

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 22, 2004

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *PS*

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO # 88 : KING STREET GARDENS MAINTENANCE

This memo is in response to Councilman Smedberg's question regarding the cost to maintain King Street Gardens.

The cost to maintain King Street Gardens is approximately \$14,000 per year. The funds provide for intensive pruning, weeding, mulching, hand watering, changing out plant materials and trash pick up performed by both contracted and City labor. In addition, the budget includes plants for 3-4 seasons of color and costs for materials. Between 8-12 hours per week are spent at King Street Gardens on average; with more time spent in summer than in winter.

In FY 2003, \$15,000 was added to the Recreation budget for an irrigation system for the King Street Gardens. The irrigation system has minimized the need for hand watering and requires only routine maintenance and replacement parts; however, hand watering is still necessary in the large planters and for the plantings at the base of the trellises.