City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MAY 8, 2008

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION TO ADOPT FEE INCREASES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009

ISSUE: Resolution to increase cost recovery through fee increases for the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA) programs as adopted in the FY 2009 approved budget.

RECOMMENDATION: That Council adopt the proposed resolution (Attachment 1) for the recommended RPCA fee increases (Attachment 2) of non-programmatic fees, fees for youth sports participation, and youth sports field use, effective July 1, 2008.

BACKGROUND: The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities regularly adjusts program and activity fees that include, classes, camps, workshops and other programs as needed in order to stay in line with market trends and cost recovery efforts. As part of the FY 2008 budget process, Council provided the City Manager with the authority to adjust RPCA non-programmatic fees yearly, as long as the amount is approximately equal to the corresponding rate of inflation. The actual fee may be rounded to an administratively convenient amount to assess and collect. Increases in fees exceeding this amount continue to be considered by Council.

DISCUSSION: In preparation of the budget for FY 2009, RPCA staff recommended fee changes for some non-programmatic fees based on an inflation rate (CPI-U) of 3.5% using the above mentioned authority. Four other fee categories fell outside of the authority previously delegated to the City Manager. The proposed increases in those four fee areas are above the CPI-U.

In summary and to highlight significant changes, the attached Resolution provides:

- To increase the Picnic Shelter Area Rental Fees as specified in Attachment 2.
• To continue a multi-year phased increase of youth sport participation fees that are collected for Department fully-operated leagues, per sport activity from $20 to $25. The Department will continue to provide scholarships to families and children to ensure all interested youth who cannot afford participation fees may participate at a reduced fee or at no charge;

• To establish an individual participant field use fee of $5 per person, per sport, per season for youth leagues co-sponsored by the Department in order to provide a portion of cost recovery for field maintenance expenses. Leagues co-sponsored by the Department include but are not limited to: Alexandria Soccer Association and Alexandria Lacrosse.

• To increase Marina user fees in order to help offset the cost of marina operations as specified in Attachment 2.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The FY 2009 Approved Budget includes an increase of $179,000 in General Fund revenues in anticipation of all RPCA fee changes.

**ATTACHMENTS:**
Attachment 1: Proposed Resolution
Attachment 2: Fee Increases in Excess of the CPI-U

**STAFF:**
Kirk Kincannon, Director, RPCA
Bruce Johnson, Director, Office of Management and Budget
John Buckler, Division Chief, RPCA
Michael Stewart, Analyst, Office of Management and Budget
Jack Browand, Special Projects Coordinator, RPCA
RESOLUTION NO. ________

Resolution to Adopt Fees Increases Administered by the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities for FY 2009

WHEREAS, the last increase to non-programmatic fees collected by the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA) occurred in Fiscal 2008;

WHEREAS, the majority of non-programmatic fees charged by RPCA fell within the Baltimore Washington CPI-U fee adjustment guidelines set forth by City Council in Fiscal 2008;

WHEREAS, the Youth Sports Participation fees are significantly below what other jurisdictions charge and the costs of providing those programs;

WHEREAS, the costs of providing these and other leisure services to the general taxpayer continue to increase year-by-year and the fees do not cover the entire costs of these programs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, that the Picnic Area Rental, Youth Sports Participation, Field Use, and Marina fees administered by the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities shall be as updated beginning July 1, 2008, as follows:

Section (a) Picnic Area Rental Fees are hereby established as contained in Attachment 2.

Section (b) Youth Sports Program Participation fees are hereby established as contained in Attachment 2.

Section (c) Youth Sports Field Use fee is hereby established as contained in Attachment 2.

Section (d) Marina fees are hereby established as contained in Attachment 2.

Adopted: ________________

________________________________________
William D. Euille, Mayor

Attest:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, City Clerk, CMC
### Picnic Area Rental Fees

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<th>Picnic Area</th>
<th>Current Fee/day</th>
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### Youth Sports Program Participation Fees

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### Marina Fees

#### Pleasure Boats
- Short-Term Docking Fee
- Drop off or Pick-up Fee
- Overnight Docking Fee In-Season (Apr 1 – Oct 31)
- Overnight Docking Fee Off-Season (Nov 1 – Mar 31)
- Annual Leasing:
  - Resident
  - Nonresident

#### Commercial/Cruise/Charter/Business Vessels
- Base rate - no utilities
- Per Passenger Rate
  - (determined by total # of passengers)

#### Utilities/Electrical
- (includes water in-season)
  - 30 amp electrical connection
  - 50 amp electrical connection
  - 100 amp electrical connection

#### Sewage Pump-out Facility
- Per Use
  - $10/$11 Up to 4 hours
  - $5/$6

### Other Fees

- $1.50/$2 per foot, per night
- $1/$1.50 per foot, per night
- $7.25/$8 per ft., per mo., paid annually
- $8.25/$9 per ft., per mo., paid annually
- $3/$4 per foot, per day
- $25/$30 per day (cruise ships)
- $3/$4/night
- $6/$7 per connection/night
- $12/$13 per night
- No Change
- $25
RESOLUTION NO. 2276

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ADOPTED: May 13, 2008

WILLIAM D. HUILLLE MAYOR

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk
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Dear Mr. Mayor and Members of Council,

I am writing you to voice my opposition to the $5 per player fee Council is considering tonight. My daughter plays on the Alexandria Travel Soccer Team and played rec soccer with the Alexandria Soccer Association for a number of years. ASA is the largest youth organization in the City aside from the Alexandria City Public Schools. It serves 1,700 boys and girls, ages 5 to 19. Soccer is the most popular sport in the City. There are few households in Alexandria with kids that have not participated in ASA’s programs. Were it not for ASA, the City would have to spend a considerable amount of money administering the programs that ASA offers at no cost to taxpayers. ASA is an outstanding citizen in this City. Not only does it provide a service of near universal interest among families with children, but it also...
subsidizes the cost of participation for 15% of its players who cannot afford the fees, and it provides full "scholarships" worth as much as $1,500 per year to 40 elite players, all of whom are on the free-and-reduced lunch program in the public schools.

For the first time in years, ASA's network of volunteers will not be subsidized by the City in any way. The $5,000 ASA received annually for several years was cut from the recent budget. That money was very important to ASA's efforts to subsidize underprivileged kids and keep costs down for all parents.

This $5 fee and others levied over the past year, along with the elimination of the subsidy, will make it much harder for ASA's volunteer-run organization to cover the costs of participation for the underprivileged youth in the City. (It also seems that this new fee discriminates against the youth soccer and lacrosse communities. Is there some reason why participants of other field sports would not be included?).

And, of course these decisions by Council add to the cost of running households with children throughout the City during a time of economic challenges for our residents.

I urge Council not to continue levying more fees on top of youth sports organizations that provide needed services in this City through their networks of volunteers.

Sincerely,

Rebekah K. Hersch
Dear Mr. Mayor and Members of Council,

I am writing you to voice my opposition to the $5 per player fee Council is considering tonight. My child plays soccer in the Alexandria Soccer Association.

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Comments: Sincerely,
Dan
Stipano

The information in this email is confidential and may be legally privileged. Access to this email by anyone other than the intended addressee is unauthorized. If you are not the intended recipient of this message, any review, disclosure, copying, distribution, retention, or any action taken or omitted to be taken in reliance on it is prohibited and may be unlawful. If you are not the intended recipient, please reply to or forward a copy of this message to the sender and delete the message, any attachments, and any copies thereof from your system.

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to folder ... Inbox Drafts Sent Trash
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Sincerely,
Antonio S.
Jimenez and Isabella Jimenez
Dear Mr. Mayor and Members of Council,

We are writing to voice our opposition to the $5 per player fee Council is considering tonight. Our children plays soccer in the Alexandria Soccer Association and have for several years.

ASA is the largest youth organization in the City aside from the Alexandria City Public Schools. It serves 1,700 boys and girls, ages 5 to 19. All you have to do is drive around the city on any afternoon to see that soccer is the most popular sport in the City. Most families participate in ASA soccer at some point and the ASA provides valuable programs to Alexandria's kids.

ASA currently subsidizes the cost of participation for a significant number of its players who cannot afford player fees, uniforms, etc. ASA and many participating families also cover costs for “scholarships” for deserving players to participate in
travel soccer. Without these scholarships, these players, all of whom are on the free and reduced lunch program in Alexandria Public schools, would not be able to participate in soccer.
The city recently cut ASA's $5000 annual subsidy from the city budget and for the first time in years, ASA's network of volunteers will not be subsidized by the City in any way. That money was very important to ASA's efforts to subsidize underprivileged kids and keep costs down for all parents.
The $5 fee being proposed, and others levied over the past year, along with the elimination of the subsidy, will make it much harder for our volunteer-run organization to cover the costs of participation for the underprivileged youth in the City.

(Why are only the youth soccer and lacrosse communities being charged this subsidy? Is there some reason why participants of other field sports are not being included?).

As a family with 4 children who already pays dearly in taxes to live in Del Ray (the cost of property taxes is just one of many economic challenges for city residents) this decision by the Council to levy yet another charge during a time of economic challenges for its residents is most unwelcome.
We urge the Council not to continue levying more fees on top of youth sports organizations that provide needed services in this City through their networks of volunteers.

Sincerely,

Katie and Kelsey Regen
Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Janet

Lew Lewis-Boyle
2809 Central Ave
Alexandria
VA
22302
703-739-2966
jlewis@usatoday.com

Proposed Fees for ASA players

Dear Mr. Mayor and Members of Council,

I am writing you to voice my opposition to the $5 per player fee Council is considering tonight. My child plays soccer on a travel team associated with the Alexandria Soccer Association. Also both of my children played recreational soccer with ASA and my son is now a sophomore varsity player on this year’s regionally ranked TC Williams team.

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Janet

Lewis-Boyle
2809 Central Ave
Alexandria, VA 22302
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Sincerely,
Daniel
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Comments:

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Sincerely, Tara Holubar
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Salima Khalil
3330 S 28th St, # 403
Alexandria VA 22302
703-933-1419
skhalil_99@hotmail.com
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Sincerely,

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: John
Last Name: LaValle
Street Address: 1115 Key Dr.
City: Alexandria
State: Va
Zip: 22302
Phone: 703-379-9008
Email Address: lavalle1115@verizon.net
Subject: Soccer/Lax Assessment

Dear Mr. Mayor and Members of Council,

I am writing you to voice my opposition to the $5 per player fee Council is considering tonight. My child plays soccer in the Alexandria Soccer Association. ASA is the largest youth organization in the City aside from the Alexandria City Public Schools. We serve 1,700 boys and girls, ages 5 to 19. Soccer is the most popular sport in the City. There are few households in Alexandria with kids that have not participated in ASA’s programs. Were it not for ASA, the City would have to spend a considerable amount of money administering the programs that ASA offers at no cost to taxpayers. ASA is an outstanding citizen in this City. Not only does it provide a service of near universal interest among families with children, but it also subsidizes the cost of participation for 15% of its players who cannot
afford the fees, and it provides full "scholarships" worth as much as $1,500 per year to 40 elite players, all of whom are on the free-and-reduced lunch program in the public schools.

For the first time in years, ASA's network of volunteers will not be subsidized by the City in any way. The $5,000 we received annually for several years was cut from the recent budget. That money was very important to ASA's efforts to subsidize underprivileged kids and keep costs down for all parents.

This $5 fee and others levied over the past year, along with the elimination of the subsidy, will make it much harder for our volunteer-run organization to cover the costs of participation for the underprivileged youth in the City. (It also seems that this new fee discriminates against the youth soccer and lacrosse communities. Is there some reason why participants of other field sports would not be included?).

And, of course these decisions by Council add to the cost of running households with children throughout the City during a time of economic challenges for our residents.

I urge Council not to continue levying more fees on top of youth sports organizations that provide needed services in this City through their networks of volunteers.

Sincerely,

John LaValle
Alexandria Soccer Association Board
Member
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For the

Comments:

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of youth sports organizations that provide needed services in this City
through their networks of volunteers.

Sincerely,

Geoff Stothard
Dear Mr. Mayor and Members of Council,

I am writing you to voice my opposition to the $5 per player fee Council is considering tonight. Our two children ages 11 and 12 play travel soccer in the Alexandria Soccer Association.

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Sincerely,

Ange and Charlie Knutson

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Dear Mr. Mayor and Members of Council,

I am writing you to voice my opposition to the $5 per player fee Council is considering tonight. My children play soccer in the Alexandria Soccer Association. We live and pay taxes in the city of Alexandria. We pay high personal property taxes on our home. Now you want me to pay a fee to play soccer. We already pay for the equipment, store it, have volunteer coaches and managers, pay for lining fields or do it ourselves. We even go out in the wee hours to maintain the fields if it is needed. You've taken away our subsidy and now you want to nickle and dime the kids.

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I urge Council not to continue levying more fees on top of youth sports organizations that provide needed services in this City through their networks of volunteers.

Sincerely,

Linda Moncure
Dear Mr. Mayor and Members of Council,

I am writing you to voice my opposition to the $5 per player fee Council is considering tonight. My child plays soccer in the Alexandria Soccer Association.

ASA is the largest youth organization in the City aside from the Alexandria City Public Schools. We serve 1,700 boys and girls, ages 5 to 19. Soccer is the most popular sport in the City. There are few households in Alexandria with kids that have not participated in ASA’s programs. Were it not for ASA, the City would have to spend a considerable amount of money administering the programs that ASA offers at no cost to taxpayers.
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I urge Council not to continue levying more fees on top of youth sports organizations that provide needed services in this City through their networks of volunteers.

Sincerely,
Dear Alexandria officials,

Soccer is one of the few truly egalitarian sports left for youth in elementary and middle schools. Children of all abilities, various cultures, and different schools can join an Alexandria team and create a microcosm of the world—where they learn not only the best of foot and shooting skills, but more importantly the kind of teamwork and sportsmanship that make kids grow in confidence and social capital. Baseball, swimming, and even basketball start weeding out kids by year-round commitment, physical stature, or connections early on in this city, but soccer is still "every kid's sport" and needs to be protected as such.

ASA has already sacrificed significantly by accepting the subsidy drop this year, with additional fees for non-residential kids and extra season field access. But to hit the pocketbooks of every kid and his family for an additional $5 is outrageous.
Surely city fiscal managers can find a better solution to the budget shortfall than hitting up every kid who wants to put on cleats.

Comprende?

I duly oppose this tariff on kids in the last egalistarian sport in the city.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Larry Golemon
Subject: COA Contact Us: proposed fees for soccer and lacrosse

I am writing you to voice my opposition to the $5 per player fee Council is considering tonight. My child plays soccer in the Alexandria Soccer Association. Additionally I coach a team of 14 seven year old girls, including a special needs child, and happily give several hours of my time every week.

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to continue levying more fees on top of youth sports organizations that
provide needed services in this
City through their networks of
volunteers. I have voted in every City Council and Mayoral election and I
pay attention to how
you serve the youth of this city.

Sincerely,

Elena Patterson Tyree
# Letter

**Bill Rossello**

<william.rossello@bearingpoint.com>

05/13/2008 07:00 PM

Please respond to
Bill Rossello
<william.rossello@bearingpoint.com>

To alexmayor@aol.com, timothylovain@aol.com, councilmanges@aol.com, council@krupicka.com, delpepper@aol.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,

cc
c

Subject: COA Contact Us: $5 fee on youth soccer and lacrosse players

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**Time: [Tue May 13, 2008 19:00:52] IP Address: [206.49.106.4]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

**First Name:** Bill

**Last Name:** Rossello

**Street Address:** 501 Cathedral Drive

**City:** Alexandria

**State:** VA

**Zip:** 22314

**Phone:** 703-587-8080

**Email Address:** william.rossello@bearingpoint.com

**Subject:** $5 fee on youth soccer and lacrosse players

Dear Mr. Mayor and Members of Council,

As a parent, taxpayer, homeowner and Vice President of the Alexandria Soccer Association, I am writing you to voice opposition to the $5 per player fee Council is considering tonight. I am surprised that ASA is just hearing about this now. No one from the City has reached out to us on this topic.

A little background... ASA is the largest youth organization in the City aside from the Alexandria City Public Schools. We serve 1,700 boys and girls, ages 5 to 19. Soccer is the most popular sport in the City. There are few households in Alexandria with kids that have not participated in ASA’s programs. Were it not for ASA, the City would have to spend a considerable amount of money administering the programs that ASA offers at no cost to taxpayers.
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through their networks of volunteers.

You will be hearing from others
shortly.

Sincerely,

Bill Rossello
Vice President, Alexandria Soccer Association