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9-14-10

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 3, 2010

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA'S SUPPORT OF THE VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

ISSUE: Resolution reaffirming the City of Alexandria's support of the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service.

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council adopt the resolution.

DISCUSSION: The Commonwealth of Virginia reduced the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service's (VCE) budget by \$1.1 million in fiscal year 2011 and \$5.5 million the following year. VCE is in the midst of a strategic reorganization and part of that reorganization includes the consolidation of extension offices in Northern Virginia, including the Arlington and Alexandria extension offices. VCE offers community-based programming in partnership with RPCA in City recreation centers, schools and other venues. State budget reductions have resulted in the elimination of some positions and programs in FY 2011. RPCA staff is working primarily with Arlington County's Extension Office to consolidate offices and programs with the goal of continuing to provide community-based programs focused on current and emerging needs. The attached resolution is aimed at expressing the City's support of VCE to Virginia Tech (which operates VCE) and to State leaders.

FISCAL IMPACT: Statewide for VCE, the budget impact is a negative \$1.1 million in FY 2011 and a negative \$5.5 million impact in FY 2012.

ATTACHMENT: Proposed Resolution

STAFF:
James Spengler, Director, RPCA
William Chesley, Deputy Director, RPCA

**REAFFIRMING THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA'S SUPPORT OF
THE VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE**

WHEREAS, the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service ("VCE"), a Federal, State and local partnership, with strong volunteer support, makes research-based knowledge from Virginia's land grant universities available to all Virginia residents; and

WHEREAS, VCE aims to address high-priority community issues and improve quality of life and environmental well-being; and

WHEREAS, Code of Virginia §23-132.3(A) states that, "The Virginia Cooperative Extension Service shall provide the people of the Commonwealth with information and knowledge on subjects related to agriculture, horticulture, community resource development, 4-H clubs, and subjects relating thereto, through instruction and the dissemination of useful and practical information through demonstrations, conferences, courses, workshops, publications, meetings, and mass media"; and

WHEREAS, VCE is essential to fulfilling goals in the Alexandria City Council's Strategic Plan and its Urban Forestry Plan. VCE also contributes to meeting Alexandria City Public Schools' strategic goals.

- VCE trains volunteers who can provide outreach education and thousands of volunteer hours in Alexandria's parks, farmers markets, and community events.

- VCE 4-H Youth Development enables Alexandria youth to learn leadership, good citizenship and life skills through hands-on experiences in science, engineering and technology, healthy living, and community projects, joining generations of City leaders who have "learned by doing".

- VCE Family and Consumer Sciences helps individuals and families develop competencies to become healthy, productive, financially secure, and environmentally responsible.

- VCE Family Nutrition Program helps low-income individuals and families maintain healthy diets, thereby preventing diet-related chronic diseases and reducing obesity.

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria contributes local match funding annually to VCE for salaries, benefits, office space, phone service, clerical support, and other operating funds,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as VCE's local partner in the Cooperative Extension program, the Alexandria City Council reaffirms its commitment to VCE; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that despite the State's need to temporarily reduce services, the Alexandria City Council strongly desires that the VCE office in the City of Alexandria remain open and that it continue to provide services by Extension Agents in all program areas specified in the Code of Virginia.

ADOPTED THIS ____ DAY OF _____ 2010.

BY: _____
WILLIAM D. EUILLE, MAYOR
On Behalf of the City Council of
Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, MMC City Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 2415

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THE VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE**

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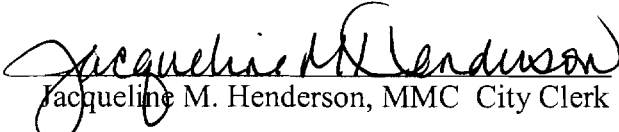
BE IT RESOLVED, despite the State's need to temporarily reduce services, we strongly desire that the VCE office in the City of Alexandria remain open and that it continue to receive services from Extension Agents in all program areas specified in the Code of Virginia.

ADOPTED: September 14, 2010



WILLIAM D. EULLE MAYOR

ATTEST:


Jacqueline M. Henderson, MMC City Clerk