

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 4, 2006
TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL
FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER
SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO # 61 : MOVING JOBLINK TO A RENTED FACILITY

This memo is in response to Councilman Krupicka's question regarding why is the City spending \$439,000 to move JobLink's offices to another location.

In November, 2003, the JobLink division of the Department of Human Services temporarily moved in to the City purchased space located at 2900 Business Center Drive. For building marketing reasons, their prior landlord did not want JobLink to remain in the office space JobLink had been renting on Eisenhower Avenue. This move allowed budgeted rental funds to be dropped from the JobLink budget. It was always intended that JobLink would be moved from Business Center Drive, but the when and where was not known.

The area where JobLink temporarily moved is now known as the Business Center Drive/City Government Center with the total acquisition of 43 acres of land (excluding Luckett Park) between South Wheeler and Telegraph, south of Duke and Colvin (Wheeler/Witter area). Its purpose is to provide the City for generations to come, a significant number of contiguous parcels, and a substantial number of acres, in the middle of the City, for government and public use. With the assistance of a consultant, staff evaluated a number of possible uses, including the relocation of the Department of Transportation and Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities primary maintenance facility from its current outdated building at South Quaker Lane.

On May 31, 2005, City staff outlined the redevelopment of the Wheeler-Witter area to accommodate the anticipated relocation of the Alexandria Police Department from Mill Road to a new facility on Wheeler Avenue. As part of the construction of a new Police facility on Wheeler Avenue, approved by City Council on October 25, 2005, several existing City facilities in that area will need to be relocated. The existing maintenance facility shared by T&ES and Recreation will be moved to the warehouse space at 2900 Business Center Drive, where the JobLink facility is currently located, and JobLink will move out of their temporary space to rental space. At this time it appears that space on the Winkler campus on Beauregard Street will provide appropriate space, in a good location for JobLink's clients, and at an appropriate price.

The FY 2007 Department of Human Services Proposed Budget includes \$329,000 for office space rental and \$110,000 in one-time moving/relocation costs.