

## City of Alexandria, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: DECEMBER 10, 2004

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER<sup>PS</sup>

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE ALEXANDRIA GANG PREVENTION COMMUNITY TASK FORCE

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**ISSUE:** Consideration of a resolution establishing the Alexandria Gang Prevention Community Task Force.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That City Council adopt the attached resolution that establishes, identifies the general make-up of, and provides a charge for a new 13-member Alexandria Gang Prevention Community Task Force.

**DISCUSSION:** All local governments in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan region are now working together to address the growing incidence of gang activity in the region. This fall, several members of City Council participated in a regional forum sponsored by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments that addressed ways to alleviate gang activity in the region. Although to date the City has experienced a relatively low amount of criminal activity by gang members, gangs are very much of a reality in the City, as they are in the entire region, and must be addressed not only to suppress their criminal activity, but in addition to prevent individuals from becoming associated with gangs in the first place and to intervene with actual gang members and help them end their association.

Recently, the City departments that are involved in gang suppression, prevention and intervention activities, along with the state agencies located in Alexandria that are also involved in these types of activities, have formed a joint senior policy work group. The primary job of this group is to ensure the coordination of all gang-related suppression, prevention and intervention activities that are taking place in the City, and to ensure that these City's efforts are coordinated with similar gang-related activities that are occurring elsewhere in the region.

To accompany the work of this senior policy work group, staff recommends the formation of a task force of community representatives that would focus on gang problems and issues. We recommend, and the attached resolution proposes, that this task force be charged with the following functions and responsibilities:

1. Receive briefings on the status of gang suppression, prevention and intervention programs and activities in the City and, insofar as directly relevant to the City, the status of similar programs and activities in the metropolitan region;
2. Assist in informing and educating the Alexandria community about the gang suppression, prevention and intervention programs and activities that are occurring in the City and in the region;
3. Assist in identifying programs and activities that will address specific gang-related problems or issues in the City, with a particular emphasis on programs and activities that will prevent individuals from joining gangs and/or that will intervene with individuals who are members of a gang to facilitate their withdrawal from such membership;
4. Assist in identifying opportunities to obtain funding for programs and activities that will address such gang-related problems or issues in the City; and
5. Assist in identifying state or local laws that should be enacted or amended to enable the City, and possibly other local governments, to better address problems and issues arising from or related to gangs.

We also recommend, and the attached resolution provides, that the task force have 13 members with the following make-up:

- Two members of the Alexandria City Council
- One member of the Alexandria School Board
- One representative of TC Williams High School
- One representative of City Middle Schools
- One representative of Alexandria Elementary Schools
- One representative of the Private Schools in Alexandria
- One representative of the Alexandria Tenant and Workers Support Committee
- One representative of the Alexandria Branch of the NAACP
- One representative of the Alexandria Youth Council
- One representative of the Alexandria Interfaith Council
- Two representatives from the City at large

The resolution also provides that the task force continue for a period of 18 months from the date of its first meeting, and that it automatically dissolve at that time unless Council has authorized it to continue. Under the resolution, at least 30 days before the end of its first year, the task force is to inform Council whether it believes it should be authorized to continue in existence and, if so, it is to recommend the length of time it believes it should continue.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** There is no direct, significant fiscal impact arising from the establishment of this task force.

**ATTACHMENT:** Resolution

**STAFF:** Michele R. Evans, Assistant City Manager

## RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the local governments of the Washington, D.C., metropolitan region are working together to address gang activity in the region; and

WHEREAS, this fall several members of City Council participated in the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' regional forum to address ways to alleviate gang activity in the Washington metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, the Alexandria City Council is concerned about the increasing incidents of gang-related activity in the metropolitan area, and wishes to improve education and communication regarding gangs among City agencies, between the City and others in the region, and within the Alexandria community; and

WHEREAS, although to date the City of Alexandria has experienced a relatively low amount of criminal activity by gang members, in part due to the effective suppression efforts of the Alexandria Police Department, gangs are a regional problem and, as such, could impact Alexandria at any time (for instance, if gang members from other jurisdictions come into the City to recruit members or commit crimes); and

WHEREAS, numerous City and state departments and agencies serving Alexandria have an interest in gang suppression, prevention and intervention; and

WHEREAS, City Council wishes to establish an Alexandria Gang Prevention Community Task Force to address gang issues;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alexandria City Council hereby establishes an Alexandria Gang Prevention Community Task Force which shall be appointed by the mayor and shall consist of the following 13 members:

- Two members of the Alexandria City Council
- One member of the Alexandria School Board
- One representative of TC Williams High School
- One representative of City Middle Schools
- One representative of Alexandria Elementary Schools
- One representative of the private schools in Alexandria
- One representative of the Alexandria Tenant and Workers Support Committee
- One representative of the Alexandria Branch of the NAACP
- One representative of the Alexandria Youth Council
- One representative of the Alexandria Interfaith Council
- Two representatives from the City at large

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that advisors to the Task Force shall include, as needed, the City Manager, the Commonwealth's Attorney, the Police Chief, the Sheriff; and the Directors of Court Services, Human Services, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse, Adult Probation and Parole, and the Office on Women.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Task Force shall continue for a period of 18 months from the date of its first meeting, and shall at that time dissolve unless authorized to continue by the City Council; and that at least 30 days before the end of its first year, the Task Force shall inform the Council whether it believes it should be authorized to continue in existence and, if so, it shall recommend the length of time it believes it should continue.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the charge to the Task Force shall be to undertake the following:

- (1) to receive briefings on the status of gang suppression, prevention and intervention programs and activities in the City and, insofar as directly relevant to the City, the status of similar programs and activities in the metropolitan region;
- (2) to assist in informing and educating the Alexandria community about the gang suppression, prevention and intervention programs and activities that are occurring in the City and in the region;
- (3) to assist in identifying programs and activities that will address specific gang-related problems or issues in the City, with a particular emphasis on programs and activities that will prevent individuals from joining gangs and/or that will intervene with individuals who are members of a gang to facilitate their withdrawal from such membership;
- (4) to assist in identifying opportunities to obtain funding for programs and activities that will address such gang-related problems or issues in the City; and
- (5) to assist in identifying state or local laws that should be enacted or amended to enable the City, and possibly other local governments, to better address problems and issues arising from or related to gangs.

ADOPTED: \_\_\_\_\_

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WILLIAM D. EUILLE,      MAYOR

ATTEST:

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Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC    City Clerk

**RESOLUTION NO. 2128**

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ADOPTED: December 14, 2004

  
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**WILLIAM D. EULLE**

**MAYOR**

ATTEST:

  
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Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC

City Clerk