


# City of Alexandria, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 15, 2009

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF A FUNDING ALLOCATION FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION (NCR) URBAN AREA SECURITY INITIATIVE (UASI) TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL CLEAN-UP OPERATIONS PLAN

**ISSUE:** City Council consideration of accepting funds in the amount of \$145,000, available to the City for a six month period, from the District of Columbia (DC) Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency on behalf of the National Capital Region Urban Area Security Initiative to support the development of an environmental clean up operations plan.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- 1) Authorize the City Manager to apply for and accept the funding through the Urban Area Security Initiative in the amount of \$145,000; and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to execute all the necessary documents that may be required.

**BACKGROUND:** The National Capital Region (NCR) had received \$61,650,000 in Urban Area Security Grant funds from the United States Department of Homeland Security to support the regional efforts to prepare and respond to disasters including terrorism. These funds were allocated by the NCR Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) and the Senior Policy Group (SPG) in August 2007. The investment area justifications and project plans were developed by various Metropolitan Washington Council of Government (COG) committees during meetings in December of 2006 and January of 2007.

**DISCUSSION:** Alexandria was notified on June 5, 2009, by the DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency that the City is eligible to apply for and receive a total of \$145,000, to be made available over a six month period, to support regional and local planning initiatives. The COG Emergency Management Committee developed an analysis of local and regional plans and found that no jurisdiction has an adequate environmental clean-up operations plan. City staff developed a draft grant management plan that was approved by the COG Emergency Managers to develop a plan for Alexandria and create, during that development, a template that could be used by all COG member jurisdictions. There is no deadline for approving this grant; however, the grant ends on December 31, 2009, and as much time as possible is needed to develop the plan.

During the past several years Alexandria has received grant funds from the UASI program for planning. With those funds we have recently completed our final draft of an evacuation plan for the City, a final draft debris management plan, a draft flood plan, and Continuity of Operations Plans for several major City Departments, as well as many regional planning efforts such as our planning for the Inaugural events.

Currently, the City does not have a plan that addresses our roles and responsibilities during a major environmental disaster. Our response plans cover our initial emergency response to an environmental incident, but they stop short of our responsibilities during the clean-up phase of a major environmental event. This plan will include all relevant City Departments as well as the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM), Virginia Occupational Safety and Health, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and others.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** There is no match requirement for these grant funds. City staff will administer the grant.

**STAFF:**

Adam K. Thiel, Fire Chief

Mark Penn, Emergency Management Coordinator