



City Manager Vola Lawson was selected as the outstanding public administrator in Virginia in 1988 by the Virginia Chapters of the American Society for Public Administration. In 1993, she was inducted into the Virginia Women's Hall of Fame. The International City/County Management Association (ICMA) presented its national Program Excellence Award to Mrs. Lawson and to the City in 1989 for the City's Community Shelter/Substance Abuse Services Center and again in 1993 for the City's innovative Community Policing Program.

Mrs. Lawson serves as President of the Alexandria Transit Company, which operates the City's DASH bus system. She also serves on the Alexandria Economic Development and Tourism Board, the Board of the Alexandria Bar Foundation, and the National Council of the American Society for Public Administration.

Mrs. Lawson has received numerous community

FROM THE CITY MANAGER

I am pleased to present my 1996 Annual Report to the Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council and to the citizens of Alexandria. This report highlights the major accomplishments of City government during Fiscal Year 1996, and discusses several major issues that will occupy Council's attention in the coming years.

With Council's support for strong fiscal management, we have maintained quality public services without an increase in real estate or personal property tax rates and without significant growth in our single largest revenue source - our real estate tax base. Pay-as-you-go financing of capital projects has placed Alexandria among an elite group of 30 U.S. cities and counties that hold triple-A bond ratings from both of Wall Street's major credit rating agencies.

During FY 1996, the City has made significant progress in a number of areas:

- ❖ Construction began on the Beltway Interchange at Eisenhower Avenue, which, when completed in October 1997, will improve traffic access to Eisenhower Valley.
- ❖ During the "Blizzard of '96," City crews and contractors worked 12-hour shifts for ten days to keep main streets clear and to open neighborhood streets and cul-de-sacs.
- ❖ Working with business leaders and charitable and religious groups, the City launched its welfare reform program, Alexandria Works!, in September 1995.
- ❖ To spur economic development and create new jobs, City Council increased financial support for the Eisenhower Avenue Partnership and funded the Potomac West Alliance Pilot Project. Council also completed reform of the Business, Professional and Occupational License (BPOL) tax, eliminating the BPOL tax or reducing it to a flat \$50 for two-thirds of all businesses in the City.
- ❖ Working with our General Assembly delegation, the City secured \$50,000 in State funds for a Small Business Development Center to open in September. George Washington University, which opened its Alexandria Center last fall, will provide matching in-kind support.
- ❖ Violent crime fell to its lowest level in 28 years, thanks to the efforts of our Police Department and the support of neighborhood associations and businesses.

These and other accomplishments discussed in this report are the result of the vision of City Council and the hard work of City employees, who take great pride in serving the citizens of Alexandria.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vola Lawson".

awards, including the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce's George Washington Leadership Award, the Distinguished Service Award from the Alexandria Olympic Boys and Girls Club, the Elizabeth Ann Campagna Award from the Campagna Center, the Urban League's Northern Virginia Community Service Award, and the Alexandria Commission on Women Award for Outstanding Achievement in Housing.



Joining Mayor Donley and Employer representatives at an April press conference on Alexandria Works! were (l to r) Patricia Rodgers, Alexandria United Way; Kathleen T. Snyder, Alexandria Chamber of Commerce; City Manager Vola Lawson; Councilman Euille; Vice Mayor Pepper; and Center For Employment Training graduate Julie Bell.