Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 28, 2026
7 – 830 PM
AFD Station 204
900 Second St, Alexandria, VA 22314

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
   a. 7:01 PM, meeting called to order by Patrick M.
2. **ROLL CALL**
   a. Attendance
      - CERT – Marc Barbiere, Beth Mahar: Present
      - Civic Associations – Donna Reuss: Present (Virtual)
      - MRC
        - Rosy Noguchi: Present
        - Patrick Moran (Chair): Present
      - Radio Club – Sean Gallagher: Absent
        - Note: Skip D. (VP of ARC) substituted for Sean G.
      - Red Cross – Elsy Melkonian: Absent
        - Note: Juan G. substituted for Elsy M.
      - Volunteer Alexandria – Reba Winstead: Present
      - Crime Prevention Council (or individual with law enforcement or crime prevention experience) – Eric Letzgus: Absent
      - Citizen Members
        - David Mendez: Present
        - Anthony Benja-Athon: Present (Virtual)
        - Lachlan Kerr: Present
      - Councilwoman Sandy Marks: Present (Virtual)
      - Councilwoman Jacinta Greene: Present
   b. Introductions
      - Saroja Schwager: Present
   c. Changes/Departures
      - Rachel Mann: Resigned
      - Kevin Cesar: Resigned
3. **REVIEW AND APPROVE JULY MEETING MINUTES**
   a. Attached
      - Amendment to replace mentions of D.C. Homeless Services with Department of Community & Human Services (i.e., DCHS).
      - Motion to approve as amended by Beth M. Motion; seconded by Donna R. Approved unanimously.
4. **OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE**
   a. Marc Barbiere, Coordinator
      - Personnel Updates
        - New hire for role of Deputy Coordinator of Emergency Preparedness, Saroja Schwager.
        - Ongoing search for Parker's replacement at OEM.
      - Past Events
        - August 4th (National Night Out).
        - September 4th (bad thunderstorms; only one major outage).
        - Two-part exercise in August and September to respond to active shooter. Family reunification exercise in the Lee Center.
      - Upcoming Events
        - Damage assessment exercise in November to practice restoration and recovery efforts.
        - Emergency Operations Center winter weather exercises.
        - Special Events (e.g., Scottish Walk, Boat Parade, First Night, etc.).

5. **CITY COUNCIL MEMBER UPDATES**
    a. Councilwoman Greene
        - Lauded success of Tons of Trucks on Saturday, September 26th.
            - Councilwoman Greene noted how it showcased the quality and professionalism of the event.
        - Noted that September is National Preparedness Month (presented by Councilwoman Marks; approved by the council).
        - Noted that Alexandia is working with Arlington to stop the merger of Dominion Power and another power supply entity.
            - Councilwoman Greene cannot provide the CCC with information on this at this time.
        - Mentioned that Alexandria citizens continue to express concerns around Flock cameras installed around Alexandria
            - More information to follow form public hearings.
        - Mentioned that budget season is about to commence.
        - Detailed that there will be another hearing in October concerning the Braddock Road bikes lines.
            - Previous hearing had 100+ participants and included 11 hours of testimony.
    b. Councilwoman Marks
        - Emphasized city's unwillingness to support the merger between Dominion Energy and the undisclosed entity.
        - Clarified that as issues with Flock increase to national attention, they have also risen to the attention of the city council.
            - The city manager has since docketed this issue.
            - Councilwoman Marks suggested potential dialogue with ACLU to discuss the issue.
            - Patrick M. requested that this should be a docket item for a subsequent CCC meeting.
        - Discussed how Fairfax County is planning to build a data center and substation on western border with Alexandria.
            - Dominion Energy Substation to support the data center is tentatively planned to be on the northern plot of that land.
            - Councilwoman Marks cited potential risks to quality of life and reduction of economic opportunity given proximity to residences and businesses.
            - Alexandria Department of Planning and Zoning has developed ideas of how to protect residents from sounds and particulates.
            - Councilwoman Marks clarified that the data center is not permitted to be in Alexandria without citizen approval/vote; unfortunately, however, this new build is solely within Fairfax County.
        - Detailed update to the CCC bylaws proposed in September 2025.
            - The clerk is going to docket the proposed changes in full in October 2026 (first or second legislative session). The proposed items should be a consent item that will pass quickly.
6. **CCC MEMBER AND AFFILIATE UPDATES**
    a. CERT – Marc Barbiere
        - Detailed recent progress and upcoming events, including:
            - National Night Out.
            - Active Shooter Exercises (CERT volunteers served as actors).
            - Stop the Bleed Class on September 2nd (additional training beyond basic CERT training; 18 CERT volunteers participated).

- CERT basic training to commence in October.
- Firehouse Open House on October 10th (CERT volunteers to assist with crowd control and response).

b. Civic Associations – Donna Reuss
- Provided brief update on new federation president who is more tenured.
- Donna R. to provide more detail on upcoming outreach events.

c. MRC – Rosy Noguchi
- Noted overlap with CERT on volunteer efforts.
  - MRC volunteers supported both the Active Shooter and Reunification exercise.
  - Health Department is working towards digitizing documents; MRS volunteers have been compiling file lists and assisting in organizing.
- Detailed outreach success for Tons of Trucks (connected with at least 180 persons).
- Noted that MRC will be present at upcoming Paws in the Park event.
- Noted statewide-MRC effort to clear up Virginia volunteer database:
  - Submitted a letter to every volunteer asking them to update their volunteer status. The state only received 77 responses (significantly lower than complete roster).

d. Radio Club – Skip D. (in place of Sean G.)
- Recapped success of:
  - Supporting National Night Out.
  - Supporting amateur radio club at the Pentagon on 9/11.
  - Supporting VRC training on September 3rd.
  - Supporting Tons of Trucks event on September 26th.
- Detailed upcoming support of the Marine Corps Marathon.
  - ARC members will be stationed at every mile marker to provide support to runners.

e. Red Cross – Juan Garcia (in place of Elsy M.)
- Recapped several updates in Alexandria
  - Hosted a Sound the Alarm event(installing and testing alarms).
  - Participated in Alexandria Baptist Church sickle cell awareness event.
  - Discussed with the Grayson Apartments to have some events there with residents.
  - Engaged in conversations with NOVA Alexandria to partner on future events.
  - Mentioned efforts to host several blood drives at YMCA, Episcopal Highschool, U.S. Attorneys' Office, and other venues in the city.
- Detailed upcoming Events
  - Mass Care exercise in Fairfax on September 29th.
  - Will be supporting the Marine Corps Marathon.

f. Volunteer Alexandria – Reba Winstead
- Commenced work on Snow Buddies program for the upcoming winter season.
  - Received grant from the city to support the program. Ongoing networking effort to expand the program to other vulnerable populations.
  - This year, CERT volunteers are going to assist in clearing public property (e.g., bus stations, hydrants, sidewalks)

- Reba W. has been networking to attend civic association and HOA meetings to promote Volunteer Alexandria programming.
    - Currently scheduled to attend meetings from now through to the new year.
    - Has already spoken at Del Ray, Rosemont, and Seminary Ridge civic associations.
- Fall training calendar for the VRC is now available, including secondary and support classes in addition to basic/introductory programs.
- Attended recent city events (e.g., Taste of Old Town, Tons of Trucks).

7. **CCC OFFICER UPDATES**
    a. Chair – Patrick Moran
        - Noted opportunity for this group to increase collaboration and expand outreach with new membership and personnel updates.
        - Expressed interest to create a separate website from the existing city website to highlight programming and outreach.
        - Patrick M. noted that this potentially will be his last year chairing the committee.
    b. Vice-Chair – David Mendez
        - Recapped how all handouts at Tons of Trucks included outreach materials from CCC.
    c. Secretary – Anthony Benja-Athon
        - Assumed secretarial duties from Dave M. effective this meeting.
8. **OLD BUSINESS**
    a. Alexandria's Code of General Ordinances, Title 2 Chapter 4, Article T, Citizen Corps Council update ("code revision update")
        - See prior comments on code revision update from Councilwoman Marks (see section 5b above).
        - Marc briefly recapped the code revision update, with highlights including:
            - One citizen position has been removed.
            - Volunteer Alexandria (added as voting member)
            - ARC (added as voting member)
            - Alexandria Commission on the Aging (added as non-voting member), etc.
    b. Future outreach event planning
        - Patrick M. noted that this group should discuss future outreach at the November meeting, with emphasis on 2027.
        - Juan G. raised question around prior event and what the goals of a future event would be.
            - Group collectively discussed intent to present on the CCC's specific mission in addition to recruiting for member organizations.
            - Juan suggested a quarterly community check-in, with organizations taking turns to host the latter.
                - The goal would be to promote both the CCC and the individual organizations.
                - If there is a lack of engagement with the public coming to CCC, the CCC could seek out opportunities to participate in further community events that already exist (e.g., getting onto civic association dockets, PTAs).
        - Proposed New Business for Next Meeting: Event calendar review to determine what CCC can prioritize ("event

intention").

- Marc B. can provide insights into special event calendar.

9. **NEW BUSINESS**
   a. National Preparedness Month wrap-up
      - Marc B. requested that member organizations compile list of members, events, and quantifiable outreach to include in the preparedness report to the city council, even if this is only for the month of September.
        - Information should be submitted by October 1st.
      - Tons of Trucks debrief
        - Marc B. is going to provide final headcount.
        - See above comments for additional details.
10. **NEXT MEETING DATE** (Generally 4th Monday of every other month)
    a. Monday, November 23, 2026 (VIRTUAL ONLY)
       - Marc B. to provide link.
11. **ADJOURNMENT**
    a. Motion to adjourn at 9:01 PM by Dave M.; seconded by Beth M. Approved unanimously.