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5-27-08

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MAY 21, 2008

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

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

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF A FUNDING ALLOCATION
FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION (NCR) URBAN AREA
SECURITY INITIATIVE (UASI) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$83,675

ISSUE: Consideration of accepting funds in the amount of \$83,675, available to the City for a two year period, from the District of Columbia (DC) Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency on behalf of the National Capital Region Urban Area Security Initiative. These funds will support the regional effort to recruit, train and retain volunteers to support the response to terrorism.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council authorize the City Manager to:

- (1) Accept the funding through the Urban Area Security Initiative in the amount of \$83,675; and
- (2) Execute all the necessary documents that may be required.

BACKGROUND: The National Capital Region (NCR) had received \$61,650,000 in Urban Area Security Grant funds from the United States Department of Homeland Security to support the regional efforts to prepare and respond to disasters including terrorism. These funds were allocated by the NCR Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) and the Senior Policy Group (SPG) in August 2007. The investment area justifications and project plans were developed by various Metropolitan Washington Council of Government (COG) committees.

DISCUSSION: Alexandria was notified on May 8, 2008, by the DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency that the City is eligible to receive a total of \$83,675, to be made available over a two year period, to support the regional volunteer initiatives.

During the past several years we have provided financial assistance to the Alexandria Chapter of the American Red Cross, the Alexandria Volunteer Bureau, the Police Department Neighborhood Watch program, the Fire Department CERT program and the Alexandria Health Department's Medical Reserve Corps through this grant process to support the regional effort to recruit, train, and retain volunteers for, and to sustain our volunteer emergency preparedness programs. With these funds we have recruited and trained over 200 new volunteers, supported sustainment activities to retain the volunteers that are currently active, created a system to manage emerging volunteers during a disaster, and delivered emergency preparedness education to many City residents. Acceptance of these grant funds will allow us to continue these efforts.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no match requirement for these grant funds. City staff will administer the grant.

The various City Departments and non-government organizations will make every effort to pursue grant funds to continue these programs in the future. If grant funds are not available, the affected Departments will request supplemental funding in the context of the budget submission process if necessary.

STAFF:

Adam K. Thiel, Fire Chief

Mark Penn, Emergency Management Coordinator

Karen Winey, Grants Coordinator