


## City of Alexandria, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** MARCH 7, 2012

**TO:** THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** RASHAD M. YOUNG, CITY MANAGER 

**SUBJECT:** CONSIDERATION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES (COPS), FOR FUNDING FROM THE 2012 COPS HIRING PROGRAM (CHP)

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**ISSUE:** Consideration of a grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice to obtain funding available through the 2012 COPS Hiring Program (CHP) for the hiring and rehiring of additional career law enforcement officers.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That City Council:

- (1) Authorize the grant application (due March 22, 2012) to the U.S. Department of Justice that provides 75 percent funding for approved entry-level salaries and benefits for 3 years (36 months) for newly-hired, full time sworn officer positions (including filling existing unfunded vacancies); and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents that may be required.

**DISCUSSION:** The U.S. Department of Justice is offering funding through the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services Hiring Program (CHP). The CHP is a competitive grant program that provides funding directly to law enforcement agencies having primary law enforcement authority to impact their community policing capacity and problem solving efforts.

Last year (FY11), the City was awarded four of six requested positions for three years through the COPS Hiring Program. Because of the partial award, the City is eligible to re-apply for the two positions not approved in the 2011 funding request. As a result, this grant request is for two community policing related sworn positions to be expended over a three year period (Federal FY12, FY13 and FY14). Grant funds will be used to add two sworn officer positions to the Tactical Anti-Crime Unit, a key component of the Alexandria Police Department's community policing strategy. The unit addresses crime issues in neighborhoods and can be deployed quickly to address new issues identified through the Police Department Strategic Response System (SRS). The Police Department lost these two positions due to budget constraints in FY10 and

FY11. The grant requires the officers hired to be military veterans who served on active duty for a period of at least 180 days.

**BACKGROUND:** The mission of the Alexandria Police Department is to provide competent, courteous, professional, and community oriented police services. APD is committed to maintaining and enhancing a strong and productive partnership with the community to continue to reduce crime and improve the quality of life in all of Alexandria's neighborhoods.

The goal of community policing is to improve the quality of life of citizens by identifying and addressing crime issues. In the traditional policing model, officers are reactive because they typically respond to emergency calls and arrest criminals. Whereas the community policing model allows for more proactive policing because it allows for officers to work closely with members of the community, city agencies, and Departmental sections to find out what causes crime and disorder and attempt to creatively solve problems in their assigned communities. Officers act as liaisons between communities and various organizations to solve problems and break down the anonymity often perceived by members of the public. When community policing is properly deployed, problems can often be resolved before they start.

The Police Department's goal of developing and maintaining the capacity to safely, effectively, and efficiently deliver public safety services with an emphasis on core public safety programs has been significantly impaired due to the loss of the requested positions. Without these positions, targeted neighborhoods and programs (areas with higher levels of crime) will continue to receive reduced levels of community policing.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The 2012 COPs Hiring Program will fund 75 percent of each sworn position up to a maximum of \$125,000 over the three year period. In addition, the grant requires jurisdictions to retain the sworn officers for one additional year. Based on the current entry level police officer salary and benefit cost projections, the total four-year cost for the two officer positions will be \$571,505. Of this amount, the grant will fund \$250,000, leaving a City share of \$321,505 (\$50,596 in FY13; \$55,226 in FY14; \$62,187 in FY15; and \$153,496 in FY16) over four fiscal years. If approved, funds will be found within the City's existing operating budget to provide the grant match.

**STAFF:**

Earl Cook, Police Chief

Scott Ogden, City Council Liaison/TAC, Patrol Operation Bureau

Elisabeth Wheel, Division Chief, Police, Fiscal Management