

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 7, 2010

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF OPERATIONAL EQUIPMENT FOR
ALEXANDRIA'S HAZARDOUS MATERIALS (HAZ MAT) TEAM

ISSUE: Acceptance of two Haz Mat Team equipment grants from the Office of the National Capital Region, awarded and funded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant program.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council accept the grant funds for the Fire Department's Haz Mat Team and authorize the City Manager to execute the necessary documents that may be required:

- (1) Grant-funded hazardous materials equipment totaling \$120,297.01, which will enhance incident management capabilities in the National Capital Region (NCR); and
- (2) A grant-funded decontamination trailer and ancillary equipment totaling \$58,730.45, which will improve the NCR's mass decontamination capabilities; and

DISCUSSION: Last December, the NCR announced its first UASI grant award, coordinated through Council of Government's Haz Mat Subcommittee, to provide hazardous materials equipment for jurisdictions throughout the Washington, D.C., Area. The equipment was distributed to enhance regional preparedness for potential chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and etiologial threats and to augment the NCR's ability to respond to a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear event.

A second grant award was also announced by the Council of Government's Haz Mat Subcommittee to fund decontamination equipment for all jurisdictions and to enhance each locality's ability to handle mass decontamination. This funding for hazardous materials decontamination was provided by the Department of Homeland Security for responding to actual or potential discharges and/or releases of hazardous materials. As part of the resource-management planning for the NCR, the equipment is currently

housed in 17 different locations and is ready to be mobilized when incidents occur anywhere in the NCR.

Planning regionally and centralizing equipment ordering, the NCR's task has permitted faster acquisition and distribution of needed equipment, and therefore has accelerated protection, area-wide, for all jurisdictions. In addition, the ability to track the availability of haz mat equipment and dispatch needed resources will be important when mutual aid and multi-jurisdictional responses occur.

FISCAL IMPACT: This grant does not have a match requirement. City staff will be responsible for administering the grant. The City is also responsible for the normal administrative costs associated with this grant, including inventorying and tagging all equipment received. When the equipment requires or mandates replacement, the Fire Department will make every effort to pursue grant funds. If grant funds are not available, the Department will need to request supplemental funding in the context of the budget.

STAFF:

Adam K. Thiel, Fire Chief

John North, Battalion Chief, Fire Department Special Operations