


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: NOVEMBER 9, 2007

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

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

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**ISSUE:** City Council consideration of accepting funds in the amount of \$250,000 over the period of two years, from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security through 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 planning.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That City Council:

- (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 the necessary documents that may be required.

**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. The majority of the funds are going for region wide projects, such as equipping bomb squads, providing staff for intelligence centers, integrating law enforcement databases, providing response equipment for Metro incidents, and interconnecting the regions' fiber optics networks.

**DISCUSSION:** Alexandria was notified on October 17, 2007, that the City is eligible to receive a total of \$250,000 over the two year period of performance from this funding to hire one staff member, or consultant, as a part of a regional effort to develop emergency management plans that are coordinated throughout the National Capital Region.

This program is managed by a regional Emergency Management Committee. The committee allocates regional resources to planning efforts and sets the priorities for the regional planning efforts.

During the past several years regional planning efforts have included a regional evacuation planning document, pet shelter plans, local evacuation plans, regional debris management plans, regional mass care plans, and a regional volunteer management plan.

Acceptance of this funding will allow Alexandria to participate in the regional planning efforts and to fully integrate the regional plans into our City plans.

Currently, there is no deadline to execute the documents for these funds.

These federal grant funds are distinct from the FY 2008 General Fund City appropriation of \$200,000 used to contract consulting firms for the purpose of updating and improving only the City's own Emergency Operations Plan. This plan updating and improving is scheduled to be completed prior to the end of FY 2008.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** There is no match requirement for these funds. City staff will be responsible to administer the funds.

**STAFF:**

Mark Penn, Emergency Management Coordinator

Adam K. Thiel, Fire Chief

Karen Winey, Grants Coordinator