

City of Alexandria, Virginia

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: SEPTEMBER 19, 2007

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF A FUNDING ALLOCATION
FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION (NCR) URBAN AREA
SECURITY INITIATIVE (UASI)

ISSUE: Council consideration of accepting funds in the amount of \$250,000 for one year, from the District of Columbia Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency on behalf of the National Capital Region Urban Area Security Initiative to support emergency management and emergency response training and exercises.

RECOMMENDATION:

- (1) Authorize the City Manager to accept the funding through the Urban Area Security Initiative in the amount of \$250,000; and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to execute all of the necessary documents.

BACKGROUND: The National Capital Region has received \$62,000,000 in Urban Area Security Grant funds for homeland security efforts in the NCR from the United States Department of Homeland Security. These funds were allocated to investment areas 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 during meetings in December of 2006 and January of 2007.

DISCUSSION: Alexandria was notified on September 4, 2007 that we are eligible to receive a total of \$250,000 from this funding for one year to hire two staff members or consultants as a part of a regional effort to train first responders and conduct exercises on our emergency plans and procedures.

This program is managed by a regional committee appointed by the CAOs and the SPG. The committee allocates regional resources to training efforts and exercises recommended by the response committees of COG.

During the past year these regional efforts have included a regional hurricane exercise, a water emergency exercise for water providers, a food borne illness exercise for the hospitality industry,

incident command training for Fire, Police, and Health, weapons of mass destruction training for hospital and other health care providers, a seminar for senior elected officials and business leaders, an interoperable communications exercise, and training on the handling of emergencies in the Metro system.

Acceptance of this funding will allow Alexandria to have participants in the planning and execution of this program and to deliver these programs to first responders in the City. The Police and Fire Chiefs now are discussing how we can best use these funds to conduct the training and plan and conduct the practice exercises.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no match requirement for these grant funds. City staff will be responsible for administering the allocation.

STAFF:

Mark Penn, Emergency Management Coordinator
Adam K. Thiel, Fire Chief
Karen Winey, Grants Coordinator