

City of Alexandria, Virginia

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5-23-05

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MAY 15, 2006
TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL
FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER *J*
SUBJECT: 2005 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

ISSUE: Acceptance of the 2005 Annual Report from the Commission for Women.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council receive the report and thank the Commission for Women for their efforts on behalf of the City.

DISCUSSION: The Annual Report for the Commission for Women was submitted by Charniele Herring, Chair. Highlights from the report include:

- The Commission developed a brochure for the Commission's Women's History Walk.
- Friends of the Commission for Women gained permanent 501(c)(3) status. Fundraising events included a Women and Art Party and in conjunction with the Office on Women, the Commission assisted with the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Domestic Violence Intervention Project.
- The Commission held its 25th annual Salute to Women Awards banquet, honoring 13 women for their accomplishments that benefit the women and City of Alexandria. This event raised nearly \$10,000, which was donated to the Sexual Assault Response and Awareness (SARA) program.
- The Commission hosted the City's annual Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day event in April. Nearly 75 Alexandria City Public Schools students were mentored by mentors from both the public and private sectors.

ATTACHMENT: 2005 Annual Report of the Commission for Women

STAFF:

Michele Evans, Deputy City Manager
Lisa Baker, Director, Office on Women

*Alexandria
Commission
for
Women*

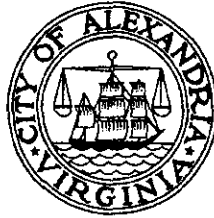
Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2005

Dated: November 2005

Alexandria Commission for Women

Annual Report Fiscal Year 2005 Dated: November 2005



Alexandria City Council 2005

William D. Euille, Mayor
Redella S. Pepper, Vice Mayor
Ludwig Gaines
Rob Krupicka
Andrew Macdonald
Paul Smedberg
Joyce Woodson

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INTRODUCTION

The Alexandria City Council established the Alexandria Commission on the Status of Women (ACSW) in 1974 to monitor issues that concern women and to educate the public about those issues. The name was changed in 1994 to the Alexandria Commission for Women. The Commission's mandate also includes making recommendations to City officials about actions that would encourage equal opportunity for women and eliminate gender-based discrimination.

The Council appoints the members of the Commission to three-year terms. In 2001, the Council expanded the membership of the Commission to fifteen members appointed at-large from the citizenry of the City. All members serve without compensation. The entire Commission meets monthly from September through June. Standing committees and task forces meet when necessary.

In addition to participating in numerous community activities, the Commission responds to requests for assistance from other Alexandria boards and commissions. Members stay in touch with local issues by inviting speakers to Commission meetings and attending educational programs.

The Commission continues to work diligently to highlight issues of importance to women including, among a number of initiatives, the drafting of an informational pamphlet describing women's important contributions to the history of the City during the City's 250th Anniversary Celebration and the development of a Needs Assessment of the economic, health and educational needs of women in the City of Alexandria. The Commission continues to compile the data available from the 1980, 1990 and 2000 census to identify and compare the changing needs of women in our City.

The Commission takes an active role in supporting and sharing information with other commissions in the City. The Commission also reaches beyond the City limits to establish linkage with other commissions in the region and throughout the United States and has participated in the Health Roundtable with the Fairfax County Office for Women. The Commission reaches out by placing Commission representatives on key City bodies, including the Commission on HIV/AIDS, the Youth Policy Commission and the Human Rights Commission; participating in the National Commission for Women's 'Women's Appointments National Task Force', to encourage appointment of qualified women to major governmental bodies; and actively participating in the National Association of Commissions for Women.

Every year, the Commission takes an active role in advocating to the City of Alexandria and the General Assembly issues of importance to women. The Commission was responsible for saving from elimination the Virginia State Council on the Status of Women. The Commission is now working to establish a budget allocation for the Council. Several Commission members currently serve on the State Council on the Status of Women. A major initiative, launched in 2001 in coordination with the Office on Women, was to provide a privilege to communications between victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and their advocates. House Bill 2802S was introduced in the 2004 session of the General Assembly, and again in 2005. The bill was

reported out of subcommittee in 2005 but failed in full House of Delegates. This effort, however, raised awareness of this issue around the State. The Commission also actively participates in the CourtWatch program which monitors the progress of domestic violence and sexual assault cases in the Alexandria court system.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Women's History Walk

Presented as a legacy gift to the City of Alexandria in celebration of its 250th Anniversary, the Commission for Women and Alexandria Archaeology contributed the first phase of a Women's History Walk Project. The concept is to develop numerous walking tours highlighting the history of Alexandria's notable women. *Leadership, Strength and Courage: The Women of Alexandria 1651-1999*, a booklet featuring more than 50 women, was presented at the 1999 Salute to Women Awards Banquet.

Beginning in 2004, the Women's History Walk was launched as an annual event to further the goals of highlighting women in the history of Alexandria as well as coinciding with one of the goals of the Commission, which is to further women and girls' wellness events here in the City of Alexandria. Starting from Lyles Crouch Elementary School, the Women's History Walk provides participants with a mapped walk through Old Town identifying important sites related to women in Alexandria's history.

Women's History Trail/Tour

Launched in 2002, the Women's History Trail Tour was created by the Friends of the Commission for Women to illustrate the important contributions of women's history here in the City of Alexandria. Authored by then Second Vice-Chair of the Commission, Susan Lowell Butler, the Tour takes participants through the City and introduces them to landmarks in the City regarding historical women figures, including the original owner of most of the land in Old Town, Alexandria, Margaret Brent, as well as home of Delegate Marian Van Landingham, the City's first and longest serving female state legislator. There are three walks, of varying lengths, all free. In 2005-06, the History Walks will be printed for City-wide distribution.

Friends of the Alexandria Commission for Women

The *Friends of the Alexandria Commission for Women*, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to raising funds to support the work of the Commission and the Office on Women, was founded in 2000.

- *Friends* was launched with a very successful theatre-evening fundraiser as more than 150 women attended the play, *Eleanor*, at Arena Theatre.
- *Friends* began planning for a Women's History Trail project for the City, which was launched in 2002, and *Friends* secured sufficient funding to design and print the women's history walk brochure for 2005-06..

- *Friends* planned a major fundraiser offering a *Capitol Steps* concert, held in 2002.
- *Friends* launched a regular and very successful program of fundraising events, Women's Art Parties, held each of the last three years, showcasing emerging women artists.
- *Friends* hosted a concert in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the City's domestic violence program in May 2005.

Needs Assessment

The Commission continues to work on the development of a Needs Assessment of the economic, health and educational needs of women in the City of Alexandria. The Commission, through countless volunteer hours, has compiled the data available from the 1980, 1990 and 2000 census to identify and compare the changing needs of women in our City. Upon requesting and receiving \$20,000.00 from City Council this year, the Commission has hired a consultant to move the Needs Assessment to the next level, compiling the necessary report on the results of the data.

Battered Women's Shelter

In an advisory role, the Commission promoted the ADA compliant addition to the Shelter approved in 2005. The Shelter Committee and the Friends of the Commission for Women are working on a fundraiser to decorate the addition and redecorate the facility.

ANNUAL EVENTS

Walk to Fight Breast Cancer

The Commission continued to focus on the importance of early detection of breast cancer. Highlighting Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Walk to Fight Breast Cancer is held annually during the month of October. Funds are generated for women who are uninsured or underinsured and cannot afford a mammogram. From the first Walk in 1995 to the tenth in 2004, fundraising dollars have increased from \$15,000 to \$125,000. The need for this important project increases each year, and the Commission will continue to work to offer and expand services to provide free mammograms and other necessary early detection tests to Alexandria women in financial need as well as to hire a health educator. The Commission addressed issues with the reporting of the fund and continue to monitor the fund to ensure that the expanding resources continue to provide necessary mammograms to those in need.

Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day

Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day is held in April. Initiated by the Ms. Foundation for Women in 1992 to focus on the ideas, needs and dreams of girls and to help ensure that they remain confident, strong and in school throughout their teen years, the day affords young people an opportunity to see the various roles women play in the workforce. Mentors are encouraged to discuss the education and training required for their positions and to encourage the participating girls to talk to other women at work. Since 2003, the event includes both daughters and sons to provide young women and men with an important view of women in career positions as role models for our youth.

The citywide event includes children of city employees and a number of students from Hammond Middle School and Minnie Howard Ninth Grade Center. Mentors include women on city staff and women volunteers from various agencies and organizations throughout the city. Strongly supported by the city, the Mayor and the City Manager address the group of students and mentors at a kickoff event at City Hall. The Alexandria city employee participation in this event is co-sponsored by the City Manager's Office in conjunction with the Commission and the Office on Women.

Salute to Women Awards Banquet

The Commission presents its banquet every March to recognize the contributions women have made to the City of Alexandria. Originally known as Women to Women Awards prior to 1993, awards are presented to commend women who have exhibited outstanding leadership skills in a variety of areas including education and training, the arts and cultural affairs, youth mentorship, and business and economic development. In 2001, two new awards were added to the annual Salute to Women Banquet, the "Vola Lawson Award" to recognize the accomplishments of the outgoing city manager and to recognize the accomplishments of a City Staff person thereafter, and the "Rising Star" Award to recognize the achievements of the City's younger leaders.

This year, the Commission for Women sought to make the Banquet a fundraiser. This year's proceeds, about \$10,000, are being donated to support the City's Sexual Assault Response and Awareness Program (SARA). While SARA is a City program, it is heavily reliant on funding from grants and private donations and this fundraiser enables the program to ensure that the victims of sexual assault are provided for in their time of need.

A list of the years' winners is printed below.

SALUTE TO WOMEN AWARD WINNERS

Marguerite Payez Award, Highest Honor Award

Barbara Gilley	2005
Nancy Dunning	2004
Judy Lowe	2003
Catherine Thompson	2002
Molly Abraham	2001
Norma Gattsek	2000
Carter Dudley Fleming	1999
Rebecca "Becky" Davies	1998
Lois Van Valkenburgh	1997

2005

Barbara Gilley
Jodie Markowitz
Officer Charlette Mitchell-Young
Shannon Scott
Monowara Hossain
Janet Barnett
Marga Fripp
Karen Randall
Marian Van LANDINGHAM
Jennifer Ann Canaff-McNulty
Joan Wheeler
Rosemary Dillard
Sgt. Scott Gibson

2004

Nancy Dunning
Alisa Carrel
Athena "Bunny" Honduras
Julie N. Jakopic
Judy Guse Noritake
Judith Louise Haskins
Sandra Whitmore

2003

Judy Lowe
Erika Mendez
Carolyn Winters
Cheryl Shaw Barnes
Wendy John
Ruth Norton
Shannon Parker
Beverly Steele

2002

Catherine Thompson
Betty Wright
Judy Southard
Lori Knoernschild
Pat Norwood
Wendy Wysong
Charlotte Flores
Debra Roepke
Carolyn B. Lewis
Gayle Reuter
Jo Anne Mitchell
Barbara Strother
Deborah Warren
Anne Boston Parish

2001

Mollie Abraham
Grace Lynch
Anna Caukins
Carolyn Griffin
Blanche May Hutchinson
Pat Broussard
Susan Abramson
Karen Parker Thompson
Riley Ann McDonald
Lillian Stanton Patterson

2000

Norma Gattsek
Elaine Peoples
Sherry Wilson Brown
Beth Temple
Jo Ann E. Miller
Diane P. Dellefield
Kim Koch
Patrice Green

1999

Carter Dudley Fleming
Gerry Doon
Maria Montiel
Joan A. Gaskins
Audrey Faden
Ella O. Lewis

1998

Rebecca Davies
Deborah Brown Anderson
Deborah D. Dimon
Albertha Gray
Sara Rich
Katie Russell

1997

Lois Van Valkenburgh
Kathleen Snyder
Leslie Barnes Hagan
Kathleen Baker
Carol Swinburn
Henley F. Gabeau
Catherine W. Carter
Lauren LaSasso

COMMISSIONERS

2004-2005

Laura Mandala, Chair
Charniele Herring, 1st Vice Chair
Joan Dodaro, 2nd Vice Chair
Susan Lowell Butler
Dianne Cherry
Deborah Conner
Diane Crawford-Batt
Sara Donahue
Tina Games-Evans
Susan Gilbert
Mary Catherine Gibbs
Leslie Herzog
Susan Kellom
Donna Kloch
Marian Pegram
Susan Ross-O'Brien
Jenny Wade

Lisa Baker, Director

2003-2004

Laura Mandala, Chair
Charniele Herring, 1st Vice Chair
Susan Lowell Butler, 2nd Vice Chair
Joan Dodaro
Dianne Cherry
Diane Crawford-Batt
Sara Donahue
Susan Gilbert
Mary Catherine Gibbs
Leslie Herzog
Susan Kellom
Donna Kloch
Marian Pegram
Susan Ross-O'Brien
Jenny Wade

Lisa Baker, Director

2002-2003

Laura Mandala, Chair
Susan Lowell Butler, 1st Vice Chair
Jenny Wade, 2nd Vice Chair
Dianne Cherry
Diane Crawford-Batt
Joan Dodaro
Sara Donahue
Susan Gilbert
Mary Catherine Gibbs
Charniele Herring
Leslie Herzog
Susan Kellom
Susan Ross-O'Brien
Lisa Webster

Lisa Baker, Director

2001-2002

Laura Mandala, Chair
Susan Lowell Butler, 1st Vice Chair
Jenny Wade, 2nd Vice Chair
Carolyn Alexander
Dianne Cherry
Diane Crawford-Batt
Susan Gilbert
Mary Catherine Gibbs
Charniele Herring
Susan Kellom
Mary Maul
Sarah Posner
Susan Ross-O'Brien
Darnella Shelby
Lisa Webster

Lisa Baker, Director

2000-2001

Susan Lowell Butler, Chair

*Chris Messina Boyer, 1st Vice Chair

*Laura Mandala, 1st Vice Chair

Jenny Wade, 2nd Vice Chair

Dianne Cherry

Ruth Cleveland

Susan Kellom

Laura Mandala

Diane Crawford-Batt

Beth Offenbacher

Mary Maul

Sarah Posner

Lisa Baker, Director

*split term

1999-2000

Mollie Abraham, Chair

Susan Lowell Butler, 1st Vice Chair

Christine Messina-Boyer, 2nd Vice Chair

Ruth Cleveland

Mary Peterson Hartzler

Lynn Jordan

Susan Kellom

Laura Mandala

Beth Offenbacher

Patricia Schoeni

Jenny Wade

Norma Gattsek, Director

1998-1999

Lynn Jordan, Chair

Mollie Abraham

Susan Lowell Butler

Ruth Cleveland

Mary Peterson Hartzler

Katherine Hoffman

Susan Kellom

Laura Mandala

Christine Messina-Boyer

Patricia Schoeni

Jenny Wade

Norma Gattsek, Director

Contribution of the Friends of the Commission for Women

Friends of the Alexandria Commission for Women

FACT SHEET - 2004

Mission and Purpose:

The Friends, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, was created in 2001 to support the activities of the Commission for Women and the Alexandria Office on Women, through fundraising and volunteer support.

Officers:

Co-Chairs: Susan Lowell Butler and Lynn Jordan
Vice-Chair: Patricia Schoeni
Treasurer: Diane Crawford-Batt
Secretary: Laura Mandala
Board Members: Junior Bridge, Mary Hartzler, Joan Dodaro

Program Accomplishments To Date:

- 2001-2002
 - Obtained nonprofit status.
 - Launch event - Eleanor, at Arena Stage - play and Friends reception
 - Capitol Steps Concert - co-sponsored with Business and Professional Women - in Alexandria.
 - First Women's History Tour -- *Alexandria Women Make History* -- trolley tour and reception.

- 2003-2004
 - Developed special women's history tour for US Dept. of State.
 - Facilitated grants for the Office on Women.
 - Obtained grant from Alexandria Dept. of Health toward Women's History Tour.
 - Hosted four Art Parties for Emerging Women Artists.
 - First Women's History Walk - April 2004 - with multiple new partners.
 - Developed successful sales item - women's pins - now being sold at the Farmers Market and other event.

- 2004-2005
 - Continued Women's Art Parties showcasing emerging women artist.
 - Obtained permanent 501(c)(3) status.
 - Hosted concert to kick-off celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Domestic Violence Program.

**ALEXANDRIA OFFICE ON WOMEN STAFF
(AS OF JULY 2005)**

Full Time Staff

Lisa Baker, Director

Monique Jackson-Asante, Secretary

Jennifer Harris, Health and Community Education Specialist

Claire Dunn, Domestic Violence (DV) Program Coordinator

Erika Callaway Kleiner, Sexual Assault Response and Awareness (SARA) Program
Coord.

Patricia Lopez, SARA Outreach/Prevention Specialist

Lorena Escalante, SARA Hispanic Outreach

Stacey Calhoun, SARA Volunteer Coordinator

Jen McLish, SARA Social Worker

Sophia Fraser, DV Hispanic Outreach

Lyn Myers, DV Social Worker

Betsy Greene, Children's Social Worker

Debbie Evans, DV Social Worker

Josephine Walker, DV Shelter Supervisor

Shirley Avery, DV Shelter Supervisor

Cailin Dalyn, Social Worker

Doreen Broderick, DV Shelter Supervisor

Lacie Hughes, DV Volunteer Developer

Melva Williams, ACAP Community Education Specialist

Part Time Staff

Myra Stafford, Employment & Mentoring Services Program Coordinator