


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 6, 2006

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE CAMERON STATION COMMUNITY CENTER AND ST. JAMES METHODIST CHURCH AS NEW POLLING PLACES AND ADJUST THE PRECINCT BOUNDARIES FOR THE N.O.V.A. ARTS CENTER, TUCKER SCHOOL, SOUTH PORT APARTMENTS AND BEATLEY LIBRARY PRECINCTS

ISSUE: Consideration of an ordinance to establish the Cameron Station Community Center and St. James Methodist Church as new polling places and adjust the precinct boundaries for the N.O.V.A. Arts Center, Tucker School, South Port Apartments and Beatley Library precincts (Attachment 1).

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council approve the ordinance on first reading and set it for public hearing, second reading and final passage on Saturday, June 17, and that City Council approve the allocation of \$25,000 from FY 2006 contingent reserves for the procurement of necessary voting equipment upon final passage.

BACKGROUND: The Alexandria Electoral Board, which is comprised of three bipartisan members who are appointed by the Alexandria Circuit Court for staggered three year terms, is responsible for making recommendations to City Council concerning changes in voting precinct boundaries and for establishing new precincts. City Council has the authority to make these changes.

State law requires the addition of a precinct or a change in precinct boundaries whenever the number of voters in any precinct for the Presidential Election exceeds 4,000. During the 2004 Presidential Election there were 3,653 voters at the Tucker School polling place and 3,314 voters at the N.O.V.A. Arts Center polling place. In light of recent growth, staff expects that the turnout in these precincts could exceed 4,000 during the 2008 Presidential Election if action is not taken before that time. This would require City Council to reduce the size of these precincts within six months after the Presidential Election.

DISCUSSION: On April 10, 2006, the Alexandria Electoral Board voted to recommend that City Council add the Cameron Station Community Center, located at 200 Cameron Station Blvd., and the St. James Methodist Church, located at 5000 Echols Avenue, as polling places, and adjust the precinct boundaries for the N.O.V.A. Arts Center, Tucker School, Beatley Library, and South Port Apartments precincts effective with the November 2006 Election (Attachment 2). Although these adjustments are not currently required by law, the Electoral Board believes it would be necessary to make adjustments following the 2008 Presidential Election and recommends immediate action to address the growth that has occurred in the existing precincts and accommodate future growth. This action would reduce delays for voters at each of these polling places. It is particularly important to reduce the size of the Tucker School and N.O.V.A. Arts Center precincts because of the legal mandate and to reduce the size of the South Port precinct because there is a small voting room at this location. It is also beneficial that the new Cameron Station Precinct would be comprised primarily of voters who live in Cameron Station and currently vote at Tucker School. The following charts reflect the specific changes at each of these precincts.

Active Registered Voters as of April 1, 2006		
Precinct	Current Registration	Proposed Registration
Cameron Station	N/A	2,903
Tucker School	5,117	3,691
South Port Apartments	3,889	2,882
Beatley Library	3,760	3,290
Combined Total	12,766	12,766

Active Registered Voters as of April 1, 2006		
Precinct	Current Registration	Proposed Registration
St. James Church	N/A	2,020
N.O.V.A. Arts Center	5,405	3,385
Combined Total	5,405	5,405

This action would not affect the City's School Board boundaries or the State House or Senate boundaries. In addition, the recommended adjustments to precinct lines are based on census boundaries as required by State law.

Staff has secured an authorization from the Cameron Station Board to use the Cameron Station Community Room as a polling place and from the representatives at the St. James Methodist Church to use this facility as a polling place.

If City Council approves this ordinance, the United States Justice Department will also need to approve this request to facilitate the change in these polling places. The City Attorney has prepared a submission for the Justice Department. In addition, after the request has been approved, the Electoral Board will send notifications by first class U.S. mail to all of the registered voters in the affected precincts, and will also provide public notice of the change in the local newspaper.

FISCAL IMPACT: Voting equipment for one of the new polling places can be provided through the reallocation of existing equipment. Voting equipment for the other new precinct will cost approximately \$25,000 and it is recommended that this amount should be provided from FY 2006 contingent reserves. Also it will cost approximately \$5,000 in FY 2007 to send notifications to all of the registered voters in the affected precincts.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1. Ordinance.

Attachment 2. Map Reflecting Recommended Precinct Adjustments

STAFF:

Mary T. LaMois, Secretary, Alexandria Electoral Board

Donald E Ledwig, Chairman, Alexandria Electoral Board

Anna Leider, Vice Chair, Alexandria Electoral Board

Ignacio Pessoa, City Attorney

Bruce Johnson, Director, OMB

Tom Parkins, General Registrar

Eric Spicer, Elections Administrator

1	Introduction and first reading:	6/13/06
2	Public hearing:	6/17/06
3	Second reading and enactment:	6/17/06

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED ORDINANCE

Title

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 2-2-10 (ESTABLISHMENT OF ELECTION DISTRICTS AND VOTING PLACES) by establishing the Cameron Station Community Center and St. James Church Election Districts, and to make conforming amendments to "The Official Map of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, Designating Election Districts and Voting Places," adopted by Section 2-2-13 (MAP OF ELECTION DISTRICTS AND VOTING PLACES), all of Chapter 2 (ELECTIONS), Title 2 (GENERAL GOVERNMENT) of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

Summary

The proposed ordinance establishes two new election districts: the Cameron Station Community Center Election District and the St. James Church Election District, and makes conforming amendments to the boundaries of the existing Beatley Library, Tucker School, South Port and NOVA Arts Center Election Districts, from which the new districts are created

Sponsor

City of Alexandria Electoral Board

Staff

Tom Parkins, Registrar of Voters
Eric Spicer, Elections Administrator
George McAndrews, Assistant City Attorney

Authority

§ 2.01, Alexandria City Charter

Estimated Costs of Implementation

None

Attachments in Addition to Proposed Ordinance and its Attachments (if any)

None

ORDINANCE NO. _____

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2
3 AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 2-2-10 (ESTABLISHMENT OF ELECTION
4 DISTRICTS AND VOTING PLACES) by establishing the Cameron Station Community
5 Center and St. James Church Election Districts, and to make conforming amendments to
6 “The Official Map of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, Designating Election Districts and
7 Voting Places,” adopted by Section 2-2-13 (MAP OF ELECTION DISTRICTS AND
8 VOTING PLACES), all of Chapter 2 (ELECTIONS), Title 2 (GENERAL GOVERNMENT)
9 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

10
11 THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:
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13 Section 1. That Section 2-2-10 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia,
14 1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, amended and reordained by adding thereto a new
15 subsection (XX) to read as follows:
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17 (y) The Cameron Station Community Center Election District shall be bounded and
18 described by the census blocks shown on the map adopted by section 2-2-13 of this code as
19 comprising the said district.
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21 The voting place within the Cameron Station Community Center Election District shall be at
22 the Cameron Station Community Center, located at 200 Cameron Station Boulevard.
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24 Section 2. That Section 2-2-10 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia,
25 1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, amended and reordained by adding thereto a new
26 subsection (YY) to read as follows:
27

28 (z) The St. James Church Election District shall be bounded and described by the census
29 blocks shown on the map adopted by section 2-2-13 of this code as comprising the said district.
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31 The voting place within the St. James Church Election District shall be at the St. James
32 Church, located at 5000 Echols Avenue.
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34 Section 3. That “The Official Map of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, Designating
35 Election Districts and Voting Places,” adopted by Section 2-2-13 of the Code of the City of
36 Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, amended and reordained as
37 shown on Exhibit 1, attached hereto and incorporated fully by reference, to reflect the
38 establishment of the Cameron Station Community Center and St. James Church Election
39 Districts and voting places, and to amend the previously existing boundaries of the Beatley
40 Library, Tucker School, South Port and NOVA Arts Center Election Districts, from which the
41 new Districts are created.
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43 Section 4. That the general registrar of voters be, and he hereby is, directed to record
44 the foregoing amendments on the said map.
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46 Section 5. That this ordinance shall become effective upon the date and at the time

1 of its final passage; provided, however, that the changes in the Election Districts and voting
2 places herein made shall not be implemented until the changes are first submitted to the Attorney
3 General of the United States and no objection is interposed within 60 days of the submission, as
4 required pursuant to Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended.
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6
7 WILLIAM D. EUILLE
8 Mayor
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10 Attachment

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12 Introduction: 6/13/06
13 First Reading: 6/13/06
14 Publication:
15 Public Hearing:
16 Second Reading:
17 Final Passage:
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**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
2001 Precinct Census Blocks**

Beatley Library, Tucker School, South Port Apts and Cameron Station Boundary Changes

	ID	TRACT	BLKGRP	BLOCK		ID	TRACT	BLKGRP	BLOCK
303	Beatley Library					Beatley Library			
	413	200303	1	1000		542	200303	3	3003
	431	200303	3	3000		543	200402	1	1003
	458	200303	1	1001		554	200303	3	3004
	485	200303	2	2000		558	200402	1	1002
	527	200303	3	3001		576	200402	1	1001
	535	200303	3	3002		587	200402	1	1000
	541	200303	2	2001					
304	Tucker School								
	588	200401	1	1000					
	628	200401	2	2000					
	629	200402	3	3000					
	633	200402	2	2000					
	747	200402	3	3003					
	749	200402	3	3002					
	766	200402	3	3001					
	797	200401	1	1001					
307	South Port Apartments								
	622	200402	4	4000					
	799	200401	4	4008					
	802	200401	1	1002					
	903	200401	4	4007					
	929	200401	4	4006					
	958	200401	4	4005					
	987	200401	4	4004					
308	Cameron Station Community Center					Cameron Station Community Center			
	646	200401	3	3000		740	200401	3	3020
	655	200401	3	3001		748	200401	3	3019
	660	200401	3	3002		752	200401	3	3010
	662	200401	3	3008		762	200401	3	3017
	667	200401	3	3003		769	200401	3	3018
	682	200401	3	3005		772	200401	3	3021
	689	200401	3	3004		789	200401	3	3023
	703	200401	3	3006		793	200401	3	3024
	704	200401	3	3015		794	200401	3	3022
	707	200401	3	3012		820	200401	4	4000
	715	200401	3	3007		828	200401	4	4001
	718	200401	3	3013		887	200401	4	4010
	722	200401	3	3014		896	200401	4	4009
	730	200401	3	3011		933	200401	3	3025
	733	200401	3	3016		970	200401	4	4002
	734	200401	3	3009		986	200401	4	4003

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
2001 Precinct Census Blocks
 NoVa Arts Center split with St James Church

01-May-06

TRACT	BLKGRP	BLOCK	TRACT	BLKGRP	BLOCK
208 NoVa Arts Center			208 NoVa Arts Center		
200101	1	1000	200101	2	2003
200101	1	1001	200101	3	3000
200101	1	1002	200101	3	3001
200101	1	1003	200101	3	3002
200101	1	1004	200101	3	3003
200101	1	1005	200101	3	3004
200101	2	2000	200101	3	3005
200101	2	2001	200101	3	3006
200101	2	2002			
210 St James			210 St James		
200101	1	1006	200102	1	1002
200101	1	1007	200102	1	1003
200101	4	4000	200102	1	1004
200101	4	4001	200102	1	1005
200101	4	4002	200102	1	1006
200101	4	4003	200102	1	1007
200101	4	4004	200102	1	1008
200101	4	4005	200102	1	1009
200101	4	4006	200102	1	1010
200101	4	4007	200102	1	1011
200101	4	4008	200102	1	1012
200101	5	5000	200102	1	1013
200101	5	5001	200102	1	1014
200101	5	5002	200102	1	1015
200102	1	1000	200102	1	1016
200102	1	1001			