# City of Alexandria, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

DATE:       MARCH 3, 2009

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)

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**ISSUE:** City Council consideration of accepting funds in the amount of $106,000, 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.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

(1)    Authorize the City Manager to accept the funding through the Urban Area Security Initiative in the amount of $106,000; and

(2)    Authorize the City Manager to execute all the necessary documents that may be required.

**BACKGROUND:** The National Capital Region (NCR) had received $59,850,000 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 2008. The investment area justifications and project plans were developed by various Metropolitan Washington Council of Government (COG) committees during meetings in December of 2007 and January of 2008. The attached document illustrates the funding allocations by category. This grant is derived from the Community Preparedness and Volunteer Programs category.

**DISCUSSION:** Alexandria was notified on October 14, 2008 by the DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency that the City is eligible to receive a total of $106,000, to be made available over a two year period, to support the regional volunteer initiatives. The Emergency Management staff needed time between the notification and this docket submission to establish a grant management plan that would be acceptable to the grantor as well as our non-profit partners. There is no deadline for approving this grant.

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 Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program and the Alexandria Health Department's Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) through this grant process to support the regional effort to recruit, train, and retain volunteers for, and to sustain our volunteer emergency preparedness programs.

This past year we have worked to retain volunteers in our various programs including our CERT volunteers by increasing their activities to include crowd management at First Night Alexandria, the City's Birthday Celebration, Red Cross Waterfront Festival, the annual Turkey Trot Race, Art on the Avenue, College Night at T.C. Williams High School, Breast Cancer Walk, Scottish Walk, and supporting the Emergency Operations Center for the Inauguration of President Obama. CERT members have also helped by joining the Snow Buddies program, participating as victims for our Fire Department Medic training exercises, performing community preparedness outreach by assisting with the Be Ready Alexandria Day event, and acting as clients for the regional MRC medical dispensing exercise. Our MRC has participated in a regional exercise and ongoing training as well as outreach activities in the community at various events. The Police Department continues to deliver presentations to increase the participation in the Neighborhood Watch Program. The Volunteer Bureau has utilized a national data base to register disaster volunteers and has participated in regional volunteer mobilization exercises. The Alexandria Chapter of the American Red Cross has trained both volunteers and City staff to manage emergency shelters.

With these funds we have recruited and trained over 250 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.

**ATTACHMENT:** Summary of Recommendations for UASI Funding

**STAFF:**
Adam K. Thiel, Fire Chief
Mark Penn, Emergency Management Coordinator

# SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR UASI FUNDING

The National Capital Region's Senior Policy Group and Chief Administrative Officers, representing the States and local jurisdictions in the region, met on Wednesday, August 13, 2008 to discuss the allocation of the $59,800,500 of federal homeland security funding that was awarded to the National Capital Region (NCR) at the end of July. The Senior Policy Group (SPG) and Chief Administrative Officers (CAO) made the following recommendations for funding:

- $8,191,940 total funding for the area of Law Enforcement and Terrorism Prevention
    - o Continued funding for 6 Intelligence Analysts operating in the 3 state intelligence fusion centers - $900,000
    - o IT equipment, specialized software, and software license fees to support the technology needs of the intelligence analysts - $90,000
    - o NCR AFIS mug shot facial recognition (mobile units) - $1,235,700
    - o NCR LInX integration of AFIS and Licence Plate databases - $994,240
    - o Automated license plate recognition technology for the NCR, at fixed sites as well as mobile units for police vehicles - $4,472,000
    - o Video interoperability plan for the NCR to enable inter-jurisdictional exchange of video data - $500,000
- $10,795,000 total funding for the area of Improvised Explosive Device Prevention and Protection
    - o Bomb squad training, robotic equipment, wireless communications and other specialized equipment - $5,638,000
    - o A radiation detection network consisting of fixed monitors on major transportation routes and mobile detectors in police cars, networked to a central analytical hub - $3,957,000
    - o Hazardous Materials team equipment and training that will bring the 8 main HazMat teams in the region up to SEL Type-1 status - $1,200,000
- $5,690,000 total funding for the area of regional Preparedness Planning
    - o Gap analysis of regional public health and hospital/EMS ability to handle a surge of patients after a disaster, and a strategy to address those gaps - $1,250,000
    - o Expansion of the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) concept throughout the NCR - $4,440,000
- $12,266,120 total funding for the area of Health and Medical Readiness and Response
    - o Pre-hospital situational awareness improvements to display real-time ambulance and hospital status - $329,700
    - o Mass Casualty Support Unit (MCSU) supply cache - $317,251
    - o Critical care hospital surge capabilities enhancement, enabling hospitals to deal with a surge of 300 additional critically injured patients for 72 hours without outside assistance - $3,618,645

- o Funding to address the gaps in regional public health and medical surge capabilities around the NCR - $8,000,524
- $5,207,256 total funding for the area of Exercise and Training
  - o Exercise and training staff to develop and support regional exercises and training efforts - $1,750,000
  - o National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliance officers to teach NIMS courses and measure regional progress towards compliance with the latest federal NIMS requirements - $1,000,000
  - o NCR Incident Management Team training and exercises to improve coordination and capabilities - $457,256
- $2,100,000 for Community Preparedness and Volunteer programs, such as the Citizen Corps programs in NCR jurisdictions.
- $900,000 for improvements and additional detection devices for the region's traffic monitoring system and predictive modeling programs.
- $2,690,084 to sustain existing systems and processes already developed in the NCR through the use of previous years' grant funding, including:
  - o Maintaining Emergency Management communications, notification, and warning systems such as online emergency management information (WebEOC) and automated telephone and text-message alerts - $1,823,000
  - o Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) software and hardware maintenance, for 3 servers and 3,000 mobile devices - $288,000
  - o NCR Radio Cache maintenance, radio programming, and battery replacement - $229,084
  - o Syndromic Surveillance System sustainment funding to continue the monitoring program to detect disease outbreaks - $150,000
  - o All Hazards Consortium public/private collaboration to develop and share best practices in the field of homeland security through conferences, workshops, etc. - $200,000
- $11,960,100 total funding for the State 20% share of the UASI funds. This funding includes the cost of management and administering the grant funds as well as set-asides for the District of Columbia, the State of Maryland, and the Commonwealth of Virginia to use on State-specific priorities within the NCR.