financial Officer
Emily A. Baker, P.E., City Engineer

#12
10/25/11

Discussion of Possible Enhancements to City Emergency Management and Safety/Security Programs

October 25, 2011

City Council Legislative Meeting

Background

- Involvement of Goal Group Six Public Safety Agencies
 - Provided input on \$1.2 million FY 2011 end of year surplus discussed at September 13 Council meeting.
 - Developed and reviewed over \$2.2 million in departmental alternatives and identified \$1.2 million in options.
 - In light of \$14.4 million City budget gap, Goal Group Six recommended funding some or none of alternatives, reserving funds for potential reductions in FY 2013 Public Safety budgets
- City Manager Docket Memo recommended Council discussion of \$718,950 in program funding, holding \$502,050 in reserve

Background

- Involvement of Goal Group Six Public Safety Agencies
 - Provided input on \$1.2 million FY 2011 end of year surplus discussed at September 13 Council meeting.
 - Developed and reviewed over \$2.2 million in departmental alternatives and identified \$1.2 million in options.
 - In light of \$14.4 million City budget gap, Goal Group Six recommended funding some or none of alternatives, reserving funds for potential reductions in FY 2013 Public Safety budgets
- City Manager Docket Memo recommended Council discussion of \$718,950 in program funding, holding \$502,050 in reserve

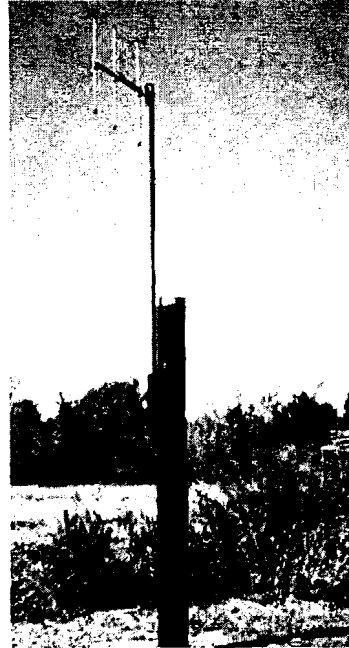
Funding Alternatives

City Manager current recommendations -

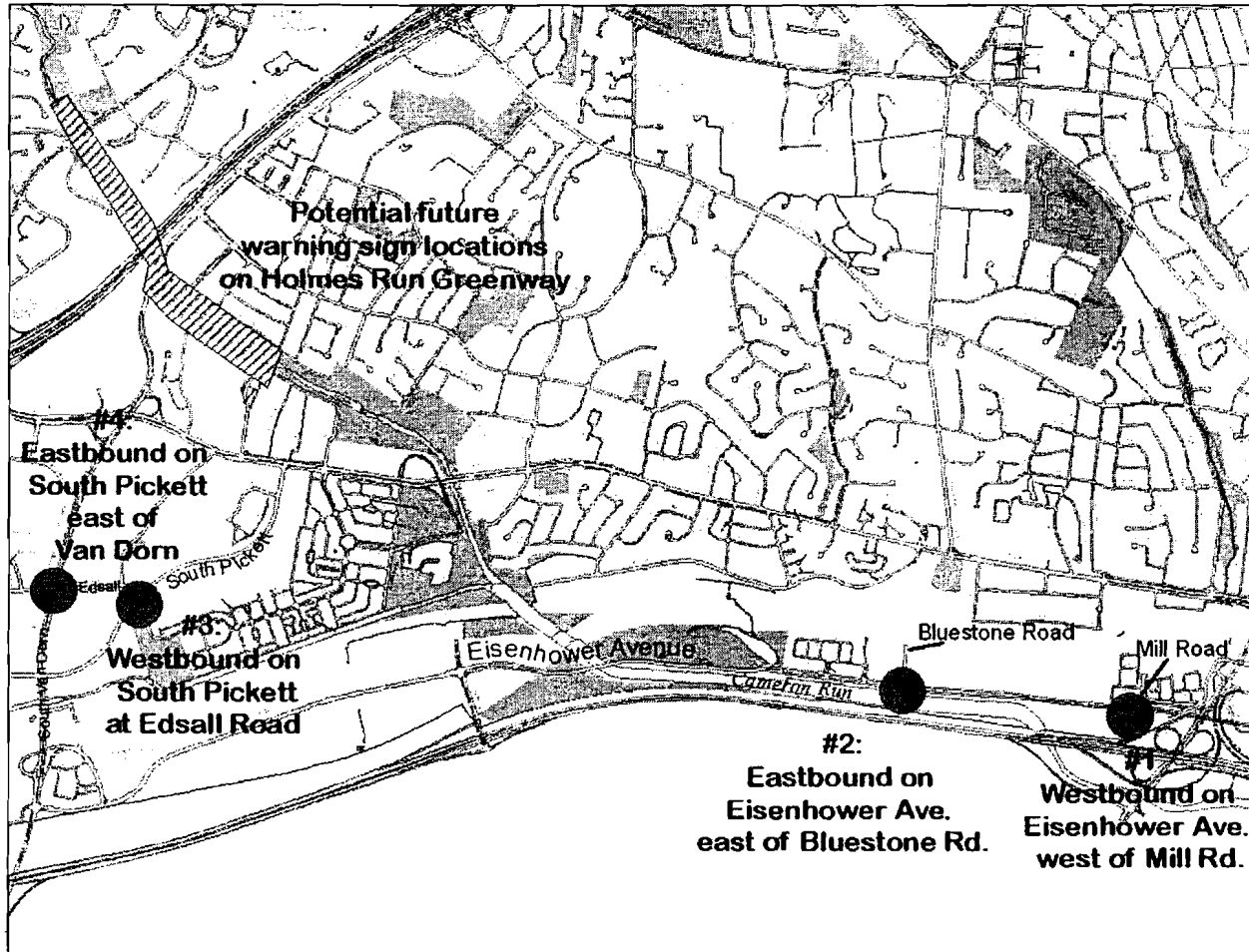
- Tier 1-
 - \$100,000 – Advanced Flood Warning System
- Tier 2 –
 - \$250,000 – Planning for New EOC/Medical Supply Storage
- Tier 3 –
 - \$75,000 – Police Civil Disturbance Unit Training
 - \$50,000 – Adult Detention Center Perimeter Enhancement
 - \$213,950 – Fire Swiftwater Rescue

Advanced Flood Warning System

- The proposed system includes advanced flood monitoring stations located in the watershed enhancing our ability to predict flooding and providing automated notice through the use of flashing warning signs.

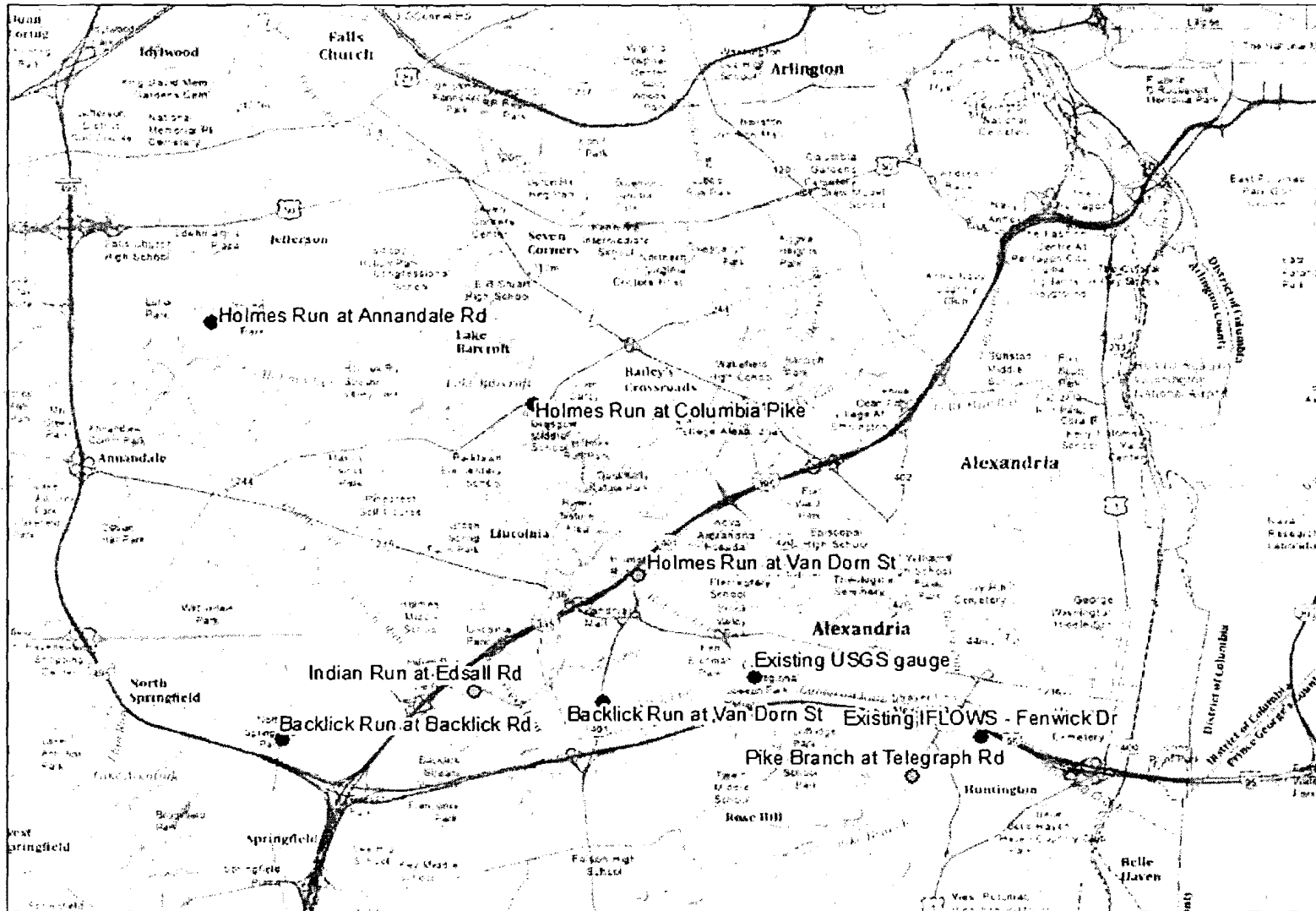


Advanced Flood Warning System Proposed Locations in Alexandria



Potential Monitoring Locations

- Following slide indicates the approximate locations of the new and existing monitor stations recommended by the National Weather Service (NWS) Hydrologists.
- Monitors the nearby stream and rainfall in order to provide the necessary data for more accurate flash flood predictions as well as more timely notice.
- Currently, only one flood gauge located on Cameron Run -- limited to reporting data only once an hour.



Planning for New Emergency Operations Center - \$250K

- Provide for planning and design to provide a permanent EOC and Emergency storage at the Public Safety Center.
- Move up planning for new EOC as a part of the reuse plan;
 - The FY2012 Approved CIP has this work currently scheduled for FY2014. This will allow the work allow for the planning and design to take place immediately.
 - The current EOC is set up in classrooms too small to accommodate all staff required for a full-scale disaster and valuable time is lost due to set-up efforts for each event. The building is overcrowded, has high noise levels, poor communications capability, and inadequate meeting space and storage facilities.
- Provide storage for Emergency Management and Health Department medical supplies at Public Safety Center
 - Currently items are stored in five separate locations including Loudoun County. Items include personal protection equipment for public safety, departments; supplies to setup medical dispensing sites and critical items such as ventilators for Woodbine patients.

Police Department Civil Disturbance Unit (CSU) Training

Estimated Cost: \$75,000

- CDU is a team of 45 police officers trained to respond to emergencies and planned or unplanned events such as Occupy Wall St., abortion demonstrations, protests by labor groups or community activists, protests at residences or work places of well-known persons by hate groups or others
- City location near Washington DC increases likelihood of need for CDU to respond in the City or to neighboring jurisdictions under our mutual aid agreements
- Funds provide for quarterly training and backfill of positions when training is planned

Perimeter Enhancement at the William G. Truesdale Adult Detention Center

Estimated Cost: \$50,000

- Additional fencing is needed to enhance the Sheriff's Office capability to facilitate an evacuation of inmates due to unforeseen, exceptional circumstances, such as the August earthquake.
- Modifications to the existing outside holding areas will allow staff the ability to escort inmates to these areas without compromising security and safety of all.
- Also prevents "keep separate" inmates from coming in contact with each other.

Swiftwater Rescue Capability in the Fire Department

Requested Amount: \$565,167

Docket Item Proposed Funding: \$213,950

Alternative City Manager Proposal - Deferral

- Additional equipment and training is needed to enable the Fire Department to safely rescue individuals threatened by flooding or swift-moving water.
- The Fire Department requested funds (\$565,167) for two boats and trailers, a truck, travel and training costs, overtime to backfill during training, rescue equipment and personal protective gear to create a fully capable, 25-person swiftwater rescue team.
- City Manager initially proposed funding (\$213,950) to support a 13-person team with training and towing resources coming from existing Fire Department resources.
- Fire Chief's proposal for limited response capability with \$213,950
- City Council discussion of limited funding or deferral

Summary of \$9.8 million Surplus

- \$3.1 for Emergency Response expenses
 - \$1.9 million for FY 2012 expenses already or to-be incurred
 - Combined with \$0.5 already committed in fund balance provides \$2.4 million emergency response reserve

Summary of \$9.8 million Surplus

- \$1.2 million for improved emergency response capabilities
 - \$0.7 million proposed expenditures in Docket Item #12
 - \$0.5 million proposed to be added to FY 2012 reserve
- New total for reserve - \$2.9 million
 - Use to meet FY 2012 emergency expenses or available for FY 2013 public safety needs

12
10-25-11

Jackie Henderson

From: Bruce Johnson
Sent: Tuesday, October 25, 2011 3:34 PM
To: City Council
Cc: City Council Aides; Adam Thiel; Earl Cook; Dana Lawhorne; Cheryl Orr; Debra Collins; James Banks; Laura Triggs; Mark Jinks; Michele Evans; Tom Gates; Tom Trobridge; Tony Castrilli
Subject: Docket Item #12 -- Emergency Management and Safety and Security Enhancements
Attachments: funding swiftwater rescue.pdf
Importance: High

Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council:

This evening you will hear a presentation of Docket Item #12 "Report on Recent Emergencies in the City and Discussion of Possible Enhancements to City Emergency Management and Safety and Security Programs". Since the preparation of that docket item last week, new information has been made available to me by the Fire Chief concerning proposed enhancements for swiftwater rescue activities. I have attached his memo that I received this morning on this subject. I made my recommendations last week to fund \$213,950 based on certain assumptions about how this limited amount of funding would be used (response boats, personal protective gear, rescue rope and hardware and training and position backfill during training). His memo describes a different use of this limited amount of funding, a use which will result in a much more limited capability than I imagined. He wanted to be clear that the department's capability, although marginally improved, would be limited to land-based rescue capability using ropes and throwbags.

He and I discussed this issue this afternoon. I still am **not** willing to request of City Council a more extensive swiftwater rescue capability totaling some \$565,000 with an additional \$85,000 a year in recurring training costs. I have decided to keep the amount of the request at \$213,950, but not make **at this time** any commitment for FY 2013 or later to expand beyond this capacity. Chief Thiel will speak tonight on what we get for the \$213,950 and you can decide whether this marginal improvement in capability is worth the funding. We can reconsider additional swiftwater rescue capabilities in the context of the FY 2013 budget and an assessment of all of our other public safety needs and the limited funding available for meeting those needs.

This evening I also will be prioritizing the \$718,950 I did request as follows:

First Tier -- \$100,000 for flood gauges, warning devices and software. These flood gauges and warning devices promise the first and best line of defense in protecting life and property downstream on Holmes, Backlick and Cameron Run.

Second Tier -- \$250,000 for accelerated funding of the initial planning and design of a permanent Emergency Operations Center at the Public Safety Center. These funds would allow us to reduce the previously approved CIP plan to spend \$1,750,000 for this purpose to \$1,500,000 and will be attempting to expedite this project during our examination of the FY 2013 CIP. This capability will greatly improve our emergency response capabilities in a large number of potential emergency situations.

Third Tier -- \$75,000 for civil disturbance training for the Police Dept.; \$50,000 for perimeter improvements at the Adult Detention Center; and the \$213,950 for swiftwater rescue. All of these items would be useful, but decisions on any of them could be made a part of the FY 2013 budget if City Council wishes to hold additional funds in reserve to be considered for a wider variety of public safety activities as part of that process.

You will have an opportunity to discuss these items this evening, again at the November 1st budget work session, and finally on November 9th and 13th when you consider a supplemental appropriation ordinance. Any of these items that City Council does not wish to fund in FY 2012, together with the additional \$0.5 million discussed in the memo, may be reconsidered in the FY 2013 budget in the context of all our public safety needs.

Bruce

City of Alexandria, Virginia

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE
ALEXANDRIA, VA
2011 OCT 25 A 9:07

MEMORANDUM

DATE: OCTOBER 24, 2011
TO: BRUCE JOHNSON, ACTING CITY MANAGER
FROM: ADAM K. THIEL, FIRE CHIEF *AKT*
SUBJECT: FUNDING FOR SWIFTWATER RESCUE TEAM

In reviewing the City Council docket item for tomorrow evening, I want to be extremely clear about the level of funding that Council is being asked to approve for swiftwater rescue and the resulting level of services that can be provided.

As you know, the Fire Department submitted a request for \$565,167 to create a fully capable swiftwater rescue team. This did not include personal flotation devices for the Fire, Police and Sheriff's Departments. In order to operate a swiftwater rescue team to the minimum level we recommend, we will need the full funding proposal along with the ongoing training request in each year of the budget. This will provide us with 24/7 capability to respond a swiftwater/flood emergency.

The docket item scheduled to go before Council proposes \$213,950 of funding for swiftwater rescue. Most of the equipment that was requested is funded, but only one-third of the training costs are funded. In addition, we were explicit that some of the required training (\$116,000) would be a necessary recurring annual cost as part of maintaining such a program.

This level of funding can be used in one of two ways:

- 1) To start the swiftwater rescue team with additional funding in FY 13 and beyond. At that point, we can ramp up our level of service to full capability. As our proposal is funded, we will eventually be able to provide 24/7/365 rescue service. The funding levels here will allow us to get started, but still not provide the full level of service until additional funding is provided.
- 2) To provide basic operational training for Fire Department staff and basic technical training for a small team that will be on call. We will instruct all our personnel how to operate safely from the shore line to avoid hurting or killing themselves. Fire Department staff will not be able to go into the water and rescue individuals

such as on September 8th. The expectation is that anyone beyond the effective reach of a throwbag (25 feet) will be beyond our ability to help.

Regardless of the above, this funding is appreciated and will allow us to improve the current condition. However, the level of funding that is going before City Council is not sufficient for us to provide the level of service necessary to train and equip a fully capable swiftwater/flood rescue team.

CC: Michele Evans, Deputy City Manager
Kendel Taylor, Assistant Director, OMB
John North, Battalion Chief
Matt Bosse, Fiscal Officer II