

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 9, 2010

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO # 11: COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING
(COPS) PROGRAM

This memorandum is in response to a request from Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Donley, Councilman Krupicka, and Councilwoman Hughes for information on Community Oriented Policing (COPS) and Resident Police Officer (RPO) position assignments. In addition, this memorandum responds to the following question: If one of the COPS positions were to be added back to the budget, how would it be used and where else would you propose cuts as an alternative?

Current and Proposed Assignments

Currently, there are 12 community police officers assigned to 9 areas City-wide. These 12 officers include 8 COPs officers and 4 RPOs. The attached map entitled "Community Oriented Policing Areas" identifies the location of the 9 areas within each of the police beats and sectors (see attached sector map). Community police officers are assigned to these areas to provide targeted resources to neighborhoods with higher levels of criminal activity. The table on the following page shows the current and proposed assignments for each of the 12 officers.

Table 1: Community Oriented Policing Assignments		
Sector I		
	FY 2010 Approved	FY 2011 Proposed
Inner City COP	1	1
Andrew Atkins RPO	1	1
James Bland RPO	1	1
James Bland COP	1	0
Samuel Madden COP	1	1
Total Sector I	5	4
Sector II		
Arlandria COP	1	0
Arlandria RPO	1	1
Lynhaven-Hume Springs-Mt. Jefferson COP	2	1
Total Sector II	4	2
Sector III		
Cameron Commons COP	1	1
Hampton Court RPO (Vacant. Hampton Court temporarily assigned a COPs officer until RPO position is filled)	1	1
Crestview COP	1	1
Total Sector III	3	3
Total COPs/RPO Officers	12	9

As illustrated in Table 1, the FY 2011 Proposed budget would reduce the number of community police officers from 12 to 9 officers. These 9 officers include 5 COPs officers and 4 RPOs. The number of community police (including COPs and RPOs) officers would be reduced from 2 to 1 in the following neighborhoods:

- **James Bland** – Currently, there are two community police officers (1 RPO; 1 COPs officer) assigned to this neighborhood. The FY 2011 Proposed budget would eliminate the COPs officer position. However, a RPO would remain to provide community policing services.
- **Arlandria** – Currently, there are two community police officers (1 RPO; 1 COPs officer) assigned to this neighborhood. The FY 2011 Proposed budget would eliminate 1 COPs officer position. One RPO position would remain to provide community policing services. As contemplated in Council’s Glebe Park development site plan approved contingent on Council approval of the purchase of a condominium at Glebe Park for the RPO unit. Arlandria RPO unit will be transferred within Arlandria to the Alexandria Crossing development. Housing funds would be used to finance this purchase. A docket item will come before Council in the near future to authorize purchase.
- **Lynhaven-Mt. Jefferson-Hume Springs** - Currently, there are two community police officers (2 COPs officers) assigned to this neighborhood. The FY 2011 Proposed budget would eliminate 1 COPs officer position. One COPs officer position would remain to provide community policing services.

These positions are in areas with two community policing positions. These areas will continue to receive community policing services, although it has been reduced, due to lower levels of crime. The reduction of the positions will not result in the elimination of community policing in any of these neighborhoods.

If one of the COPs positions were added back to the budget, it would be strategically assigned within the City to provide targeted resources to areas with higher levels of crime. Specific assignments would be made and periodically adjusted based on analysis of crime trends. If alternative reductions were required, those resulting in the least impact on core services affecting public safety would be recommended. Specifically, this would include reductions in the parking enforcement and school resource officer programs. Reductions in these areas are not desired, but would take priority over police units providing core services.

History of Community Policing in Alexandria

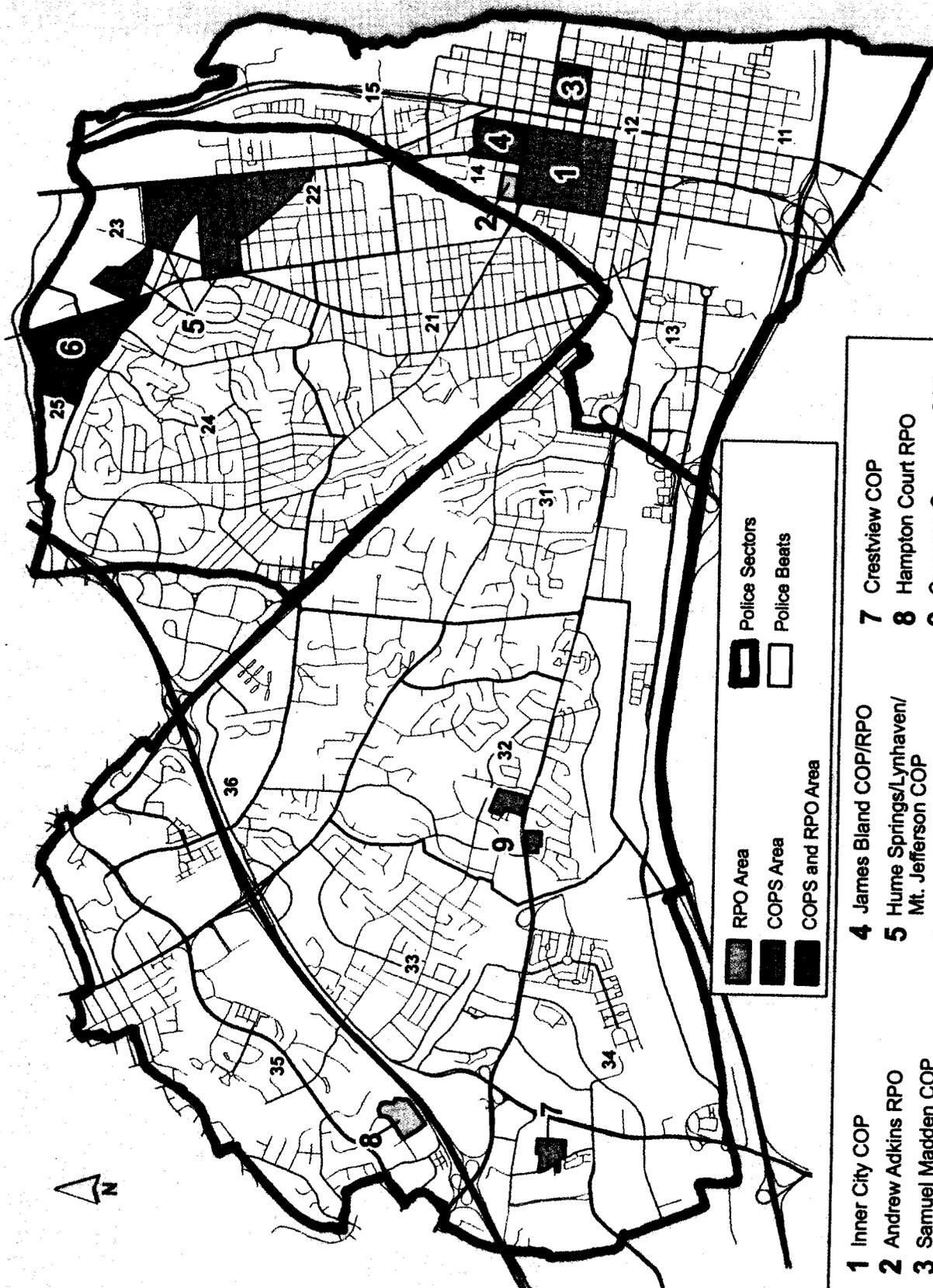
Community policing is a collaborative effort between the police, local government, and members of the community that identifies and solves problems of crime, disorder and quality of life. Effective community policing has a positive impact on reducing neighborhood crime, helping to reduce fear of crime, and enhancing the quality of life in the community.

Community policing narrows an officer's geographical responsibility, which provides them with the opportunity and time to develop the relationships needed within the community to address issues and concerns. This concept is practiced by both the residential police officer and the community police officer. The only difference is that a residential officer lives in the community he or she works in and thus becomes a part of the community and culture.

The Alexandria Police Department's Residential Officer Program began in 1992 in partnership with the United States Department of Justice. The purpose was to assign an officer to both live and work within a specific targeted community. This program contributed to the creation of a national model for Residential Policing Programs. The success of this program resulted in additional grant resources for residential and community police officers. By 1994, Alexandria's Community Support Unit was expanded to include 17 community and residential officers. This unit was largely supported with grant funding. As grant funding disappeared, the number of officers has declined from 17 to 12. These 12 positions have been funded solely by the General Fund since FY 2008.

Attachment: Community Oriented Policing Areas Map

Community Oriented Policing Areas



- 1** Inner City COP
- 2** Andrew Adkins RPO
- 3** Samuel Madden COP
- 4** James Bland COP/RPO
- 5** Hume Springs/Lynhaven/
Mt. Jefferson COP
- 6** Arlandria COP/RPO
- 7** Crestview COP
- 8** Hampton Court RPO
- 9** Cameron Commons COP

