

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: FEBRUARY 10, 2011

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

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

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF AN APPLICATION TO THE FIREHOUSE SUBS PUBLIC SAFETY FOUNDATION GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE ALEXANDRIA FIRE DEPARTMENT BIKE MEDIC TEAM

ISSUE: Consideration of a grant application to the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Grant Program.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) Approve the application to the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation grant program (due March 15, 2011); and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to execute the necessary documents that may be required.

BACKGROUND: Firehouse Subs is a family restaurant chain founded by individuals who were firefighters, and are now dedicated to improving the lifesaving capabilities of public safety entities in the local communities they serve throughout the country via their Public Safety Foundation. The Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation was started in 2005 with an ongoing grant program to assist Fire Departments with necessary purchases such as life saving equipment, fire prevention materials and funding for educational opportunities for fire personnel.

DISCUSSION: To help facilitate the care of residents and visitors at special events within the City of Alexandria, the Alexandria Fire Department (AFD) established the Bike Medic Team. The purpose of the Bike Medic Team is to reduce the time until treatment begins for patients stricken at large-scale events and in areas of limited accessibility. The Bike Medic Team is invited to participate in over 50 special events per calendar year. The Team provides requested emergency medical standby service for events such as festivals, parades and races within the City. At events with large crowds, the Bike Medic Team can easily maneuver to gain access to persons needing emergency medical care.

Currently, the AFD possesses only four bikes for these special events. This poses a problem when there are multiple events on one day at different locations within the City, with hundreds of attendees at each event. The Bike Medic Team has responded to two calls in which patients were in cardiac arrest, when the earliest medical care can mean saving the lives of patients. The AFD is requesting grant funding for two additional bikes for the Bike Medic Team.

FISCAL IMPACT: The AFD is requesting two Police issue mountain bikes and sets of equipment for each of these bikes that include light kits, panniers to carry emergency equipment, and automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) for a total of \$9,800. City staff will administer the grant. The City is also responsible for the normal administrative costs associated with this grant, including financial and reporting oversight provided by the Fire Department, as well as the Office of Management and Budget, and the Finance Department. There is no funding match requirement.

The AFD has not previously applied for a grant to Firehouse Subs.

STAFF:

Adam K. Thiel, Fire Chief

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