


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 16, 2010

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
GREATER WASHINGTON 2050 REGION FORWARD VOLUNTARY
COMPACT RESOLUTION

ISSUE: Resolution to adopt the Greater Washington 2050 Compact.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council adopt the attached resolution endorsing the Greater Washington 2050 Compact as proposed by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), and authorize the City Manager to sign the Compact on behalf of the City (Attachment 1).

DISCUSSION: In 2008, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Board of Directors formed the Greater Washington 2050 Coalition. The purpose of the Coalition was to develop a comprehensive and regional oriented approach to solving critical challenges of the Washington metro area. The product of the Coalition's work is *Region Forward – A Comprehensive Guide for Regional Planning and Measuring Progress in the 21st Century* (Attachment 2). The Region Forward report offers nine regional goals, expressed in four themes: accessibility, sustainability, prosperity and livability. For each thematic area, performance targets and indicators for measurement of progress are noted.

Staff has reviewed the *Region Forward* document both in draft and final form. After review of the draft and at the direction of Council, comments on the proposed report were forwarded to COG for their consideration. Those comments have in some instances been incorporated into the final report.

The COG Board of Directors now requests that each of the COG's 21 member local governments take action to endorse the *Region Forward* compact (Attachment 3). The compact is a voluntary agreement to locally incorporate *Region Forward* goals and to consider regional implications in local decision making. After each jurisdiction has had an opportunity to review and endorse the compact, COG will hold an event recognizing government and stakeholder leadership.

David Robertson, COG's Executive Director will provide a brief overview of the Region Forward report at the March 23rd legislative meeting of City Council and will be available to answer any questions you may have.

FISCAL IMPACT: No immediate fiscal impact. Future fiscal impact is solely predicated on City Council determinations to commit or reallocate resources to the specific objectives outline in the Region Forward report. It is noted that there is a high degree of compatibility between the regional goals outlined in the Region Forward report and the proposed goals of the City's 2010 Strategic Plan. Any future commitments of resource to City goals would correspondingly impact regional goals.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment1. Resolution

Attachment2. COG Region Forward Report

Attachment 3. February 22, 2010 letter to Mayor William D. Eulle

STAFF: Tom Gates, Assistant City Manager

**PROPOSED CITY OF ALEXANDRIA RESOLUTION ADOPTING
GREATER WASHINGTON 2050 COMPACT**

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria recognizes and values its status as part of the economically vibrant and socially diverse National Capital Region; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria takes part in regional planning and activities through its participation in the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments; and

WHEREAS, in January 2008, COG established the Greater Washington 2050 Coalition, a public-private advisory panel, consisting of local government officials, representatives of the Region's business and environmental sectors, and members of the public representing numerous and diverse civic interests, to help shape the Region; and

WHEREAS, the Coalition sought to leverage existing regional and local vision plans and reach regional agreement on local actions that can help achieve common regional goals; and

WHEREAS, the Coalition examined how other regions have approached similar efforts, sponsored a workshop on future economic, environmental, and demographic trends and changes that could affect the National Capital Region, and commissioned and published a survey of public opinion on regional matters in 2008 and 2009; and

WHEREAS, after almost two years of work, the Coalition unanimously approved its final report, *Region Forward – A Comprehensive Guide for Regional Planning and Measuring Progress in the 21st Century*, which includes nine regional goals in four themes of accessibility, sustainability, prosperity, and livability; and establishes regional performance targets and indicators to measure required progress toward goals; and

WHEREAS, the COG Board approved the *Region Forward* report in January 2010, and recommended that local governments execute a voluntary regional compact incorporating these regional goals, and commit to consider regional implications in their local decisions and actions; and

WHEREAS, the Alexandria City Council, after review and consideration of these goals and their potential benefit to the Region and to the residents and businesses of Alexandria, believes that adoption of the voluntary *Greater Washington 2050 Compact* to be in the public interest of Alexandria.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE ALEXANDRIA CITY COUNCIL
THAT**

1. the City of Alexandria hereby endorses the voluntary *Greater Washington 2050 Compact* and, within the City of Alexandria's legal, financial, and political limitations, commits to follow the principles and goals therein in its decisions and actions.
2. the City Manager is hereby authorized to sign the voluntary *Greater Washington 2050 Compact* on behalf of the City of Alexandria.
3. staff of the City of Alexandria is hereby directed to familiarize itself with the voluntary *Greater Washington 2050 Compact* and to alert the Alexandria City Council on significant regional implications of proposed decisions or actions.

ADOPTED: _____

WILLIAM D. EUILLE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, MMC, City Clerk



Local governments working together for a better metropolitan region

February 22, 2010

District of Columbia
Bladensburg*
Bowie
College Park
Frederick
Frederick County
Gaithersburg
Greenbelt
Montgomery County
Prince George's County
Rockville
Takoma Park
Alexandria
Arlington County
Fairfax
Fairfax County
Falls Church
Loudoun County
Manassas
Manassas Park
Prince William County

*Adjunct member

The Honorable William D. Euille
Mayor
City of Alexandria
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria VA 22314-3211

Dear Mayor Euille:

I am pleased to share with each Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) member, *Region Forward – A Comprehensive Guide for Regional Planning and Measuring Progress in the 21st Century*. This ambitious report, almost two years in the making, was approved by the COG Board in January 2010 and places the National Capital Region in the forefront of metropolitan areas nationally and globally.

Your support is critical to translating the goals and regional targets that are at the heart of the *Region Forward* effort into a regional action agenda for COG, area governments and community stakeholders.

The COG Board of Directors asked that each of COG's 21 member local governments take action to endorse the *Region Forward* voluntary compact. COG is hoping that each jurisdiction will endorse the voluntary compact by resolution or other appropriate act in March, allowing COG to recognize government and stakeholder leadership at a spring 2010 event (kick-off event).

This initiative was led by COG's Greater Washington 2050 Coalition and involved many public officials and other stakeholders. The final report, goals, targets and voluntary compact reflect the input from presentations to local government boards and councils, as well as business and community organizations. Finally, the draft report generated almost 400 comments from the public, many of which were incorporated into the final document approved by the COG Board in January. In short, *Region Forward* is grounded in more engagement and support than perhaps any COG effort in recent years.

What Action is Needed Now?

- Please docket for approval or take other action to endorse the *Region Forward's* Greater Washington 2050 voluntary compact (p. 55 - 62 of the enclosed report). A sample resolution is enclosed that you may modify as needed.
- Action is requested in March, if possible. COG anticipates hosting a spring 2010 kickoff event showcasing area jurisdictions that have endorsed the compact and this initiative. The work by COG will commence in July 2010 at the start of Fiscal Year 2011.
- If it would be useful, COG staff would welcome the opportunity to brief your jurisdiction on the *Region Forward* effort and the voluntary compact. COG has enclosed a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document that summarizes several of the key issues and questions associated with *Region Forward*.

Approval of *Region Forward* by the COG Board placed the National Capital Region in the vanguard of metropolitan areas tackling tough issues like growth, economic development, and sustainability. Endorsement of the voluntary compact by area jurisdictions is absolutely critical to our success and I hope you will take affirmative action on the compact soon.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact David Robertson, COG's executive director at 202-962-3260 or [drobertson@mw cog.org](mailto:d Robertson@mw cog.org). Thank you for your continued support for COG.

Sincerely,



Kwame R. Brown
Chairman, COG Board of Directors

Enclosures

- *Region Forward – A Comprehensive Guide for Regional Planning and Measuring Progress in the 21st Century*
- *Region Forward, Frequently Asked Questions*
- *Region Forward, Sample Resolution*

RESOLUTION 2391

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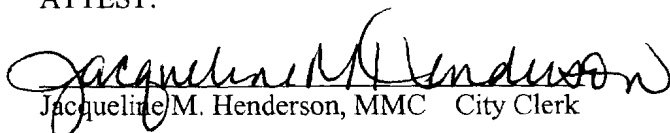
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Adopted: March 23, 2010


WILLIAM D. EULLE MAYOR

ATTEST:


Jacqueline M. Henderson, MMC City Clerk