City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: AUGUST 29, 2007

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FROM FY 2008 CONTINGENT RESERVES FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE GANG PREVENTION/INTERVENTION COORDINATOR

ISSUE: City Council allocation of funding from FY 2008 contingent reserves for the Gang Prevention/Intervention Coordinator.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council allocate $90,000 to the Court Service Unit from funds designated in FY 2008 Contingent Reserves to continue the funding of the Gang Prevention/Intervention Coordinator position.

BACKGROUND: In 2004, Congressman Frank Wolf obtained $3 million in Federal funds through the Congressional earmarking process to assist in comprehensive gang resistance efforts in Northern Virginia. On February 17, 2005, Council authorized the City Manager to sign a Memorandum of Understanding allowing the City to participate in regional gang prevention/intervention activities, including the funding of a Gang Prevention/Intervention Coordinator for the City of Alexandria. In November 2005, a Gang Prevention/Intervention Coordinator was hired and funded by federal funds. The Coordinator serves on a regional gang task force and staffs the Alexandria Gang Task Force and Senior Policy Group on Gangs and the Alexandria Mentoring Partnership. Anticipating that funding for this position may not be continued past September 30, 2007 (the end of the federal fiscal year), $90,000 was designated in City Council’s contingent reserve account for continuing this position.

DISCUSSION: On July 10, 2007, the Northern Virginia Court Service Unit Directors were notified that there was a change in how earmarks are being handled by Congress this year, and the Gang Prevention/Intervention Coordinator position will only be funded through September 30, 2007. No federal earmark will be available for this purpose in federal FY 2008. As of October 1, 2007, if this position is to continue, the Gang Prevention/Intervention Coordinator position will need to be funded from the contingent reserve funds allocated for this purpose.
Arlington County and Prince William County will also be funding their Gang Prevention/Intervention Coordinators from their own local funds as of October 1, 2007. Fairfax and Loudoun already fund their positions from local funds.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The fiscal impact at this time is the $90,000 to be allocated from Contingent Reserves for the salary and benefits for the continuation of the Gang Prevention/Intervention Coordinator position through the remainder of FY 2008. Assuming continuation in 2009, the cost of this position will be approximately $120,000 for the entire fiscal year.

**STAFF:**
Mark Jinks, Deputy City Manager
Bruce Johnson, Director, OMB
Lillian Brooks, Director, Court Service Unit
Michael Mackey, Gang Prevention/Intervention Coordinator
Alicia James, Budget/Management Analyst, OMB
Knowledge is power and attitude is everything.

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--- Forwarded by Valerie Brown/Alex on 09/11/2007 11:16 AM ---

Per the Mayor's request, attached for your information is the recent budget memo written on the City's Gang Intervention Coordinator position. This is related to item #15 on tonight's docket.

Budget Memo #22 Gang Intervention Coordinator.doc

Val Moore Brown
Supervisory Administrative Officer
City Manager's Office
City of Alexandria, VA
City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 27, 2007

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO #22: GANG INTERVENTION COORDINATOR

This is to make Council aware that grant funding for the City’s Gang’s Intervention Coordinator may end and that to guarantee the position will continue after September 2007, it would be necessary to fund the position out of the General Fund in FY 2008.

In 2004, Congressman Frank Wolf obtained $3 million in Federal funds through the earmarking process to assist in comprehensive gang resistance efforts in Northern Virginia. On February 17, 2005, Council authorized the City Manager to sign a Memorandum of Understanding allowing the City to participate in regional gang prevention/intervention activities, including the funding of a Gang Intervention Coordinator for the City of Alexandria. In November 2005, a Gang Intervention Coordinator was hired.

Among the responsibilities of the Gang Intervention Coordinator are:

1) to provide direction and guidance to the City and community regarding national, state, and local anti-gang best-practice efforts and programs;
2) to facilitate gang awareness training for community organizations, schools, government agencies, and the public;
3) to develop, coordinate, and facilitate citywide gang prevention and intervention programs to eliminate duplication of services and efforts;
4) to staff and coordinate the activities of the Senior Policy Group on Gangs, the Gang Prevention Community Task Force, and the Alexandria Mentoring Partnership.

The City received about $52,000 in FY 2006 and has so far received about $70,000 in FY 2007. The City contributed about $29,000 toward the position in FY 2006 and is budgeted to contribute $22,000 toward the position in FY 2007. Unfortunately, given the change in how all earmarks are being handled by Congress this year, the Federal earmark for the grant has not been able to be renewed, and the position is fully funded only through September 2007. The Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force, which manages the grant, is looking for additional grant funding, but it is possible that for the City to continue the position past September 2007, it may have to be funded out of the General Fund. Should additional grant funding not become available, the
estimated cost to the City in FY 2008 is estimated at $90,000. As part of the FY 2008 budget add/delete process, City Council could designate $90,000 of the existing $375,000 proposed for Council’s contingent reserve for this purpose, it could add $90,000 to the contingent reserve for this purpose and designate it for this purpose, or it could leave enough of the contingent reserve undesignated that it could fund the position if it was found necessary later in FY 2008.