


## City of Alexandria, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 7, 2006

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO MODIFY THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ALEXANDRIA CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMISSION

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**ISSUE:** Request to modify the membership of the Alexandria Consumer Affairs Commission by adding a provision which would allow alternate qualifications for one of the designated positions for members of local consumer action organizations should the position remain vacant for a long period of time (Attachment).

**RECOMMENDATION:** That City Council approve the request and ask the City Attorney to draft an amendment to City Code Section 12-7-12 which modifies the membership requirement to allow for one of the positions for a member of a local consumer action organization to be filled by a representative of a local non-profit or an employee of a state or federal agency that deals with consumer issues, if the position remains unfilled for three months.

**DISCUSSION:** The Consumer Affairs Commission was established in 1974. There are 11 members: seven citizen members, two business members, and two local consumer action organization members. One of the consumer action group positions has been vacant since November 2004. This long-standing vacancy has resulted in several meetings where the Commission has not had a quorum. Therefore, they have requested that an alternative be provided and I concur with this request.

**ATTACHMENT:** February 9, 2006 E-Mail from Alan Dubow to Rose Boyd

**STAFF:** Rose Williams Boyd, Executive Secretary for Boards and Commissions



Alan Dubow  
<dubow@usa.net>  
02/09/2006 02:31 PM

To <Rose.Boyd@alexandriava.gov>  
"Alan E. Dubow" <dubow@usa.net>, Katherine Skidmore  
cc Phillipp <kphilipp@niri.org>, sean spicer  
<seanspicer@yahoo.com>, Edward Susank  
bcc  
Subject Proposed Code Revision

At the February meeting of the Alexandria Consume Affairs Commission, the Commission voted to recommend a change to the city code provision that prescribes the composition of the Consumer Affairs Commission. the essence of the recommendation is that an option be created to fill one of the 2 Consumer Action Organization positions with a representative of a local non-profit or a state or federal agency that deals with consumer issues. It is the feeling of the Commission that this will better facilitate maintaining a full Commission without altering the sprit of the makeup of the Commission. Some proposed language is attached.

Also of note is that effective March 7, 2006, the Commission will be chaired by Todd Ruopp.

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