

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 18, 2005

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER *J*

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO # 65 : "OPERATION TRICK NO TREAT"; ADULT PROBATION AND PAROLE OFFICE

This memorandum is in response to Councilman Gaines' request concerning the cost and feasibility of implementing "Operation Trick No Treat" in Alexandria on Halloween evening.

"Operation Trick No Treat" is a program designed by the Virginia Department of Corrections (DOC) to remove targeted sex offenders from the streets while children in the community are trick-or-treating. In the last few years, it has been implemented in Norfolk, Virginia Beach, Petersburg and Prince William County. The program would involve the Adult Probation and Parole Office and to a lesser extent, the Police Department.

The program involves directing identified sex offenders to report to their Probation and Parole Office while children are trick-or-treating in the evening. This is done via an official hand-delivered letter. While at the office, Probation and Parole Officers can do a variety of things, such as conduct an educational session, present a video, have a speaker, address any supervision issues, update photos and addresses, or do on-site drug testing. The offenders remain at the probation office approximately from 4:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. This activity not only keeps them off the streets, but also ensures they are not at home answering the door.

Jane Reedy, Chief Probation and Parole Officer, indicated that this could be implemented in Alexandria, since we have fewer sex offenders than the jurisdictions referenced above. The Alexandria office usually has between 15 and 20 sexual offenders on their caseload. These offenders are supervised by two Intensive Supervision Officers. In addition, the Alexandria Office of Adult Probation and Parole is normally open three evenings per week, so scheduling would not be a problem.

Legitimate excuses are verified prior to the actual arrival time for those who are working, sick, etc. Warrants are issued for those who do not show up and who do not have a legitimate pre-approved absence. Police participation would primarily involve police officers serving "Failure to Appear Warrants." If necessary, a police officer could accompany a probation officer in making "home checks" to assure that offenders are not at home. The Police Department

estimates that "Operation Trick No Treat" would require overtime expenses of approximately \$600, which are not within the amount already proposed for Police overtime.

It should be noted that while this might be a relatively inexpensive program, there does not seem to be a great need for this program in Alexandria, since there has not been a problem with children being targeted on Halloween by sex offenders.