

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 27, 2007

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO #22: GANG INTERVENTION COORDINATOR

This is to make Council aware that grant funding for the City's Gang's Intervention Coordinator may end and that to guarantee the position will continue after September 2007, it would be necessary to fund the position out of the General Fund in FY 2008.

In 2004, Congressman Frank Wolf obtained \$3 million in Federal funds through the earmarking process to assist in comprehensive gang resistance efforts in Northern Virginia. On February 17, 2005, Council authorized the City Manager to sign a Memorandum of Understanding allowing the City to participate in regional gang prevention/intervention activities, including the funding of a Gang Intervention Coordinator for the City of Alexandria. In November 2005, a Gang Intervention Coordinator was hired.

Among the responsibilities of the Gang Intervention Coordinator are:

- 1) to provide direction and guidance to the City and community regarding national, state, and local anti-gang best-practice efforts and programs;
- 2) to facilitate gang awareness training for community organizations, schools, government agencies, and the public;
- 3) to develop, coordinate, and facilitate citywide gang prevention and intervention programs to eliminate duplication of services and efforts;
- 4) to staff and coordinate the activities of the Senior Policy Group on Gangs, the Gang Prevention Community Task Force, and the Alexandria Mentoring Partnership.

The City received about \$52,000 in FY 2006 and has so far received about \$70,000 in FY 2007. The City contributed about \$29,000 toward the position in FY 2006 and is budgeted to contribute \$22,000 toward the position in FY 2007. Unfortunately, given the change in how all earmarks are being handled by Congress this year, the Federal earmark for the grant has not been able to be renewed, and the position is fully funded only through September 2007. The Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force, which manages the grant, is looking for additional grant funding, but it is possible that for the City to continue the position past September 2007, it may have to be funded out of the General Fund. Should additional grant funding not become available, the estimated cost to the City in FY 2008 is estimated at \$90,000. As part of the FY

2008 budget add/delete process, City Council could designate \$90,000 of the existing \$375,000 proposed for Council's contingent reserve for this purpose, it could add \$90,000 to the contingent reserve for this purpose and designate it for this purpose, or it could leave enough of the contingent reserve undesignated that it could fund the position if it was found necessary later in FY 2008.