

Dear Alexandria Resident,

I hope you enjoy the City of Alexandria's 2001 Annual Report, which covers the fiscal year that runs from July 2000 through June 2001. The report reflects the activities, characteristics and achievements of a safe, vibrant and fiscally sound City. Indeed, we are a fortunate City, greatly benefitted by a strong citizenry, solid financial management and a tradition of stable political leadership.



Like other localities across the nation, Alexandria was shocked and shaken by the events of September 11. Those events, and others that followed, will not change the fundamental nature or quality of City programs and services. However, for some time to come, they will affect the way we operate as a government and the manner in which we allocate our resources.

Clearly, a major focus of the City government now is to ensure the security and safety of everyone who lives, visits or does business in Alexandria, or who is a member of our government workforce. Over time, this will likely involve hiring additional public safety personnel, acquiring additional security equipment, adopting measures to make City facilities more secure, and improving our emergency management systems so that we can respond, quickly and effectively, to a wide range of emergency situations.

The events of September 11 also have served to put local issues in a different, and I believe a more appropriate, perspective. In bringing home the reality of terrorism and its horrible consequences, they have placed in a much different context many City issues that a few months ago might have been considered to be of a "critical" or "compelling" nature.

This is not to say that these issues and others like them are no longer important; they are, and they will continue to be publicly and often heatedly debated, and appropriately addressed, as in the past. It is, however, to say that the environment in which this debate takes place has changed significantly and, as a result, the way local issues are viewed and the relative importance they are given will surely differ from how they were seen before September 11.

Sincerely,

Philip Sunderland

Philip Sunderland
City Manager