


*City of Alexandria, Virginia*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 1, 2009

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE CHARLES HOUSTON RECREATION CENTER (IN LIEU OF FIRE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS) AND THE PATRICK HENRY RECREATION CENTER (IN LIEU OF ST. MARTIN DE PORRES SENIOR CENTER) AS POLLING PLACES IN THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

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**ISSUE:** Consideration of an ordinance to establish the Charles Houston Recreation Center (in lieu of Fire Department Headquarters) and the Patrick Henry Recreation Center (in lieu of St. Martin De Porres Senior Center) as polling places in the City of Alexandria (Attachment).

**RECOMMENDATION:** That City Council pass the ordinance on first reading and set it for public hearing, second reading and final passage on Saturday, June 13.

**BACKGROUND:** The Alexandria Electoral Board, which is composed of three bipartisan members who are appointed by the Alexandria Circuit Court for staggered three year terms, is responsible for making recommendations to City Council about changes in precinct boundaries and for establishing new precincts. Council has the authority to make these changes. The Electoral Board surveys existing polling places and available facilities on a regular basis in an effort to provide voters with accessible and suitable polling places. In addition, the Board is required to consider possible moves from private to public facilities whenever possible because State law (Section 24.2-310 of the Code of Virginia) which requires that, "each polling place shall be located in a public building whenever practicable."

On April 14, 2009, the Electoral Board voted to recommend that City Council establish the Charles Houston and Patrick Henry Recreation Centers as polling places in lieu of the Fire Department Headquarters and the St. Martin de Porres Senior Center polling places.

**DISCUSSION:** On June 16, 2001, Council approved an ordinance amending the City Code to change polling places and precinct lines in the City, including the addition of the Fire Department Headquarters polling place. This polling place, which is located at 900 Second Street, was added to serve a portion of the population that previously voted at Annie B. Rose and to accommodate future growth in the Potomac Yard area. Currently, the voting space at the Fire Department Headquarters is located in the Fire Department bay where a fire truck usually parks

because this is the only space that is fully accessible. Although Fire Department staff have been very accommodating to voters and election officers, and many voters enjoy visiting the Fire Department on election day, this site suffers from extreme weather conditions during June primaries and winter elections such as the February Presidential Primary Election. The Electoral Board recommends that the polling place be moved to the new Charles Houston Recreation Center, 905 Wythe Street, because this new center offers space that is much more comfortable and convenient for voters.

On February 21, 2004, City Council approved an ordinance to establish the St. Martin Senior Center as a polling place to replace the Patrick Henry Recreation Center, which was scheduled to undergo construction in 2004 and 2005. The Senior Center is located across the street from Patrick Henry. The Electoral Board recommends that Council establish Patrick Henry as a polling place again (in lieu of St. Martin) because there is more space for voting at this location and State law requires polling places to be located in public buildings whenever practicable.

If Council approves the ordinance, the United States Justice Department will be requested to approve this request to facilitate the change in these polling places, which would take effect with the November 3, 2009, General Election. The City Attorney has prepared a submission for the Justice Department. In addition, after the request has been approved, the Electoral Board will send notifications to all of the registered voters in these precincts, and will also advertise the change in the local newspaper.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** It will cost approximately \$3,000 to send notifications to all of the registered voters in the affected precincts, and this can be absorbed in the Office of Voter Registration and Elections operating budget.

**ATTACHMENT:** Ordinance.

**STAFF:**

Anna Leider, Secretary, Alexandria Electoral Board  
Donald E Ledwig, Chairman, Alexandria Electoral Board  
Peter Newbould, Vice Chairman, Alexandria Electoral Board  
Rich Baier, Interim Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities  
Eric Spicer, Elections Administrator  
Tom Parkins, General Registrar

1	Introduction and first reading:	06/09/09
2	Public hearing:	06/13/09
3	Second reading and enactment:	06/13/09

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED ORDINANCE

Title

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 2-2-10 (ESTABLISHMENT OF ELECTION DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES), Chapter 2 (ELECTIONS), Title 2 (GENERAL GOVERNMENT) of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

Summary

The proposed ordinance changes the locations of two voting places in the City. The Charles Houston Recreation Center would replace the Fire Department Headquarters as the voting place in that district and the Patrick Henry Recreation Center would replace St. Martin de Porres Senior Center as the voting place in that district.

Sponsor

Staff

- Anna Leider, Secretary, Alexandria Electoral Board
- Donald E Ledwig, Chairman, Alexandria Electoral Board
- Peter Newbould, Vice Chairman, Alexandria Electoral Board
- Rich Baier, Interim Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities
- Christopher Spera, Deputy City Attorney
- Bruce Johnson, Director, OMB
- Eric Spicer, Elections Administrator
- Tom Parkins, General Registrar

Authority

§24.2-307 and -310, Virginia State Code

Estimated Costs of Implementation

None

Attachments in Addition to Proposed Ordinance and its Attachments (if any)

None

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 2-2-10 (ESTABLISHMENT OF ELECTION DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES), Chapter 2 (ELECTIONS), Title 2 (GENERAL GOVERNMENT) of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. That Section 2-2-10 of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, amended and reordained to read as follows:

Sec. 2-2-10 Establishment of election districts and voting places.

The following election districts and voting places are hereby established for the City of Alexandria, Virginia:

(a) The Ladrey Senior Building Election District shall be bounded and described by the census blocks shown on the map adopted by section 2-2-13 of this code as comprising the said district. The voting place within the Ladrey Senior Building Election District shall be at the Ladrey Senior Building, located at 300 Wythe Street.

(b) The City Hall Election District shall be bounded and described by the census blocks shown on the map adopted by section 2-2-13 of this code as comprising the said district. The voting place within the City Hall Election District shall be at City Hall, located at 301 King Street.

(c) The Lyles Crouch School Election District shall be bounded and described by the census blocks shown on the map adopted by section 2-2-13 of this code as comprising the said district. The voting place within the Lyles Crouch School Election District shall be at the Lyles Crouch School, located at 530 South St. Asaph Street.

(d) The Durant Center Election District shall be bounded and described by the census blocks shown on the map adopted by section 2-2-13 of this code as comprising the said district. The voting place within the Durant Center Election District shall be at the Durant Center, located at 1605 Cameron Street.

(e) The Lee Center Election District shall be bounded and described by the census blocks shown on the map adopted by section 2-2-13 of this code as comprising the said district. The voting place within the Lee Center Election District shall be at the Lee Center, located at 1108 Jefferson Street.

1 (f) The Cora Kelly Center Election District shall be bounded and described by the  
2 census blocks shown on the map adopted by section 2-2-13 of this code as comprising the said  
3 district. The voting place within the Cora Kelly Center Election District shall be the Cora Kelly  
4 Center, located at 25 West Reed Avenue.  
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6 (g) The Mt. Vernon Recreation Center Election District shall be by the census blocks  
7 shown on the map adopted by section 2-2-13 of this code as comprising the said district.  
8 The voting place within the Mt. Vernon Recreation Center Election District shall be the Mt.  
9 Vernon Recreation Center, located at 2710 Commonwealth Avenue.  
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11 (h) The George Washington Middle School Election District shall be bounded and  
12 described by the census blocks shown on the map adopted by section 2-2-13 of this code as  
13 comprising the said district. The voting place within the George Washington Middle School  
14 Election District shall be at the, George Washington Middle School located at 1005 Mount  
15 Vernon Avenue.  
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17 (i) The ~~Fire Department Headquarters~~ Charles Houston Recreation Center Election  
18 District shall be bounded and described by the census blocks shown on the map adopted by  
19 section 2-2-13 of this code as comprising the said district. The voting place within the ~~Fire-~~  
20 ~~Department Headquarters~~ Charles Houston Recreation Center Election District shall be the ~~Fire-~~  
21 ~~Department Headquarters~~ Charles Houston Recreation Center, located at ~~900 Second Street~~ 905  
22 Wythe Street.  
23

24 (j) The Maury School Election District shall be bounded and described by the census  
25 blocks shown on the map adopted by section 2-2-13 of this code as comprising the said district.  
26 The voting place within the Maury School Election District shall be the Maury School, located at  
27 600 Russell Road.  
28

29 (k) The George Mason School Election District shall be bounded and described by the  
30 census blocks shown on the map adopted by section 2-2-13 of this code as comprising the said  
31 district. The voting place within the George Mason School Election District shall be at the  
32 George Mason School, located at 2601 Cameron Mills Road.  
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34 (l) The Agudas Achim Congregation Election District shall be bounded and described  
35 by the census blocks shown on the map adopted by section 2-2-13 of this code as comprising the  
36 said district. The voting place within the Agudas Achim Congregation Election District shall be  
37 at the Agudas Achim Congregation, located at 2908 Valley Drive.  
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39 (m) The Blessed Sacrament Church Election District shall be bounded and described  
40 by the census blocks shown on the map adopted by section 2-2-13 of this code as comprising the  
41 said district. The voting place within the Blessed Sacrament Church Election District shall be the  
42 Blessed Sacrament Church, located at 1427 West Braddock Road.  
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1 (n) The Douglas MacArthur School Election District shall be bounded and described  
2 by the census blocks shown on the map adopted by section 2-2-13 of this Code as comprising the  
3 said district. The voting place within the Douglas MacArthur School Election District shall be at  
4 the Douglas MacArthur School, located at 1101 Janney's Lane.  
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6 (o) The Chinquapin Park Recreation Center Election District shall be bounded and  
7 described by the census blocks shown on the map adopted by section 2-2-13 of this code as  
8 comprising the said district. The voting place within the Chinquapin Park Recreation Center  
9 Election District shall be at the Chinquapin Park Recreation Center, located at 3210 King Street.  
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11 (p) The Temple Beth El Election District shall be bounded and described by the  
12 census blocks shown on the map adopted by section 2-2-13 of this code as comprising the said  
13 district. The voting place within Temple Beth El Election District shall be Temple Beth El,  
14 located at 3830 Seminary Road.  
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16 (q) The Northern Virginia Community College Arts Center Election District shall be  
17 bounded and described by the census blocks shown on the map adopted by section 2-2-13 of this  
18 code as comprising the said district. The voting place within the Northern Virginia Community  
19 College Arts Center Election District shall be the Northern Virginia Community College Arts  
20 Center, located at 3001 North Beauregard Street.  
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22 (r) The James K. Polk School Election District shall be bounded and described by the  
23 census blocks shown on the map adopted by section 2-2-13 of this code as comprising the said  
24 district. The voting place within the James K. Polk School Election District shall be the James K.  
25 Polk School, located at 5000 Polk Avenue.  
26

27 (s) ~~The St. Martin de Porres Senior Center~~ Patrick Henry Recreation Center Election  
28 District shall be bounded and described by the census blocks shown on the map adopted by  
29 section 2-2-13 of this code as comprising the said district. The voting place within the ~~St. Martin~~  
30 ~~de Porres Senior Center~~ Patrick Henry Recreation Center Election District shall be at the ~~St.~~  
31 ~~Martin de Porres Senior Center~~ Patrick Henry Recreation Center, located at ~~4650~~ 4643 Taney  
32 Avenue.  
33

34 (t) The Samuel Tucker School Election District shall be bounded and described by  
35 the census blocks shown on the map adopted by section 2-2-13 of this code as comprising the  
36 said district. The voting place within the Samuel Tucker School Election District shall be the  
37 Samuel Tucker School, located at 435 Ferdinand Day Way.  
38

39 (u) The Charles E. Beatley, Jr., Central Library Election District shall be bounded and  
40 described by the census blocks shown on the map adopted by section 2-2-13 of this code as  
41 comprising the said district. The voting place for the Charles E. Beatley, Jr., Central Library  
42 Election District shall be the Charles E. Beatley, Jr., Central Library, located at 5005 Duke Street.  
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1 (v) The John Adams School Election District shall be bounded and described by the  
2 census blocks shown on the map adopted by section 2-2-13 of this code as comprising the said  
3 district. The voting place within the John Adams School Election District shall be at the John  
4 Adams School, located at 5651 Rayburn Avenue.  
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6 (w) The William Ramsay Recreation Center Election District shall be bounded and  
7 described by the census blocks shown on the map adopted by section 2-2-13 of this code as  
8 comprising the said district. The voting place within the William Ramsay Recreation Center  
9 Election District shall be at the William Ramsay Recreation Center, located at 5650 Sanger  
10 Avenue.  
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12 (x) The South Port Election District shall be bounded and described by the census  
13 blocks shown on the map adopted by section 2-2-13 of this code as comprising the said district.  
14 The voting place for the South Port Election District shall be the South Port Apartment Complex,  
15 located at 6112 Edsall Road.  
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17 (y) The Cameron Station Community Center Election District shall be bounded and  
18 described by the census blocks shown on the map adopted by section 2-2-13 of this Code as  
19 comprising the said district. The voting place within the Cameron Station Community Center  
20 Election District shall be at the Cameron Station Community Center, located at 200 Cameron  
21 Station Boulevard.  
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23 (z) The St. James Church Election District shall be bounded and described by the  
24 census blocks shown on the map adopted by section 2-2-13 of this Code as comprising the said  
25 district. The voting place within the St. James Church Election District shall be at the St. James  
26 Church, located at 5000 Echols Avenue.  
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28 Section 2. That this ordinance shall become effective upon receipt of approval from  
29 the United States Department of Justice pursuant to Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act,  
30 42 U.S.C. 1973, et seq.  
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32 WILLIAM D. EUILLE  
33 Mayor

34 Attachment  
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36 Introduction: 6/9/2009

37 | First Reading: 6/9/2009

38 Publication:

39 Public Hearing:

40 Second Reading:

41 Final Passage: