


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 25, 2005

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO #106 : CITY-WIDE HEALTH FAIR

This memorandum is in response to Councilman Gaines' question about the feasibility and cost, if any, associated with holding a citywide health fair.

The Alexandria Health Department sponsored a city-wide public health fair in April 2003. The event was held at the Burke Branch Library on a Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in celebration of National Public Health Week. According to the department, attendance was low, so the health fair has not been repeated.

In subsequent years, the Health Department has celebrated National Public Health Week with other activities, such as poster contests for students and more recently, a poster contest for senior citizens. There are multiple health fairs around the City, often targeted to a specific group (such as City employees) or neighborhood, such as the upcoming Charles Houston Recreation Center Health Fair. The Red Cross Waterfront Festival, in early June each year, has many health-related exhibits, including a Family Health and Safety Pavilion. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is sponsoring an employee health fair in May, and in September the Tenants and Workers Support Committee will have a health fair in the Arlandria area. The AHD keeps track of community health fairs and provides health education and health promotion activities at a majority of health fairs.

Due to the many opportunities to attend health fairs or community events with a health fair component, and the low attendance at the last city-wide health fair, it is questionable as to whether another city-wide health fair is needed. The AHD estimates that a city-wide health fair would cost approximately \$50,000 to \$60,000 for staff time, printing and advertising costs, and equipment and supplies needed to perform various screenings.