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City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: OCTOBER 27, 2010

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER *J*

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE GET ALARMED VIRGINIA GRANT PROGRAM, COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR SMOKE ALARMS AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

ISSUE: Consideration of a grant application to the Get Alarmed Virginia Grant Program, Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Health for Smoke Alarms and Associated Equipment for the Fire Department

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) Approve the submission of the grant application (due November 15, 2010); and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to execute the necessary documents that may be required.

BACKGROUND: On October 12, the Virginia Department of Health opened the grant application period for the 2010 Get Alarmed Virginia Grant Program. This grant provides jurisdictions with a maximum of 500 smoke alarms and up to \$1,000 for installation materials/equipment and marketing of these smoke alarms, based on demonstrated need. The primary goal of this program is to ensure prevention of fire related injuries and deaths of residents of Virginia jurisdictions.

DISCUSSION: Senior citizens make up approximately 11% of the City's population. The Alexandria Fire Department (AFD) is targeting this population for the smoke alarm initiative. A large number of the City's senior citizens live independently. Based on resident interaction with the AFD, there appears to be significant need for assistance with smoke alarm installation and education for this targeted population. In 2006 the AFD applied for this grant and was awarded 431 smoke alarms.

FISCAL IMPACT: The fiscal impact of this grant is minimal. There is no required cash match. The AFD is applying for up to 500 smoke alarms which will be installed in residents' homes. The City is also applying to receive up to \$1,000 to purchase installation equipment such as ladders and market these smoke alarms to the public. The strategy to minimize costs is to use on-duty Fire service professionals for installation in residents' homes. City staff will administer the grant.

The City is also responsible for the normal administrative costs associated with this grant, including financial and reporting oversight provided by the Fire Department, as well as the Office of Management and Budget, and the Finance Department.

STAFF:

Adam K. Thiel, Fire Chief

James Lynch, Chief, Administrative Services, Fire Department

Robert Rodriguez, Chief Fire Marshall and CSO, Fire Department

Mayuri Middough, Fiscal Officer, Fire Department