

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: OCTOBER 1, 2009

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER *J*

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF INCREASED ANNUAL LICENSE FEES FOR SWIMMING POOLS AND SPA POOLS AND ELIMINATION OF PERMIT FEES FOR HEALTH CLUBS

ISSUE: City Council consideration of increasing the fees for annual licenses to operate swimming pools and spa pools and elimination of permit fees for health clubs.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council approve the attached Resolution.

DISCUSSION: In 2006, the City Council adopted the current annual license fees for swimming pools, spa pools and health clubs. The fees have not been raised since that time.

Alexandria's license fees are less than those of most adjacent jurisdictions (Attachment 2). The current fees are also much less than the costs incurred by the Health Department in providing inspection services to swimming pools, pool spas and health clubs. The proposed fee increase will make Alexandria's pool safety program totally self-supporting.

An amendment to the pool ordinance will be forthcoming shortly proposing to deregulate health clubs that do not have a swimming pool or spa pool. For that reason, it is recommended that fees for health club permits be eliminated at this time so that health clubs will not be charged a permit fee and then receive no services. An increase in these fees was included in the FY 2010 Adopted City Budget.

FISCAL IMPACT: It is estimated that the proposed increase in license fees for swimming pools and spa pools will generate approximately \$16,025 in additional revenue for the City (Attachment 3). Offsetting this revenue gain is the Supplemental Budget Request for FY 2010 approved by Council in the amount of \$16,940 to create a seasonal pool inspector position to address increasing workloads in the Environmental Health Division. (Attachment 4).

Elimination of the license fee for health clubs will reduce revenue to the City by \$2,580.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Proposed resolution to adopt a new fee schedule

Attachment 2: Comparison of current fees in Alexandria and surrounding jurisdictions

Attachment 3: Estimate of additional revenue produced by fee increase

Attachment 4: Approved Supplemental FY 2010 Budget Request for Seasonal Pool Inspector

STAFF:

Lisa Kaplowitz, M.D., M.S.H.A., Director, Alexandria Health Dept.

Bob Custard, Environmental Health Manager, Alexandria Health Dept.

Mary Elliott O'Donnell, Assistant City Attorney

RESOLUTION NO. _____

WHEREAS, under § 2.07 of the City Charter, City Council has the authority to establish fees to be charged for services provided by the City; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 1993, as part of a joint effort among Northern Virginia jurisdictions to establish uniform regional standards for the construction, operation and maintenance of swimming pools, spa pools and health clubs, City Council enacted Ordinance No. 3619 which authorizes the city's health department to adopt, following council approval, regulations governing swimming pools, spa pools and health clubs; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to said ordinance, the health department prepared and, following council approval, adopted Administrative Regulation 20-6 ("A.R. 20-6") entitled "Regulation of Swimming Pools, Spa Pools and Health Clubs;" and

WHEREAS, under Administrative Regulation § 20-6-6 (b), City Council is required from time to time, to set by resolution the annual license fee that is to be paid by the owners of "swimming pools," "spa pools," and "health clubs," as defined in § 20-6-4 (ff), § 20-6-4 (ff), and § 20-6-4 (i) respectively, of the Administrative Regulation; and

WHEREAS, City Council has now determined that it is necessary and desirable to increase the annual fee for swimming pools and spa pools;

WHEREAS, City Council has now determined that it is necessary and desirable to eliminate the annual fee for health clubs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia:

1. That, beginning January 1, 2010, the annual license fees for swimming pools, spa pools and health clubs shall be as follows:

	Year-Round Facility	Seasonal Facility (open 5 months or less)
Swimming Pool	\$700	\$335
Spa Pool	\$700	\$335
Health Club	\$215	\$0

2. That the annual fee established in Section 1 above shall apply to annual licenses issued by the City after January 1, 2010, and, unless and until revised by the City Council, to such annual licenses issued during subsequent years.

3. That this resolution shall be effective on January 1, 2010.

ADOPTED: _____, 2009

WILLIAM D. EUILLE
MAYOR

ATTEST:

Jackie M. Henderson, CMC, City Clerk

ATTACHMENT 2

Seasonal Public Pool Permit Fee (\$10,625 in new revenue)

An increase in pool permit fees from \$250 to \$335 for seasonal swimming pools is proposed for FY2010 (implemented January 1, 2010). There is no local industry association for this group. However, most of these 125 pools are operated by about 15 pool management companies who usually pay the fees for their clients and pass the cost along as part of their annual contract. There may be some opposition from small condo associations, but the opposition the last time we raised fees for pools was negligible. In Montgomery County (MD) pool permits cost \$650 and in Arlington County seasonal pool permits cost \$200 plus \$100 for each additional wading pool or spa. We expect little opposition to this fee increase provided that the fees are used to support the pool safety program and improve the consistency and uniformity of pool inspections.

Permit fees for seasonal pools and spas

Locality	Current Permit Cost		Period	Notes
	Seasonal Pools	Additional Pools		
Alexandria City	\$250		1 year	
Arlington County	\$200+	\$100*	1 year	
Fairfax County	\$230-\$345	\$52*	1 year	Depends on size of pool. Wading pools not charged.
DC	\$829-924		1 year	
Montgomery County	\$650-\$700		1 year	Additional \$50 per pool for pool management company registration

* For each additional body of water

Year-Round Public Pool Permit Fee (\$5,400 in new revenue)

An increase in pool permit fees from \$400 to \$700 for year-round swimming pools is proposed for FY2010 (implemented January 1, 2010). There is no local industry association for this group. However, most of these 18 pools are owned by large hotel corporations and operated by about 15 pool management companies who usually pay the fees for their clients and pass the cost along as part of their annual contract. We expect little opposition to this fee increase provided that the fees are used to support the pool safety program and improve the consistency and uniformity of pool inspections. Currently, Montgomery County's permit fee is \$650-\$700/pool and Arlington County's fee is \$400/pool plus \$100 per additional wading pool or spa.

Permit fees for year-round pools and spas

Locality	Current Permit Cost		Period	Notes
	Year Round	Additional Pools		
Alexandria City	\$400		1 year	
Arlington County	\$400+	\$100*	1 year	
Fairfax County	\$288-\$403	\$52*	1 year	Depends on size of pool. Wading pools not charged.
DC	\$829-924		1 year	
Montgomery County	\$650-\$700		1 year	Additional \$50 for pool management company registration

* For each additional body of water

ATTACHMENT 3

Estimated Increase in Revenue from Fee Changes

	Number in Alexandria	Current Annual Permit Fee	Proposed Annual Permit Fee	Current Revenue	Revenue Change	Total Revenue
Year Round Pools & Spas	18	\$400	\$700	\$7,200	\$5,400	\$12,600
Seasonal Pools & Spas	125	\$250	\$335	\$31,250	\$10,625	\$41,875
Health Clubs	12	\$215	\$0	\$2,580	-\$2,580	\$0
TOTAL				\$41,030	\$13,445	\$54,475

ATTACHMENT 4

FY 2010 Expenditure Budget Request As Approved

Department	Health Department				
Program/ Activity	Environmental Health / Pool Safety Program				
Type of Request	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discretionary Supplemental <input type="checkbox"/> Expenditure Reduction				
Title	Seasonal Pool Inspector				
Description	Improve the City's Pool Safety Program by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving pool inspection consistency • Implementing Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (effective December 19, 2008) • Making the City's Pool Safety Program totally self-supporting by increasing pool permit fees • Adding one seasonal pool inspector position (1/3 FTE) to the EH Division (total of 2) paid for by the increased fees • Reducing unit cost of pool inspections • Reducing the use of co-op budget resources for non-State-mandated services • Allowing redeployment of 1/3 co-op funded FTE of a higher paid EH Specialist Sr. to the Food Safety Program to address increasing work load there and to improve food safety training for industry 				
Performance Measure Impacts		FY08 Actual	FY09 Approved	FY10 Base Target	FY10 Target With Increase or Reduction
	Performance Measure				
	Number of Inspections Conducted	4572	3400	3400	3939
# of FTEs	0.35 (18-week seasonal Sanitarian I)				
Cost	\$16,940				
Budget Allocation	OCA & Object level 3	FY08 Actual	FY09 Approved	FY10 Request	Change from FY 09
	119727				
	EHS salary (Grade 16, Step A - 18 weeks)				14,668
	Social security				1,122
	Travel (@ \$150/mo.)				600
	Training (CPO course)				250
	Pool testing equipment and supplies				200
	Office supplies				100
	TOTAL				16,940

RESOLUTION NO. 2363

WHEREAS, under § 2.07 of the City Charter, City Council has the authority to establish fees to be charged for services provided by the City; and

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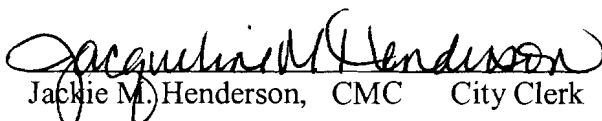
ADOPTED: October 13, 2009



WILLIAM D. EULLE

MAYOR

ATTEST:



Jackie M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk