DATE: JANUARY 3, 2007

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMAN, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: REPORT ON PROPOSED EXTENSION OF THE LEASE FOR THE WARWICK POOL AND THE LANDOVER PARK PROPERTY

ISSUE: Consideration of an extension of the lease for the Warwick Pool and the Landover Park Property.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

(1) Receive staff’s recommendation to extend the existing lease for a period of 35 years, beginning on August 1, 2007, per the option guaranteed therein;

(2) Schedule a public hearing on Saturday, January 20, 2007, on the extension of the lease for continued use of this property known as Warwick Pool and Landover Park; and

(3) Following the public hearing, authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents that are required for the extension of this lease.

BACKGROUND:
In August of 1974 and October of 1978, the City of Alexandria entered into lease agreements with the owners of the properties at 3301 and 3315 Landover Street (known as the Warwick Pool and Landover Park). The lease periods ran for 33 and 29 years respectively and are set to expire in August of 2007. The lease terms state that each lease grants the lessee (the City of Alexandria) an option to extend the lease for an additional 35 years after the expiration of the original lease. For this to occur, the City must deliver written notice documenting the intention to extend the leases to the property owner at least six months prior to the termination of the original lease which is dated August, 2007. The City’s deadline is therefore no later than February, 2007.

The locations of these two parcels are 3301 and 3315 Landover Street. The two parcels total 1.84 acres, and include a playground, parkland, a community meeting room, a pool, a tot lot, sitting area, exercise equipment and water fountain, and other amenities. The complex provides the City
with significant neighborhood benefits and is a valuable City-wide park resource. Staff recommends renewal of the lease.

The properties recently were deeded to the Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS) as residual beneficiary inherited assets from the previous owners. As the new owner of the leased property, VTS is required by the existing lease conditions to continue to provide the option for the City to extend the lease an additional 35 years, if notification is given to the new property owner (VTS) prior to expiration of this option.

Due to the proposed length of the lease, a public hearing is required. Following a public hearing on January 20, I recommend that Council approve the lease extension.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**
The lease agreements state that the term of rent is for the period of the lease. The current lease rates are $3,000 per year for the Landover Park property and $9,856 per year for the Warwick Pool. The lease agreement also states that the base rent shall be adjusted at five-year intervals by the percentage amount that the purchasing power of the United States dollar has increased or decreased as compared with the purchasing power of the dollar at the initiation of the lease. In the future, the City may consider future purchase of this property, if offered for sale by the current owner. With the financial terms of the current lease, however, it is more cost efficient to continue to lease the property as open space/parkland.

**STAFF:**
Mark Jinks, Deputy City Manager
Kirk Kincannon, Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities
Laura Durham, Open Space Coordinator
January 18, 2007

The Honorable Bill Euille
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Mr. Mayor,

On behalf of the Warwick Village Citizens Association's Leadership Team, I would like to request your support for the extension of the leases for the Warwick Pool and Landover Park when the issue comes before the Council on Saturday, January 20.

The park and pool are defining elements of our neighborhood. We are grateful for the City's work to negotiate the lease extension.

The park and pool facilities provide for a range of recreational activities, from the tossing a of a Frisbee and swimming, to passive pursuits like relaxing with a book. The recent Warwick Village baby boom has increased the utilization and stewardship of these facilities. The parks are full of children playing on the playground equipment and learning to outrun their parents. In the coming years, these same children will be learning to swim and hit a baseball in these facilities.

With the increased utilization parents are taking a stewardship role in the parks by volunteering for Adopt-a-Park weekly clean ups, reporting damaged equipment and graffiti, and keeping an eye out for unwelcome activities. In 2006, we earned near perfect scores for keeping the parks litter free.

The park and pool house are important to the Warwick Village Citizens Association's work. As you know, the Association uses these facilities for monthly neighborhood meetings and community events such as the National Night Out pool party and picnic. Further, most neighborhood service projects begin with a group of volunteers meeting at the pool house.

Over the past two years WVCA has worked with City staff to evaluate our neighborhood parks. Through that work, we have developed a community consensus around a design for improving the park. A number of those changes have already been put into effect, including removing the deteriorating picnic pavilion, replacing a large area of blacktop with grass and updating the park entry to make it a welcoming place.

We are proud of the recent revival of Landover Park, and expect that the proposed lease will provide for continued community-city collaboration.

Sincerely,

Andrew A. Duncan
WVCA President

Cc: City Council
    City Manager Hartmann
    Kirk Kincannon
    Roger Blakely
    WVCA Leadership Team