

## Alexandria Judicial Information System (AJIS)

### City Council Briefing

February 10, 2004

#### History:

- Alexandria has long been the leader in the State in the coordination of its judicial functions and processes, using information technologies, beginning almost 20 years ago with the implementation of the City's mainframe-based Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS)
- CJIS was almost 20 years old and needed to be replaced and significant upgrades made.
- In 1994, the City contracted with Arlington County to operate CJIS using the County's mainframe computer, allowing the City to complete it's conversion to smaller computer systems, simplifying the maintenance and operation of the City's information technology infrastructure.
- The State and local users depended upon CJIS to efficiently and cooperatively operate the criminal justice system in the City.
- Civil functions were largely not automated and were paper intensive.
- City Council provided \$6 million in funding to create AJIS
- This was the largest software development project in the City's history.
- The project stayed very close to the original budget and needed few changes
- The AJIS project was managed by the Circuit Court with the oversight and support provided by ITS

#### Timeline

- August 7, 1997 - Contract signed
- July 2002 - Testing on Civil functions begins
- September 2002 - Testing on Criminal functions begins
- February 2003 - Conversion of all data from the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) started
- May 2003 - Civil Portion brought on-line
- September 1, 2003 – Criminal and Jail Management portion brought on-line and CJIS removed from the Arlington County mainframe

#### State and Local User Agencies

The AJIS system is used by these components of the criminal and civil justice system within the City of Alexandria:

Circuit Court Judges  
Circuit Court Clerks  
Commonwealth Attorney's Office  
Victim/Witness Assistance Program

Adult Probation & Parole  
Sheriff's Office (Courthouse and Detention Facility)  
Alexandria Criminal Justice Services (ACJS)  
Magistrate's Office  
Public Defender  
Police Department  
Office on Women  
Court Services Unit (Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court)  
Office of City Attorney's  
Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse

### Benefits

#### *Improved Quality of Information*

- Server/Workstation environment that is completely self-contained which is no longer dependent on Arlington for the use of their mainframe
- Usage, additions and modifications to data are easily tracked and recorded allowing more accountability of users
- Graphical, user-friendly interface means no codes to remember, screens are easy to read and accessibility is enhanced
- Users are able to view images of case documents, to ensure accuracy.
- For the first time, mugshot photos of incarcerated persons may be viewed, printed and sorted in line-up fashion to aid jail management and police investigations

#### *Improved Access to and Security for Information*

- Highly flexible security system allows an entire case down to an individual person, document or single piece of data to be protected including security on an individual user basis
- The Public may view case document images on the public terminals in a familiar, graphical interface
- Many individual, stand-alone systems were integrated into AJIS allowing additions or updates of data instantly available to a wide-ranging group of users. For example, the Magistrate, the photo mugshot, and inmate classification systems are now an integral part of AJIS

#### *Improved Efficiency of Operation and Maintenance*

- The HTML design of AJIS makes additions and modifications to the system easy and quick.
- Users may now extract, sort and print data at any time on their own without having to wait or rely on pre-programmed reports.
- AJIS requires no software or set-up on individual PC's—only requires Internet Explorer and the AJIS address (URL) that allows portability
- Streamlines processing by reducing number of steps necessary and more logical

#### *Financial*

- The City will share licensing revenues when the contractor sells the AJIS product to other organizations.