

City of Alexandria, Virginia


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MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 23, 2009

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF A VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF FIRE  
PROGRAMS GRANT APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FROM THE  
CONFERENCE AND EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
GRANT FOR THE CONDUCT OF AN EQUITY AND DIVERSITY  
CONFERENCE

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**ISSUE:** Consideration of a Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFP) grant application for funding from the Conference and Education Assistance Program Grant for support to the Fire Department in sponsoring the annual Equity and Diversity Conference open to all Fire, EMS, and other Public Safety and Local Government units in the Commonwealth and in the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That City Council authorize staff to:

- (1) Submit a grant application (due May 1, 2009) to the VDFP for \$5,000 in funding under the Conference and Education Assistance Program for support to the Fire Department in sponsoring the annual Equity and Diversity Conference;
- (2) Execute all necessary documents that may be required.

**BACKGROUND:** The Fire Department seeks \$5,000 in VDFP funding under the Conference and Education Assistance Program for support of the Department's sponsorship of the annual Equity and Diversity Conference. The Conference will be open to Fire, EMS, Public Safety, and Local Government entities from throughout the Commonwealth and the Metro area. No City match is required. The funds are proposed to support conference presentations and learning experiences.

The grant guidance is available on the VDFP website. Applications are due 60 days prior to the start of the State's fiscal year of July 1, 2009 or, in this case, on May 1, 2009. The Department was just made aware of the grant as this VDFP grant opportunity is not well publicized but is offered on an annual and recurring basis. The actual application must be submitted electronically.

**DISCUSSION:** The Conference and Education Assistance Program is established and administered by the Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFP). The purpose of this Program is to provide needed financial support for conferences and seminars sponsored by Virginia-based non-profit organizations that further the education of fire and emergency service personnel throughout the Commonwealth. For the 2009 grant application period, VDFP is offering a total of \$50,000 to be shared among all applicants.

The 2009 Equity and Diversity Conference will be the 19<sup>th</sup> year of this Commonwealth-wide learning experience. The general purpose of the Conference is to increase the awareness of cultural diversity within the fire, EMS, and public safety services while working to improve human relations for firefighters, medics, and other public safety employees throughout the Commonwealth.

The 2008 Conference was sponsored by the Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue. The Alexandria Fire Department was a co-sponsor. The 2009 Conference will be sponsored by the Alexandria Fire Department; the Arlington County Fire Department, sponsor of the 2010 Conference, is the 2009 co-sponsor.

The 2009 Conference will take place on October 15-16, 2009. The Alexandria and Arlington Fire Departments are still in the development phase for specific Conference topics and speakers but focus areas will likely include EEO law updates, national origin and sexual orientation barriers and challenges, the role of women in public safety services, understanding culture in diversity, and age-based learning. The Conference site will be the Masonic Temple.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The VDFP Grant of \$5,000 will supplement registration and sponsorship fees for the Conference. No City funds will be required. No City match is required

**STAFF:**

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