


## City of Alexandria, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: MAY 3, 2005

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: SUBMISSION OF CITIZEN CORPS PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION TO VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (VDEM)

---

**ISSUE:** City Council consideration of a grant application, in the amount of \$55,676, for the Virginia Department of Emergency Management's Citizen Corps Program Grant for FY2005.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That City Council:

- (1) Approve the submission of the grant application to VDEM; and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to submit this application for State assistance.

**BACKGROUND:** The Citizen Corps Program was established in the post 9-11 environment to involve individuals in developing stronger, safer communities. Through the education and training of citizens, local communities can be better prepared to respond to threats of terrorism, crime, public health issues, and disasters of all kinds. The Citizen Corps Council is coordinated nationally through the Department of Homeland Security. The program is designed for the Citizen Corps Councils to integrate the following volunteer programs under one umbrella: Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Fire Corps, Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), Neighborhood Watch Program (NWP), and Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS).

The funding from VDEM is a State pass-through grant from the Department of Homeland Security. Virginia allocates the funds among the local jurisdictions based on a competitive application process.

**DISCUSSION:** The Alexandria City Council established Citizen Corps Council (CCC) as a permanent, standing committee for the City of Alexandria. Over the last year, the members designed a Citizen Corps specific website, developed an informational brochure, held a community forum, and participated in the City-wide community survey. The group also sponsored the "Be Ready, Alexandria!" campaign to educate every household and business on emergency preparedness issues. The primary goal of the group is still to educate residents on how to prepare their families, their neighborhoods, and their communities and to offer, where appropriate, assistance to the emergency response agencies.

Over the coming year, the group aims to train more than 120 people in CERT. The group wants to recruit new citizens to participate in CERT who live in neighborhoods that have not been covered in previous training sessions. Also, the group has received requests from faith-based organizations to conduct joint classes for a number of churches.

This grant application is geared toward three projects: (1) hiring a part-time Medical Reserve Corps Coordinator to recruit, train, and coordinate the volunteers (\$26,000); (2) purchasing accident/health insurance coverage for the active CERT members for injuries incurred while volunteering in an emergency (\$24,000); and (3) purchasing CERT equipment that will be placed in central locations for the CERT teams to use during an emergency (\$5,676).

City Council approved an additional \$20,000 in the FY 2006 budget for the Be Ready, Alexandria program. Those funds will enable the Fire Department to continue to produce the publications and kits that will be distributed throughout Alexandria.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The total project budget for the Citizen Corps is \$130,676. The grant application requests \$55,676 from VDEM. The local match of \$75,000 is already programmed in the FY 2006 Fire Department operating budget with the salary and fringe benefits for the position of CCC/CERT Liaison.

The Fire Department has submitted the grant application in order to meet the deadline of April 18, 2005, with the understanding that subsequent City Council authorization would be required to accept this grant award.

**ATTACHMENTS:** None. The full grant application copy may be reviewed in the Office of Management and Budget, Room 3600, City Hall, during normal business hours.

**STAFF:**

Mark Penn, Emergency Management Coordinator

Laura Pettus, Emergency Management Analyst

Gary Mesaris, Fire Chief