

DRAFT DOCKET ITEM FOR JANUARY 10, 2012 LEGISLATIVE MEETING

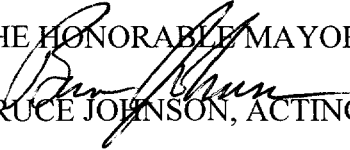
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## City of Alexandria, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** DECEMBER 6, 2011

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

**FROM:**  BRUCE JOHNSON, ACTING CITY MANAGER

**SUBJECT:** RECEIPT OF STRATEGIC PLAN FOR AGING 2012-2016

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**ISSUE:** Receipt and consideration of the draft Strategic Plan for Aging: 2012-2016, *The Alexandria of Our Future: A Livable Community for All Ages*

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** That City Council:

1. Receive the draft Strategic Plan for Aging at its January 10, 2012 legislative meeting (Attachment 1); and
2. Docket the draft Plan for public hearing on Saturday, February 25, 2012; and adoption on Tuesday, March 13, 2011.

**BACKGROUND:** Changing demographics have created a need to plan for Alexandria's aging population, which is expected to double between 2000 and 2030. In May 2010, City Council recognized this need, authorizing The Department of Community and Human Services' (DCHS) Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) to proceed with developing a plan that would address the needs and aspirations of its aging residents. Council allocated \$74,000 for consultant services, and through a competitive proposal, JustPartners, Inc., (JPI) was awarded the contract. Over the course of six months, JPI worked with the Alexandria Commission on Aging (COA) and DAAS to scan local, state, and national data, trends, strategies, and practices on aging, and to collect extensive community input. To garner public and other stakeholder participation, JPI, Commission members and DAAS staff:

- Created a local cross-sector 23-member Strategic Plan Advisory Group, representing stakeholders beyond the aging network. This group offered initial ideas about constituents' concerns that were considered throughout the Plan's development.
- Convened two meetings of 20 City Departmental Aging Liaisons who provided input about how their work would be shaped by the increase in the senior population. This helped to define the plan's objectives.
- Met with City officials.

- Conducted extensive outreach to solicit community input. Information about town hall meetings and cards for written input were distributed to thousands of Alexandria households.
- Held two town hall meetings (February 23, 2011 and March 3, 2011) attracting almost 400 mostly older participants. They focused on solutions for Alexandria that would advance the well-being of older residents, benefit other age groups or persons with special needs, and protect or support the environment, where applicable.
- Posted a draft of the Aging Strategic Plan on the City's website and distributed email and enews notifications to inform Alexandrians about the plan as well as the means and timelines to provide feedback.
- Held a COA public hearing on the draft plan on April 25, 2011 to hear further testimony and input from the community.

The current draft of the strategic plan incorporates, where appropriate, the stakeholder feedback from all of these forums.

**DISCUSSION:** Most Americans want to stay in their own homes and communities as they age. Alexandria offers attractive features in abundance that make the desire to age in place especially compelling. Its residents are proud of their City, its diverse and distinct neighborhoods, distinguished history, plentiful restaurants, the Potomac waterfront, many shopping areas, parks and walkable streets, access to mass transit, celebration of the arts, the small town character and a reputation for resident engagement. The vision of the Aging Strategic Plan is: **Residents choose to stay in Alexandria as they age because it is a livable community for all ages.**

The premises on which this Strategic Plan is based are that:

- Older residents are a natural resource whose talents and contributions to the life of the City are fundamental to its health and vitality;
- Many attributes making a community more livable for older adults also enhance its livability for all ages; and
- Government alone cannot create the community that older Alexandrians desire.

Many of the recommendations in this plan address more than one problem simultaneously, suggest the engagement of many partners beyond the aging network, and meet the needs of younger residents and stakeholders as well as those who are older.

This plan proposes seven interrelated goals that must be met to ensure the ability of older Alexandrians to age in place in Alexandria:

- **Goal #1. Communications and Outreach.** Information about services and programs is readily available and accessible in a variety of formats and venues for older residents of Alexandria, their families and caregivers, local organizations and businesses.
- **Goal #2. Housing.** A range of affordable, accessible and supportive housing is available that meets the needs of older residents of the City to be able to age at home.

- **Goal #3. Transportation.** A variety of mobility options, including pedestrian-safe streets, make moving in and around the City and region possible for Alexandrians of all ages and abilities.
- **Goal #4. Community Services.** Community services accommodate the expectations and needs of aging Alexandrians and support their caregivers.
- **Goal #5. Economic and Workforce Development.** The important contributions of older Alexandrians to the City's economy are recognized and the innovative entrepreneurship of older residents is encouraged.
- **Goal #6. Quality of Life.** The quality of life of all Alexandrians is enhanced by the many volunteer activities of its older residents and their continued involvement in the social and civic life of the City.
- **Goal #7. Health, Wellness, and Safety.** All residents, with special attention to lower-income, older City residents, optimize their wellness and receive the health care they require.

Many of the Plan's initiatives align with and complement existing City Council approved plans such as the Comprehensive Transportation Master Plan; Alexandria City Council Strategic Plan; Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development; Eco-City Alexandria, etc. (See Plan's Appendix G: Alignment of this Plan with Other City Strategic Plans).

While the draft Plan identifies a phased implementation strategy, upon City Council's adoption of the Aging Strategic Plan, a detailed implementation plan will be developed including specific actions, target dates, and outcome measures. Progress on implementation of the Plan will be reported in the annual report of The Alexandria Commission on Aging.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Council's receipt and adoption of the Aging Strategic Plan does not commit any additional City resources to the implementation of specific initiatives. Implementation of some of the initiatives will have a fiscal impact in terms of personnel and non-personnel costs. Initiatives are proposed to be implemented over the course of five years. Staff will explore grants and other non-City funding opportunities where available. Any requests for City funding will be made through the City's regular budget process.

**ATTACHMENT:**

Draft Strategic Plan for Aging: 2012-2016, *The Alexandria of Our Future: A Livable Community for All Ages*

**STAFF:**

Debra R. Collins, Assistant City Manager  
 Mike Gilmore, Director, Department of Community and Human Services  
 Suzanne Chis, Deputy Director, Department of Community and Human Services  
 Carol Layer, Director, Center for Adult Services / DCHS  
 MaryAnn Griffin, Director, Division of Aging and Adult Services / DCHS