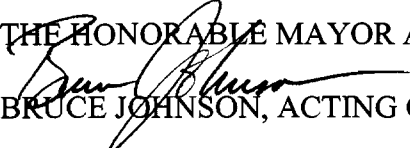


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 7, 2011

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM:  BRUCE JOHNSON, ACTING CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FEDERAL LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE FOR A SLOWER TRANSITION OF WORKERS INTO THE WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS SERVICE BUILDING AT THE MARK CENTER

ISSUE: Resolution supporting Federal legislation to provide for a slower transition of workers into the Washington Headquarters Service Building at the Mark Center (BRAC-133).

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

1. Approve the attached resolution, which endorses legislation relating to BRAC-133, and requests Senators Warner and Webb to support the legislation; and
2. Direct staff to provide copies of the resolution to Senators Warner and Webb, Congressman Moran, and the chairs of the Senate Armed Services and Senate Appropriations Committees.

DISCUSSION: On May 13, Mayor Euille and Vice Mayor Donley met with Congressman Jim Moran for a mutual update on BRAC activities at the local (City) and federal levels. During the discussion, Congressman Moran described two pieces of legislation that he is pursuing related to BRAC-133. The first would give the Secretary of Defense the ability to delay the full implementation of up to seven of the BRAC recommendations until September 15, 2012, possibly providing for a slower transition of workers into the new Mark Center site (assuming the Secretary designated BRAC-133 as one of the seven recommendations). The second piece of legislation would place a temporary limit on the use of parking spaces in the Mark Center garage (no more than 1,000 spaces could be occupied initially). Both of these proposals would lessen the congestion impacts from BRAC-133 in the short term.

It is recommended that City Council endorse this legislation through adopting the attached resolution, and ask our two senators to support the legislation in the Senate.

ATTACHMENT: Resolution

STAFF:
Bernard Caton, Legislative Director

RESOLUTION NO. ____

Supporting legislation to provide for a slower transition of workers into the Washington Headquarters Service Building at the Mark Center

WHEREAS, the Washington Headquarters Service is being relocated to the Mark Center as a result of the recommendations of the 2005 federal Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission; and

WHEREAS, the first of 6,400 employees are scheduled to report to the new Washington Headquarters Service office building at the Mark Center, near the intersection of I-395 and Seminary Road, beginning in August; and

WHEREAS, there is insufficient public transportation available to workers at the Mark Center site; and

WHEREAS, a number of future road improvements are planned for the area around the Mark Center to ease anticipated traffic congestion; and

WHEREAS, none of these improvements will be completed prior to the move-in, which is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2011; and

WHEREAS provisions have been included in H.R. 1540 (the 2012 National Defense Authorization Act, which has now passed the U.S. House of Representatives) that could allow for a slower transition of workers into the new Mark Center site; and

WHEREAS, the first of these provisions will give the Secretary of Defense the ability to delay the implementation of up to seven of the BRAC sites nationwide for a year: and

WHEREAS, the second of these provisions will temporarily place a limit of 1,000 on the number of parking spaces that can be used in the Mark Center garage, which should substantially lessen the congestion impacts from the project in the short term by forcing the Department of Defense to limit the number of employees who initially occupy the Mark Center building; and

WHEREAS, these two provisions are expected to significantly lessen some of the traffic congestion problems that will occur if all 6,400 employees move into the building this year; and

WHEREAS, it is in everyone's interest to make this transition of the Washington Headquarters Service and other Department of Defense agencies to its new building as smooth as possible, and to limit additional traffic congestion to the greatest extent possible; and

WHEREAS, these two legislative proposals will help accomplish those objectives, and will be beneficial for all affected parties—residents in the area, those who already work at the Mark Center, and commuters who will spend additional time on I-395 and other roads, especially the Department of Defense employees who are being transferred to the BRAC-133 building; and

WHEREAS, these two proposals will be under consideration by the United States Senate; and

WHEREAS, once approved, the Secretary of Defense should quickly act to identify the BRAC-133 facility as one of those for which the implementation of the 2005 BRAC recommendations will be delayed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL
OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

That the City Council of Alexandria, Virginia:

1. Endorses the provisions of H.R. 1540 (the 2012 National Defense Authorization Act) which seek to (a) give the Secretary of Defense the ability to delay the implementation of up to seven of the BRAC recommendations, and (b) temporarily place a limit on the number of parking spaces that can be used in the Mark Center garage;
2. Requests Senators Mark Warner and James Webb to support these provisions of H.R. 1540 or similar legislation when it is considered by the United States Senate; and
3. Thanks Congressman James P. Moran for his successful efforts in initiating these proposals and having these approved by the House of Representatives.

Adopted: June 14, 2011

WILLIAM D. EUILLE MAYOR

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, MMC City Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 2457

Supporting legislation to provide for a slower transition of workers into the Washington Headquarters Service Building at the Mark Center

WHEREAS, the Washington Headquarters Service is being relocated to the Mark Center as a result of the recommendations of the 2005 federal Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission; and

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WHEREAS, there is insufficient public transportation available to workers at the Mark Center site; and

WHEREAS, a number of future road improvements are planned for the area around the Mark Center to ease anticipated traffic congestion; and

WHEREAS, none of these improvements will be completed prior to the move-in, which is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2011; and

WHEREAS, provisions have been included in H.R. 1540 (the 2012 National Defense Authorization Act, which has now passed the U.S. House of Representatives) that could allow for a slower transition of workers into the new Mark Center site; and

WHEREAS, the first of these provisions will give the Secretary of Defense the ability to delay the implementation of up to seven of the BRAC sites nationwide for a year; and

WHEREAS, the second of these provisions will temporarily place a limit of 1,000 on the number of parking spaces that can be used in the Mark Center garage, which should substantially lessen the congestion impacts from the project in the short term by forcing the Department of Defense to limit the number of employees who initially occupy the Mark Center building; and

WHEREAS, these two provisions are expected to significantly lessen some of the traffic congestion problems that will occur if all 6,400 employees move into the building this year; and

WHEREAS, it is in everyone's interest to make this transition of the Washington Headquarters Service and other Department of Defense agencies to its new building as smooth as possible, and to limit additional traffic congestion to the greatest extent possible; and

WHEREAS, these two legislative proposals will help accomplish those objectives, and will be beneficial for all affected parties—residents in the area, those who already work at the Mark Center, and commuters who will spend additional time on I-395 and other roads, especially the Department of Defense employees who are being transferred to the BRAC-133 building; and

WHEREAS, these two proposals will be under consideration by the United States Senate; and

WHEREAS, once approved, the Secretary of Defense should quickly act to identify the BRAC-133 facility as one of those for which the implementation of the 2005 BRAC recommendations will be delayed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

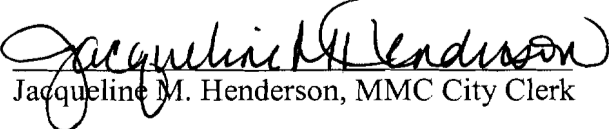
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Adopted: June 14, 2011


WILLIAM D. EULLE MAYOR

ATTEST:


Jacqueline M. Henderson, MMC City Clerk