


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 16, 2010

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBER OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO PERMIT THE TALLSHIP *PEACEMAKER* TO DOCK AT THE CITY MARINA FOR 22 DAYS AND WAIVE ASSOCIATED DOCKING FEES

ISSUE: Consideration of request to approve docking of the tallship *Peacemaker* at the City Marina for 26 days and waive the associated docking fees.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council approve the request to dock the tallship *Peacemaker* at the City of Alexandria Marina for 22 days and waive the associated docking fee of \$10,010 for this non profit.

DISCUSSION: As noted in City Code Sec. 6-3-5, "All commercial vessels docking more than 4 times per month are subject to approval by city council pursuant to section 13-1-36 of the city code." The *Peacemaker*, which is considered a commercial vessel, is a 150-foot sparred length, 3-masted, square rigged, wooden tallship. The ship is United States Coast Guard licensed as an attraction vessel and would be open daily for free dockside tours to the general public at no charge. This is not a special event like the Jamestown event held in 2007 it is simply a tall ship docking. The *Peacemaker* captain has requested to dock the tallship at the City Marina from April 29 through May 24, 2010 which is a period of 26 days of docking and thus evokes section 13-1-36 of the City Code. Staff recommends approving docking for the period of April 29 through May 20, 2010 (22 days); the marina has a previous commitment for the docking location beginning May 21, 2010.

The tallship *Peacemaker* docked at the City Marina for 12 days in May 2009. During the stay the vessel increased pedestrian foot traffic in the marina area by 61% (measured by pedestrian counter at marina flag pole) and marina staff received positive feedback regarding the vessel tours and docking. The *Peacemaker* is operated by a religious organization with the public tours and education focusing on the ship itself.

As was the case in 2009, it is proposed that the docking fee of \$10,010 (\$455 per day for 22 days) be waived for two reasons. First the *Peacemaker* is operated by a non profit and not a for profit organization; and second the tallship serves as a tourist attraction and an educational opportunity for the City residents and their children.

The Waterfront Committee endorsed the docking at their March 16 committee meeting and we have been advised that the Founders Park Association also supports the docking. The Old Town Civic Association is also being notified of the docking.

FISCAL IMPACT: Foregoing potential docking fees, \$10,010, offset to some degree by tax revenues generated by ship visitors. It is also likely that the dock space where the *Peacemaker* will be docked would not have a paying rental customer for most, if not all, of the 22 days that the *Peacemaker* is proposed to dock in Alexandria.

STAFF:

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