


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: NOVEMBER 13, 2008

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION FOR CITY PARTICIPATION IN A GRANT-FUNDED PROJECT TO UPDATE THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

ISSUE: Authorization for City Participation in a Grant-Funded Project to Update the Northern Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council authorize:

- (1) The City's participation in the grant-funded regional hazard mitigation planning project to be managed by Arlington County on behalf of the Northern Virginia region; and
- (2) City staff to participate in the regional hazard mitigation planning process over the next three years to meet the \$13,750 in-kind grant match assigned to Alexandria for this plan; and
- (3) The City Manager to execute the necessary documents that may be required.

BACKGROUND: The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disburses grant funds to the states to create Hazard Mitigation Plans at the local or regional level. This grant program offers assistance in developing a plan to mitigate disasters of all kinds.

Arlington County was notified by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) that it has been granted funds to develop mitigation plans. Arlington County requested that the entire Northern Virginia Region be included in the grant process; and this was approved by VDEM. Alexandria was notified by Arlington County of this grant on September 17, 2008.

In March 2006, the City participated in the development of the current Northern Virginia Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, which City Council adopted on February 13, 2007.

DISCUSSION: The existing Northern Virginia Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies the top natural hazards for our region and identifies specific mitigation strategies for each. Due to the funding available when the plan was developed in 2006, it was limited to natural hazards. The new funds will allow the region to update the current plan to address man-made hazards, including terrorism, as well as natural hazards. The funds will also be used to incorporate additional geographic information systems (GIS) data into the plan.

FISCAL IMPACT: This grant has a 25 percent local match requirement over the three year grant period, which could be a cash match or in-kind match. Alexandria's share of the match determined by Arlington County is \$13,750. The City will provide City staff and GIS services to meet the match requirements. City staff will be responsible to administer our in kind portion of the grant. The City is also responsible for the normal administrative costs associated with this grant, including financial oversight and reporting provided by the Fire Department, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Finance Department.

STAFF:

Mark Penn, Emergency Management Coordinator
Virginia Lester, Fiscal Officer
Adam K. Thiel, Fire Chief