

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 6, 2004

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *PS*

SUBJECT: NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY FOR SENIORS

ISSUE: Submission of the Final Report on the Needs Assessment Survey for Seniors prepared by the Commission on Aging.

RECOMMENDATIONS: That City Council receive the Final Report and refer it to City staff (1) to examine its fiscal and programmatic impacts, and (2) to develop recommendations and plans of action for future City Council consideration.

BACKGROUND: In February 2003 survey questionnaires were mailed to over 9,500 seniors in the City, age 60 and over, as well as separate surveys to service providers who serve seniors, asking for opinions as to the needs of seniors in Alexandria. There was a tremendous response, with over 2,300 completed individual surveys being received (a 24% response rate). Survey responses were analyzed, along with information pertaining to national trends in aging from across the country. Recommendations were made based on all this information.

Committees of the Commission on Aging, working with City staff, analyzed the survey returns, the 2000 Census data and national trends. Each committee, Health, Housing, Public Safety, Education and Cultural Affairs, Income and Employment, and Access and Community Services, developed recommendations and a plan of action from the findings. The whole Commission adopted the Final Report, which includes recommendations, for submission to City Council.

Key recommendations in the report are:

- Develop an innovative and comprehensive outreach plan
- Expand services available for older seniors, age 75 and above (in particular, companion care services and assisted living opportunities)
- Support expansion and development of affordable housing for seniors
- Support current transportation infrastructure and programs for seniors
- Develop programs to support seniors who cannot afford prescription medications
- Expand opportunities for seniors to obtain employment within the City

City staff will work with the Commission on Aging to examine the potential fiscal and programmatic impact of these recommendations and plans of action, and return to Council in the fall with its recommendations.

FISCAL IMPACT: To be determined.

ATTACHMENT: Final Report on the Needs Assessment Survey for Seniors, with letter of transmittal from Commission on Aging Chair, Donald D. Fowler

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City of Alexandria, Virginia

Commission on Aging

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March 19, 2004

Honorable Mayor Bill Euille
Members of City Council
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mayor Euille,

I am pleased to present to you the Final Report for the Commission on Aging Needs Assessment Survey For Seniors. On behalf of the members of the Commission, I want to thank the City Manager's Office, the Department of Human Services and the Office of Aging and Adult Services for their unstinting support of this project.

In February of 2003 survey questionnaires were mailed to over 9,500 seniors in the City, age 60 and over, as well as separate surveys to Service Providers who serve seniors, asking for opinions as to what the needs are for seniors in the City of Alexandria. We had a tremendous response, receiving over 2,300 completed individual surveys (a 24% response rate). Survey responses were analyzed, along with information pertaining to National trends in aging from across the country. Recommendations were made based on findings from this information. These findings are listed below, as well as a summary of recommendations and actions the Commission on Aging will implement in support of these recommendations.

Finding: **Survey data reflects a general lack of knowledge within the senior community of services that are currently available.**

Recommendation: Develop an innovative and comprehensive outreach plan to inform seniors about services available in the community.

Plan of Action: The Commission on Aging (COA) will 1) work with the Office of Aging and Adult Services to enhance and expand current community outreach plans, 2) develop public/private partnerships with local businesses and the faith communities to expand avenues for outreach.

Finding: **Census Data for Alexandria clearly demonstrates that the segment of seniors, age 75 and above, is growing considerably faster than seniors, age 60 and older as a whole.**

Recommendation: Expand services available for older seniors, age 75 and above, which is the fastest growing segment of the 60 and over population.

Plan of Action: Encourage City Council to increase funding for in home companion care services. Support the Assisted Living Work Group in every possible way. Study the feasibility of developing a Northern Virginia PACE Program in collaboration with Arlington and Fairfax Counties.

Finding: The median value of a single family home in Alexandria is \$252,800. This is more than double the median value of a single family home in Virginia which is \$125,400. This has contributed to the slow growth of younger seniors moving into Alexandria.

Recommendation: Support expansion and development of affordable housing for seniors in Alexandria, both home ownership and rental properties.

Plan of Action: Work with the Office of Housing to support research and expansion of affordable housing and home modification programs to encourage seniors to remain in their homes. Support Department of Human Services in their efforts to reach out to homeless seniors.

Finding: Transportation was ranked as the third most significant issue by seniors. The ability to remain in the community is dependent on the availability of reliable, affordable and accessible transportation for seniors.

Recommendation: Support current transportation infrastructure and programs for seniors.

Plan of Action: Work with City Departments to resolve price differential between Senior Taxi and DOT for disabled seniors. Ask City Council to fund the cost of the price differential, and permanently fund Senior Taxi Extension. Support City Council in their efforts to maintain City control of taxi certificates.

Finding: Medical care in general was ranked as the most significant issue for seniors overall. For those seniors who didn't have enough money, prescription drug coverage was ranked as the greatest need.

Recommendation: Develop programs to support seniors who cannot afford prescription medications. Educate community regarding Medicare Prescription Legislation.

Plan of Action: In Collaboration with local non profit agencies and City departments, develop innovative programs and support systems to assist low income seniors in obtaining prescription drug medication. Working with local service providers and organizations, disseminate updated information as it is available on Medicare Prescription Legislation and implementation. Advocate for improved Federal legislation for prescription drugs.

Finding: Of those seniors responding to questions about employment, 30% indicated they were working or seeking employment. This is more than twice the national average of 12%, and close to twice the average for the Washington area of 17%.

Recommendation: Expand opportunities for seniors to obtain employment within the City.

Plan of Action: Support City Council in their efforts to continue the Living Wage Ordinance. Work with Personnel Department to increase number of seniors working in the City.

Distribution of Needs Study:

Once the Final Report is accepted by City Council, this report will be distributed to those serving seniors including City Commissions and Boards, City staff, local service providers and other interested parties. Copies will also be placed in City Libraries.

The Commission on Aging asks that this report be accepted to permit the implementation of the plan of action and recommendations.

Sincerely,

Donald D. Fowler, Chair

“Alexandria is the Place to Grow Old”

A Needs Assessment Survey for Alexandria’s Seniors
Age 60 and Over

Prepared by the Alexandria Commission on Aging

with Support from the

Office of Aging and Adult Services
and the
Department of Human Services



Final Report
March, 2004

Commission on Aging Needs Assessment Survey for Seniors

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Alexandria Commission on Aging 2003 Needs Assessment Final Report - March, 2004

The Commission on Aging would like to acknowledge and extend its appreciation to City Manager Phil Sunderland and his staff, the Department of Human Services and the Office of Aging and Adult Services for their support and assistance throughout this Needs Assessment process.

I. Introduction

The Alexandria Commission on Aging, is a twenty-one member commission, appointed by the City Council, that serves as the principal advocate for issues relating to aging and promotes the implementation of the Older Americans Act and other age-pertinent laws and policies in Alexandria and the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Commission advances programs and services that address the needs of older Alexandrians, especially for, but not exclusively, low income citizens.

Commission make up is as follows: sixteen citizen members, eleven of which shall be 60 years of age or older including minority individuals; and one representative from each of the following categories: older persons, a health care organization, a supportive service provider, an individual with leadership experience in a volunteer organization, and one local elected official or his or her designee.

The work of the Commission on Aging takes place largely within its five subcommittees. The results of this Needs Assessment will be analyzed as they apply to these five areas.

Health

Housing

Public Safety

Education and Cultural Affairs

Income and Employment

Access and Community Services

II. Purpose of the Needs Assessment

The Commission on Aging is dedicated to identifying and meeting the needs of Alexandria's seniors, particularly those of low income. In order to be effective in this role, the Commission periodically assesses the needs of its constituents, and develops plans accordingly. Information gained from this assessment will be used to advocate for needed services, educate City and State legislators and support requests for funding.

III. Data Collection

During late 2002 and early 2003, two survey instruments were developed by the Commission on Aging and DHS staff. Input was received from each subcommittee, and compiled into two comprehensive surveys. The first survey was geared towards Alexandria residents, age 60 and older (Appendix A). Before the survey was finalized, it was reviewed by four professionals who had extensive experience and expertise in the area of needs assessment. Changes were made to improve the effectiveness of the survey and it was then field tested with 2 diverse target groups of seniors. Additional changes were made to the instrument before it went to print.

A total of 9346 surveys were mailed to seniors in Alexandria. Mailing lists were developed from various sources to ensure a wide range of seniors would have the opportunity to complete the survey. Additionally, seniors could call the Office of Adult Services for assistance filling the survey out over the phone, they could enlist the assistance of social workers or other service providers and lastly, participants at the St. Martins Senior Center were given the opportunity to complete the survey with the assistance of a Farsi interpreter. A total of 2336 (25%) completed surveys were returned. The responses from these surveys were compiled by a specialized computer program, SurveyPro. Opened ended responses were categorized and analyzed by a DHS Consultant.

The second survey instrument was geared towards Provider organizations that serve seniors in various capacities (Appendix B). These providers were public, private, for profit and non-profit organizations. Surveys were developed in English and Spanish. Of the 178 surveys mailed to providers, 24 (13%) completed surveys were returned. These responses were analyzed by a DHS Consultant.

Information from the 2000 United States Census was analyzed in great detail to form an overview of seniors in Alexandria, in the state of Virginia and in the United States as a whole. Specifics from this research are contained in the Demographic Overview section of this report.

Lastly, information was gathered regarding National Trends in Aging (Appendix C). This information was gathered by Commission on Aging members and a DHS Consultant.

IV. Demographic Overview

Based on Census 2000 Data, The City of Alexandria is a very diverse community of 128,283 residents. Seniors age 60 and over comprise 12% of its citizenry, or 15,473 persons. This is an increase of 1.8% from the 1990 Census. The majority of seniors, 50.4%, live west of Quaker Lane, a 13% increase over the last 20 years. This is in keeping with a western shift in the overall population. Concentrations of seniors reside in the 22311 Zip code which contain the senior housing communities of Goodwin House, the Hermitage and Washington House, which together can house approximately 940 seniors, or 6% of those over 60. Elsewhere in the City, 494 seniors, or 3% of those over 60, reside in nursing homes or assisted living facilities. Below are two tables of Census 2000 demographic information. Table I is a snapshot of the entire City of Alexandria, as compared to the State of Virginia, and the United States as a whole. Table II contains demographic information of Alexandria residents age 60 and over.

Table I: Alexandria City - all citizens

Population	Alexandria Census Data	Virginia Census Data	U.S. Census Data
Total number of people	128,283	7,078,515 (12 th highest of all states)	281,421,906
Population Density - people per square mile	8,452	178.8	79.6
% People under age 5	6.2	6.5	6.8
% People age 18 and over	83.2	75.4	74.3
% People age 60 and over	12	15.1	16.2
% People age 65 and over	9.0	11.2	12.4
% People age 85 and over	1.3	1.2	1.5
Median Age	34.4	35.7	35.3
Racial and Ethnic Diversity - all ages			
% White	59.8	72.3	75.1
% Black/African Amer.	22.5	19.6	12.3
% Hispanic - this is considered an ethnicity by the Census, not a race	14.7	4.7	12.5
% Asian/ Pacific Islander	5.8	3.8	3.7
Median Value - Single Family Home	\$252,800	\$125,400	\$119,600
Median Household Income	\$56,054	\$46,677	\$41,994
% of Families Below Poverty Level	6.8	7.0	9.2
% of Individuals Below Poverty Level	8.9	9.6	12.4

Table II: Alexandria City - age 60 and over - except where noted otherwise *

Age	Number of People	Percentage of Seniors age 60 and above	Percentage of total Alexandria Population
People age 60 and over	15,473	100	12.1
People age 60-64	3,868	25	3.0
People age 65-74	5,695	37	4.4
People age 75-84	4,204	27	3.3
People age 85 and over	1,706	11	1.3
Racial and Ethnic Diversity - all ages			
White	11,649	75	9.0
Black/African Amer.	2,616	17	2.1
Hispanic - this is not considered a race by the Census, but rather an ethnicity	676	4.3	.53
Asian / Pacific Islander	710	4.6	.54
* Household Income - Ages 65 and up	Number of Households	*Percent of Households of those 65 and up	Percent of all Alexandria Households
Under \$10,000	921	12	1.5
\$10,000 - \$20,000	982	13	1.6
\$20,000 - \$30,000	846	11	1.4
\$30,000 - \$50,000	1438	19	2.3
Over \$50,000	3308	44	5.3
*Non-Institutionalized age 65 and above with a disability	38.8%		
*Senior householders age 65 and above who are homeowners	4,839 Households - 63%		
*Senior householders age 65 and above who are renters	2,798 Households - 37%		

V. Survey Results

Response to the individual survey was excellent, not only in terms of the numbers of surveys completed, but also in representation of Alexandria seniors as a whole. Demographics for age, race, income and geographical distribution were evaluated, and the results closely mirrored those of the 2000 Census data. There were two areas where there were discrepancies. First, those seniors who self identified as Hispanics were under represented, as were residents living in the 22311 zip code area. It may be worthwhile to hold community meetings to reach out to the Hispanic community to gather additional input. In terms of under representation by seniors in the 22311 zip code area, this is not a problem, due to the fact that this zip code area contains several Continuing Care Communities. The needs and services available to seniors living in these communities are met by the facilities in which they live and would not represent seniors as a whole. Therefore, there is not a need to gather more information from this group of seniors.

Response to the provider survey was lower than anticipated, however, a wide variety of providers responded including public and private agencies, for profit as well as non profit agencies, church based programs, health related providers, volunteer organizations, and residential facilities.

The results of the surveys were broadly analyzed according to individual and provider responses. The data was then stratified and analyzed according to the Commission on Aging Sub-Committee study areas. Where applicable, information from the National Trends Report will be incorporated into this later analysis.

A. Overview of Individual Survey Responses:

♦ Most important issues for seniors: of 2121 Respondents (91%)		
<u>Issue</u>	<u># of responses</u>	<u>% of respondents (more than one response was allowed)</u>
Medical care	1617	76
Enough money to live on	958	45
Transportation	705	33
Friends and things to do	631	30
Help so I can stay in my own home	585	28
Place to live	343	16

◆ **Most important needs of seniors if they didn't have enough money: of 688 Respondents (29%)**

<u>Need</u>	<u># of responses</u>	<u>% of respondents (more than one response was allowed)</u>
Prescription drug coverage	324	47
Home repairs	243	35
Help so I can continue to live in my own home	167	24
Help paying utility bills	143	21
Food	134	19
Housing/Rent	132	19
Transportation	123	19

B. Overview of Provider Survey Responses:

◆ **Greatest immediate unmet need for seniors:**

<u>Need</u>	<u># of Respondents</u>	<u>% of Respondents</u>
Low income housing	7	29
Assisted living beds	4	17
Prescription drugs	3	13
Referral services	3	13

◆ **Greatest need for seniors in the next 10 years:**

<u>Need</u>	<u># of Respondents</u>	<u>% of Respondents</u>
Home care / able to age at home	6	25
Housing	6	25
Pay for prescription drugs and health insurance	3	13
Wellness programs	3	13

C. Overview of Survey Responses as they pertain to Commission on Aging Sub-Committees

1. Health Committee:

Individual survey results indicate that health care is a major concern among Alexandria's seniors. Medical care in general ranked as the top priority regardless of age, household income, or race or ethnicity. Prescription drug coverage specifically, was ranked as the greatest need for seniors regardless of age, race or ethnicity. It ranked as the greatest need for those whose yearly household income was under \$25,000. Prescription drug coverage ranked as the second highest need for those with higher income. When asked as an open ended question, what else seniors wanted the Commission on Aging to know, the high cost of prescriptions drugs received the second highest number of comments.

Survey results show that Medicare is the primary source of health insurance for Alexandria Seniors (40%), while 2.3% of all seniors have no insurance. These uninsured seniors represent 5% of those age 60-64 and 3% of those over 90. The majority of the uninsured seniors have incomes less than \$12,000 per year.

For those seniors who felt they had health problems for which they had not been able to find professional care (9%), the underlying reasons were overall cost (49%), cost of prescription drugs (41%) and transportation problems (20%). Of the 18% of Asian respondents that indicated they had unmet health needs, not being able to find a doctor was the primary problem.

Although 88% of all respondents indicated they did not need help with activities of daily living, those seniors age 80 and above, or those with annual income below \$10,000 needed the most help. Assistance was needed in the areas of walking, getting out of the house, cooking, bathing and dressing. Survey responses indicate that 25% of respondents who did not have enough money needed help to continue living in their own home. This need manifests itself in real numbers with close to 80 seniors waiting for in home companion care services from the Office of Aging and Adult Services.

Nutrition did not seem to be a pressing need for most Alexandria seniors. Just over 93% indicated they were eating good meals every day and 97% indicated they did not need prepared meals delivered to their homes. The Asian respondents were the exception, with 14% in need of home delivered meals. This exception holds true of National Trends, where nutrition services are often the point of entry into the service system, particularly for minorities.

2. Housing Committee:

Most Alexandria seniors were satisfied with their housing (87%). Of those that were not satisfied, cost was the overwhelming issue (50%), followed by need of house repairs (29%), and housing that was too small (18%). Census data shows that the cost of housing in Alexandria is extremely high. The median value of a single family home in Alexandria is \$252,800, double the median value of an average single family home in Virginia of \$125,400. Census data further indicates that Alexandria's slow growth in seniors over the last ten years may be due in part to the high cost of home ownership and rental properties. Older seniors who own their homes and no longer have a mortgage are less affected by rising housing costs than younger seniors looking to move into Alexandria.

As indicated in the overview, home repairs ranked as the second area of need for those seniors who did not have enough money. This is supported by the fact that 58% of survey respondents indicated their home was over 30 years old. When asked what additional services seniors

needed, 17% indicated services related to housing (rent and tax relief, repairs, utility assistance.) The survey indicated that only a small percentage of respondents receive tax or rent relief. This may indicate a lack of knowledge of services available in the community, rather than a lack of services themselves.

The desire to remain in one's own home, to 'age in place', was obvious by the responses received. The desire was highest among Black/African American seniors (54%), followed by White seniors (40%). Of those with plans for the future when they are no longer able to manage on their own, 41% plan to remain in their own home with assistance. Of the remainder, 18% plan to move to a retirement community, 9% plan to move into assisted living, 9% will move out of the City of Alexandria. While there are several retirement communities in Alexandria, there are very limited assisted living options for the low to moderate income senior, so the potential for seniors moving out of the City when they are no longer able to manage on their own is high.

3. Public Safety:

From an overall perspective, the vast majority of Alexandria seniors feel safe in their home (97%), in their community (94%), and in their family (98%). When looking more closely however, 6% of Black/African American seniors do not feel as safe, 6% of those with yearly incomes under \$10,000 do not feel as safe, and 6% of those age 85-90 don't feel safe. Anecdotal data provides additional evidence that in addition to these areas of public safety, the area of financial exploitation remains of high concern for Alexandria seniors. During the Fiscal Year 2004, the Office of Aging and Adult Services, OAAS, received six reports alleging financial exploitation. During this current Fiscal Year, which ends on June 30, 2004, OAAS has already received seven reports alleging the same exploitation.

4. Education and Cultural Affairs:

The survey indicates that 19% of respondents utilize recreation programs or senior centers and that 17% of respondents feel there are not enough opportunities to get together/meet with others in the community. In terms of educational classes, only 11% indicate they take them, with the majority of participants in two primary categories: those with higher incomes, and the younger seniors, age 60-64. Most respondents (49%) state they are not interested in taking classes, while some (11%) don't know where to take them. The range of responses when asked what educational or cultural activities are needed in Alexandria was varied, ranging from many requests for computer classes, volunteer opportunities, day trips, Shakespeare, and more. Many of these activities are currently offered in Alexandria, so the issue may be one of informing seniors as to what is already available, more so than increasing opportunities.

In the area of cultural diversity, the survey indicated that 6% of respondents felt that their ethnic group had unmet needs. However, it was difficult to determine, based on open ended answers what those unmet needs were.

5. Income and Employment:

After medical care, having enough money to live on was the second most important issue for seniors in Alexandria. When asked if they had enough income to meet basic needs, the vast majority (74%) that answered they did not, had annual incomes of less than \$25,000. In terms of racial/ethnic breakdown, 46% of Black/African Americans felt they did not have enough income for basic needs, 32% of Asians felt this way, and 13% of White seniors felt this way. Those seniors age 75-79, and those over 90 were most likely to feel they did not have enough income for basic needs (22%) of each group.

A parallel finding of this survey indicates that those seniors with annual incomes of less than \$25,000 received money from other people to help pay some of their living expenses. Although a very small percentage of older Alexandrians (less than 1%), 57% of American Indians or Alaskan Native seniors receive money from other people to help pay some of their living expenses. This compares to 13% of Black/African Americans and 8% of White seniors.

Of those responding to questions concerning employment, 30% of seniors 60 and older responded they were working or seeking employment. This is unusually high compared to the nationwide average of 12% for seniors 55 and over and 17% for the Washington area. Twice as many women reported they were employed or seeking employment in all income levels up to \$30,000 per year, at which point, it began to even out until after incomes of \$50,000 per year when the number of males who reported they were working or seeking employment was 75% larger than the number of females.

Across all age bands, from 60 to over 80 years of age, females were twice as likely as males to be in the lowest income levels. Not until the yearly income range of \$30,000 - \$49,999 did it even out, and at yearly incomes of \$50,000 or more, males outnumbered females 65% to 35%.

6. Access and Community Services:

Transportation surfaced as the third most important issue for seniors regardless of age. It became an even more important issue for seniors over age 80, who ranked it as the second most important issue. Of all seniors, 315 indicated that transportation was a problem. Perhaps the most significant finding of this survey regarding transportation, was that 56% of respondents did not know about special transportation programs for seniors. Those most likely not to know were the younger seniors age 60-64 (69%), those with annual incomes over \$50,000 (63%), and White seniors (56%). As stated previously, these findings may indicate a lack of knowledge and not a lack of services.

D. General Responses

The majority of questions were specific, geared towards gaining specific kinds of information. Several questions, however, were open ended in order to provide the opportunity for seniors to give us information that they thought was important and pertinent to their lives.

Although some respondents felt the survey was not needed, the overwhelming majority of responses focused on how impressed seniors were with the range and quality of services offered by the City of Alexandria and other providers. As one senior said, "Alexandria is the place to grow old." Many wanted more information about what was available, and some wanted specific information and assistance. For those that provided a phone number, they were contacted directly.

VI. Trends

As Alexandria moves forward in time, what will the City look like? Although the U.S. Census does not have projected populations figures for Alexandria specifically, national and state trends can give us a glimpse of the future for Alexandria. Overall, the population of the U.S. is expected to rise 22% by the year 2025. Virginia is expected to have a 29% increase in population during that time frame, the 18th highest in the nation. During that same time frame, Virginia is expected to increase its immigrant population by 605,000, 8th highest increase in the nation.

As the baby boomers age, (those born between 1946 and 1964), the numbers of seniors will increase. In Virginia, between the years 2000 and 2015, there is projected to be a 40% increase of seniors over the age of 65, or 316,667 additional seniors. Between the years 2000 and 2025, there is projected to be a 91% increase of seniors, or 722,667 additional seniors.

In the Southern part of the U.S., which includes Alexandria, the racial/ethnic breakdown of population increase will look like this by the year 2025:

<u>Race/Ethnicity</u>	<u>% of population increase</u>
White	35.2
Hispanic	32.2
Black	25.8
Asian	6.1
American Indian	0.7

VII. Commission on Aging Recommendations

1. Survey data, as well as anecdotal evidence strongly suggests the need to develop a comprehensive outreach plan to inform seniors and their families about services and programs that are currently available in the community and how to access them. This plan should be ongoing and fluid, and include traditional as well as innovative new ideas that are targeted to reach across the wide spectrum of Alexandria seniors. The Commission will work with the Department of Human Services and other City and private agencies to develop an outreach plan.
2. Census Data clearly shows that the number of the City's oldest seniors, age 75 and above, is growing considerably faster than any other senior age group. These individuals will need the costliest services, including in home companion care, community based care and assisted living. The Commission strongly suggests recommendations in these areas:
 - A. Increasing funding for in home companion care services by an amount sufficient to eliminate the current waiting list for these services, and provide additional services for eligible seniors.
 - B. Support the Assisted Living Work Group in every possible way. Since the closure of the Alexandria Residential Care Home, (ARCH), affordable assisted living for the low and moderate income senior is virtually non-existent in the City. The Commission suggests the allocation of substantial funds in the near future, based on the Assisted Living Work Group's recommendations, to help support this endeavor.
 - C. Study the feasibility of a Program for All Inclusive Care for the Elderly, (PACE). PACE programs, in conjunction with Medicare, Medicaid and private pay sources, provide all of the needed preventive, primary, acute and long term care services to enable nursing home eligible elderly to continue to live in the community. Work

collaboratively with Arlington and Fairfax Counties to study the possibility of a Northern Virginia PACE program.

3. Affordable Housing in the City, both home ownership and rental properties, is next to impossible to find. The Commission supports expansion and development in this area. Without affordable housing, many seniors will not be able to remain in the City. The Commission supports research into areas of housing for seniors to include subsidized housing, homeless shelters, and Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities,(NORC).
4. Transportation for Seniors, particularly for low income and disabled seniors, continues to pose serious problems. The Commission recommends continued efforts to maintain City control of taxi certificates, resolution of the price differential between Senior Taxi and DOT Paratransit services, and permanent funding of the Senior Taxi Extension Service.
5. Work jointly with other City department as well as local non-profit agencies and other interested parties to develop a network of resources to assist seniors in obtaining prescription medications. Track Medicare Prescription Legislation to keep Alexandria Community educated and informed about its implications.
6. The Commission supports the continuation of the Living Wage Ordinance in the City of Alexandria to benefit the efforts of our working seniors. We also strongly encourage the City to enhance employment programs for seniors, especially for women in low income groups.