

City of Alexandria, Virginia

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 1, 2007

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

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

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO DONATE FOR RECYCLING AND REUSE PURPOSES BUILDING MATERIALS FROM 48 SOUTH EARLY STREET

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**ISSUE:** Donation of building materials for recycling.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That City Council:

- (1) Authorize the Department of General Services to grant ownership and transfer the use of building materials from 48 South Early Street to a non-City entity, such as Habitat for Humanity ReStore, or to other non-profit or for-profit organizations, for resale or recycling of reusable building components; and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to execute any necessary documents related to the donation of these building materials.

**BACKGROUND:** The City of Alexandria seeks to use environmentally responsible practices for City projects and initiatives. The City's Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities and Department of General Services have a number of current projects for which they plan to use environmentally, "green" technology and practices. In conjunction with this effort, staff recommends that Council consider and approve this authorization which will allow the City to donate reusable demolition and construction materials from 48 South Early Street to a non-City entity.

An environmentally responsible alternative to typical building demolition utilizes the practice of building deconstruction. Building deconstruction involves the reuse of building materials, and can reduce the scale of waste for City projects that involve demolition. The deconstruction process delays entry of items into the solid waste stream, thus reducing the burden on landfills. The City's proposed donation of City property from the 48 South Early demolition project will also provide an opportunity to support a local non-profit, such as Habitat for Humanity's ReStore, and/or other non-profits or businesses that resell appropriate, reusable deconstruction materials. The City purchased 48 South Early this year with Open Space funds with the intent of

converting this site from a residential use to a park/open space use. If Habitat for Humanity cannot use the materials, then another organization will be sought as a recipient of these materials.

Examples of materials that may be reused from the deconstruction process include: appliances, hardware, lumber, windows, plumbing and electrical supplies, flooring, furniture, paint, bricks, drywall, cabinetry, and electronics in working order. Staff will review future demolition projects to determine additional feasible opportunities to continue the practice of deconstruction and reuse of building materials.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** It is expected that the deconstruction and recycling process on 48 South Early will add about \$4,000 to the demolition costs.

**STAFF:**

Mark Jinks, Deputy City Manager

Kirk Kincannon, Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

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