


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 17, 2009

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST TO PERMIT THE TALLSHIP *PEACEMAKER* TO DOCK AT THE CITY MARINA FOR 12 DAYS AND WAIVE ASSOCIATED DOCKING FEES

ISSUE: City Council consideration of request to permit the docking of the tallship *Peacemaker* at the City Marina for 12 days and waive the associated docking fees.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council approve the request to dock the tallship *Peacemaker* at the City of Alexandria Marina for 12 days and waive the associated docking fee. This item is now docketed for Saturday, April 18, because we learned today that the ship needs to plan its itinerary by Saturday or they plan to go to Annapolis instead of Alexandria.

DISCUSSION: As stated in City Ordinance Number 3121, Sec. 6-3-5, "All commercial vessels docking more than four times per month are subject to approval by City Council pursuant to section 13-1-36 of the City Code." The *Peacemaker*, which is considered a commercial vessel, is a 150-foot sparred length, 3-masted, square rigged, wooden tallship. The *Peacemaker* captain has requested to dock the tallship at the City of Alexandria Marina T-Pier at the end of the most northern pier from May 7, 2009, through May 18, 2009. This requested 12-day docking period triggers section 13-1-36 of the City Code. The *Peacemaker* ship is operated by a religious non-profit and is licensed by the United States Coast Guard as an attraction vessel and would be open daily for dockside tours to the general public at no charge and provide educational opportunities for the community. The largely self-guided tours of the ship would be educational in nature concerning the ship structure and features, and would not be religious in focus. This ship recently was berthed at the City of Wilmington (N.C.) dock for five weeks and their City dock master reports a very positive public reaction to the *Peacemaker*. The City of Wilmington waived its normal dock fees for this tallship. The *Peacemaker's* next stop is Norfolk where it will be part of the City's Azalea Festival. No negative impact on Founders Park or the surrounding residential neighborhood (which has been notified of this proposed *Peacemaker* visit) is envisioned. Tallships also provide an economic benefit to the waterfront and business community in the Old Town area. In FY 2008, the City dredged the area in front of the northern pier which had silted up and could no longer berth ships with a deep draft such as the *Peacemaker's* 14-foot draft.

FISCAL IMPACT: The docking of the *Peacemaker* as proposed would result in the waiving of potential docking fees (maximum of \$7,200 for a 12 day period). The indirect economic benefits resulting from additional commercial sales and the introduction of a unique tourist destination at the City's waterfront are difficult to quantify, but certainly result from the presence of such vessels at the City's Marina. No other ships have requested to dock at the T-Pier during this time period.

STAFF:

Mark Jinks, Deputy City Manager

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