

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 13, 2010

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO # 57 : FUNDING FOR ALEXANDRIA PIPE AND DRUM

This memorandum is in response to Councilman Krupicka's question regarding funding for the Alexandria Pipe and Drum organization.

As far back as FY 1995, the Alexandria Pipe and Drum received a contribution from the City of Alexandria (FY 1995 is the earliest year for which detailed financial information is readily available.) In FY 2006, through the Add-Delete process, City Council increased the contribution to \$6,000. In FY 2010 many of the outside organizations receiving a direct contribution to the City were reduced by approximately 14.5 percent, which was comparable to the targets provided to City agencies for general fund budget reductions. In FY 2010, the contribution to the Alexandria Pipes and Drum was reduced by \$870.

In FY 2011, City departments were asked again to reduce their general fund budgets and a conscious effort was made to protect core services and reduce those areas of the budget that were outside the department's primary mission. As City agencies faced reductions in hours, staff eliminations and limited access to City facilities, contributions to outside agencies were reviewed. As the Office of Historic Alexandria reviewed its budget, the priority to try to maintain hours of operation at City museums and other facilities exceeded the direct contribution to one organization.

The Alexandria Pipe and Drum is encouraged to compete with other arts organizations in the City for available resources through the City's Arts Grants program, funded in the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, and managed by the Alexandria Commission for the Arts. Funding for the grants program was reduced in FY 2010 by approximately 14%, but is proposed to receive level funding in FY 2011. In the FY 2011 Proposed Operating budget, there is \$184,937 available for arts grants.