


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 17, 2012

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: RASHAD M. YOUNG, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION, URBAN AREA SECURITY INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT CITY INVOLVEMENT IN REGIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT EXERCISES, VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING AND NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT COMPLIANCE

ISSUE: City Council consideration of accepting grant funds in the amount of \$280,184 available to the City for a two year period, ending October 31, 2013, from the District of Columbia (D.C.) Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency on behalf of the National Capital Region Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI).

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) Authorize the City Manager to accept the funding from the Urban Area Security Initiative in the amount of \$280,184; and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to execute all the necessary documents that may be required.

BACKGROUND: The National Capital Region (NCR) received \$59,392,477 in 2010 Urban Area Security Grant funds and the same amount in 2011 from the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to support the regional efforts to prepare for and respond to disasters including terrorism. These funds were allocated by the NCR Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) and the Senior Policy Group (SPG). The investment-area justifications and project plans were developed by various Metropolitan Washington Council of Government (COG) committees during meetings in early 2011. The investment justifications were then sent to DHS as a grant application on behalf of the entire National Capital Region.

DISCUSSION: Alexandria was notified on October 18, 2011 by the D.C. Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency that the City is eligible to receive a total of

\$280,184, to be made available over a two-year period, for three separate activities: volunteer recruitment and emergency preparedness outreach; regional and local training and exercises; and National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliance. These grants are a continuation of a series of grants that we received each year from 2006-2010. The periods of performance for the 2011 grants end on October 13, 2013.

The grants currently support two positions in the Fire Department Office of Emergency Management including \$125,000 for exercises and training, \$125,000 for NIMS compliance activities, and \$30,184 for recruiting volunteers, emergency preparedness outreach and volunteer management activities.

During the past several years, Alexandria has received grant funds from the UASI program for volunteer management, training, NIMS compliance, and exercises. Each year from 2007-2010, we received \$125,000 for exercises and training, and \$125,000 for NIMS compliance. From 2006- 2009 we received a total of \$310,208 for recruitment, equipping, managing and training volunteers for disaster response.

Since first receiving these funds in 2007, the City has conducted numerous exercises and training sessions, including the recently completed full-scale exercise with Virginia Railway Express. The City has held numerous small exercises to train staff on our emergency response plan, and many other training and exercise activities. The City continues to conduct many training sessions on the Incident Command System as required to comply with the NIMS requirements.

Past volunteer grants have allowed us to recruit, train, equip, and manage volunteers for disaster related services such as the Citizens Emergency Response Teams (CERT), the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), the Red Cross, Neighborhood Watch, and others. To date we have trained over 475 citizens in the CERT program and many more in the other programs utilizing these grants funds.

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

ATTACHMENT: None

STAFF:

Adam K. Thiel, Fire Chief
Mark Penn, Emergency Management Coordinator
Michele R. Evans, Deputy City Manager