



Accomplishments & Events

Public Safety

The Alexandria Agency on Aging and the Fire Department sponsor the Life Safety Alert Program which provides emergency communication devices to Fannie Minor and other medically at-risk residents. Paramedic Randal Browning responded to Ms

Minor's home earlier this year.

Calls for Service. Calls to the Police and Fire Departments for police, fire, and ambulance services showed a downward trend in the year ending June 30. Calls for police services decreased 5% to 77,887. The number of fire calls dispatched by the Fire Department fell by 4.2% to 4,718. Calls for emergency medical services decreased by .7% to 10,499. The Fire Department's Hazardous Materials Unit responded to 18 incidents throughout Northern Virginia, up from 15 in FY 1994.

Crime Prevention. Serious crimes reported to Police declined in 1994 to the lowest level in 25 years, and this trend continued through the first half of 1995. The number of these crimes (murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, and auto theft) fell by 12.1% to 7,317 in 1994. Robberies declined by 15.7% to 317 in 1994; larcenies fell by 17.4% to 4,696; and auto thefts decreased by 9.8% to 874. Homicides remained the same, with nine in both 1993 and 1994. Rapes rose 12.1% to 37 in 1994; aggravated assaults increased by 2.4% to 342; and burglaries rose 13.1% to 1,042. During the first six months of 1995, serious crime was down over 4% and there were no homicides in the City.

Arrests. Alexandria Police made 8,948 arrests in 1994 for all criminal offenses, an increase of 11.7% over 1993. The clearance rate for serious crimes was 20.7% in 1994, compared to 18.6% in 1993. Of those arrested, adults totaled 8,158, up 12.4% over 1993. Juveniles accounted for 790 arrests, up 4.8% over 1993. Arrests for the seven categories of serious crime totaled 1,152 in 1994, down 4.2% from 1993. Juveniles accounted for an increasing share of these arrests, however, with 293 arrested in 1994, a 7.7% increase over 1993. Arrests for all other crimes, including nuisance crimes, increased by 14.5% to 7,796 in 1994, with arrests of adults up 15.4% over 1993 and juveniles up 3.1%. As an indicator of increased juvenile involvement in crime, average monthly caseloads managed by the Juvenile Court increased by 9.3% to 236 in FY 1995.

Domestic Violence Intervention. The Office on Women provided court advocacy and crisis counseling to 1,462 women and men referred by the Police Department. The program also provided emergency shelter, crisis intervention, and counseling to 87 women and 85 children.

Drug and Alcohol Enforcement. Police made 543 arrests in 1994 for drug distribution or possession, a drop of 5.6% compared to 1993. Adult drug arrests declined 4.7% to 492 in 1994, while juvenile drug

arrests decreased 13.6% to 51 in 1994. Arrests for driving while intoxicated (DWI) declined .3% to 612 in 1994. Police conducted six sobriety checkpoints in the year that ended June 30.

Alcohol Interdiction. The Police Department and the Commonwealth's Attorney implemented a new program in November 1994 to reduce neighborhood problems related to habitual drunkenness. Under State law, the Circuit Court may issue an order of interdiction against any person who has a record of habitual drunkenness. The court order prohibits an interdicted person from possessing, consuming, or purchasing alcoholic beverages. A violation of this court order carries a maximum jail sentence of one year. During the program's first six months, Circuit Court judges issued interdiction orders against 17 persons, and 11 were subsequently arrested for alcohol violations. Nine of the 11 were convicted of violating their interdiction orders and served jail sentences.

Community Policing. The Police Department expanded the Community Policing Project by eight police officers, including six officers funded by COPS AHEAD grants authorized under the 1995 federal Crime Bill. The additional officers have been assigned to work on crime prevention with local communities, including Parkfairfax, Mt. Jefferson, Hunters' Run, and Old Town, and the upper King Street business district. Already operating Community Policing projects, including those serving the Inner City, Lynhaven, and Arlandria areas, will receive additional officers to expand police coverage. The Residential Police Officer (RPO) Program, now in its fourth year, supports four police officers. Residing in housing provided by the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority, these officers patrol on foot and work with their neighbors to solve community problems. In 1994, the Virginia Municipal League presented its prestigious Achievement Award to the City for the RPO Program, recognizing its innovative approach and its demonstrated success in reducing crime. The Department was also honored by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children with its Law Enforcement Award.

Auxiliary Police. City Council approved a pilot program to train ten citizens as Auxiliary Police Officers. Under this program, volunteers who live or work in Alexandria are trained to work alongside uniformed police officers. The first group of Auxiliary Police Officers began their training at the Fairfax County Police Academy in June.

Fire Fatalities and Property Losses. One person died in a fire in Alexandria in Fiscal Year 1995, the same number as in the previous year. Fires caused property losses estimated at \$2.2 million during FY 1995, compared to \$1.5 million in FY 1994. The increased dollar loss was related to four residential fires that resulted in damages of \$975,000.

Regional Fire Agreements. The Fire Department implemented separate emergency response agreements with the National Airport Fire Department, the Arlington County Fire Department, and the Washington, D.C. Fire Department within the past year. National Airport units will respond to the George Washington Memorial Parkway for ambulance calls involving vehicle accidents or other life-threatening medical emergencies. Hazardous materials specialists from the Arlington County Fire Department will join the City's Regional HazMat Response Team in responding to incidents in Northern Virginia. Washington, D.C. fire boats will support City personnel on fire and rescue calls along

Alexandria's waterfront, including water rescues, fires on the river, and structural fires east of Union Street.