

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: OCTOBER 5, 2005

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER *J*

SUBJECT: SUBMISSION OF WARREN E. ISMAN EDUCATION GRANT
APPLICATION TO SEND FIVE HAZMAT SPECIALISTS TO AN
EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

ISSUE: City Council consideration of a grant application, in the amount of \$5,000, for a Warren E. Isman Education Grant administered by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Fire Safety Education Memorial Fund.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) Approve the submission of the grant application totaling \$5,000 to the Warren E. Isman Education Grant to send five Hazmat Specialists to an educational conference; and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to execute all the necessary documents that may be required.

BACKGROUND: Warren E. Isman served as Fire Chief for Montgomery County, MD and Fairfax County, VA. He served as Chair of the NFPA Technical Committee on Hazardous Materials Response Personnel. He also served as Chair of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) Committee on Hazardous Materials and held a number of offices on the IAFC Board of Directors, including President during 1987-88. As a leader in the fire service, Warren Isman developed innovative solutions to the difficult problems facing the modern fire department. He always sought training and education, and then shared his knowledge with others. This grant has been established in his name so that his love for sharing information and the free exchange of innovative ideas can continue.

The grant program was created by the IAFC following Warren's untimely death in 1991. Following the establishment of the NFPA Fire Safety Educational Memorial Fund, the IAFC asked the NFPA to assume administrative responsibilities in 1993.

The purpose of this educational fund is to send one hazardous materials response team, with a maximum of five members, to specialized training at one national hazardous materials conference.

DISCUSSION: The City of Alexandria created a hazardous materials (Hazmat) response team over 23 years ago. Since that time, the team has grown to 63 members, of whom 46 are Hazmat Technicians and 17 are Hazmat Specialists. The hazardous materials team now extends beyond the traditional firefighter professionals and includes personnel from the City's Code Enforcement and EMS divisions and the Alexandria Police Department.

The City usually sends two or three people to the annual Virginia Hazardous Materials Conference. The Hazmat members who attend the conference enhance their skills, practice new techniques, gain knowledge of new technologies, and learn about updated safety practices. The workshops focus on issues dealing with incident command, multi-agency response to 9-11 magnitude catastrophic incidents, and resource management

The Warren E. Isman Education Grant funding would allow the City to send an additional five people from the Hazmat team who would not otherwise be able to attend.

FISCAL IMPACT: The estimated conference cost is \$1,000 per person or \$5,000 for the team of five people, which covers the cost for tuition, travel, meal per-diem, and a shared room. If awarded this grant, the City will be responsible for the additional backfill cost for the education leave for the five Hazmat Specialists.

The Fire Department has submitted the grant application in order to meet the deadline of September 15, 2005, with the understanding that subsequent City Council authorization would be required to accept this grant award.

STAFF:

John North, Battalion Chief of Special Operations
Laura Pettus, Emergency Management Analyst
Gary A. Mesaris, Fire Chief