

In the year following the tragic September 11, 2001 events at the Pentagon and World Trade Center, the City of Alexandria enhanced its emergency management and response capabilities and initiated programs to help Alexandria citizens affected by these events.

### EFFECTS OF ATTACK IN ALEXANDRIA

In the wake of the terrorist attack on the Pentagon, the volume of Department of Human Services requests for emergency services and financial assistance increased significantly. New emergency services cases opened from September through November 2001 were 25% higher than cases in the same period in 2000. Public assistance, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, and Food Stamp caseloads all experienced the first significant increases since the start of welfare reform in 1996. Soon after September 11, the Human Services Department developed a disaster relief brochure in four languages listing available resources, and assisted hundreds of families in need by directing them to non-profit agencies providing special financial assistance.



### COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND

In September 2001, the Community Support Fund created by City Council to enable Alexandrians to contribute monies for local disaster relief, raised over \$16,000 in corporate and individual donations. The Community Support Fund helped victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks who lost their jobs at Reagan Washington National Airport or those who had exhausted other assistance and still had outstanding needs.



By spring of 2002, Reagan Washington National Airport was slowly returning to pre-September 11 operations level, and families in Alexandria continued to face financial difficulties due to the downturn of the economy. The slow economic rebound led to ongoing problems with rent, mortgage payments, utility bills, food, insurance premiums and other basic needs. The Human Services Department received additional state funds and redirected local funds to provide long-term assistance with housing costs.

### EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

Since September 2001, the Human Services JobLink Division has assisted over 585 new customers and placed over 100 individuals in skills training or alternative employment following the temporary closure of the airport. JobLink received a two year, \$1.9 million National Emergency Grant for re-training and job placement.

### MARKETING ASSISTANCE

In fall 2002, the U.S. Department of Commerce provided grant funds to the Northern Virginia Region for a campaign to assist tourism-related

Alexandria resident Governor Mark Warner was joined by Mayor Kerry Donley and the members of City Council, U.S. Senator John Warner, and Congressman James Moran, at a September 10, 2002 ceremony in Market Square for citizens to commemorate the events of September 11, 2001.

businesses recover from the post September 11 slump in travel.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Following September 11, the Police Department established an Office of Intelligence and Internal Security which develops and shares intelligence information in the Police Department and with federal agencies. The Police Department also has a representative on the

Metropolitan Area Joint Terrorism Task Force. In October 2002, during the tragic series of sniper attacks in the Washington area, the unit participated in regional conference calls and meetings with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies, to link City law enforcement officials with the regional task force effort in Montgomery County, Maryland.

The Police Department has five K-9 teams trained in certified explosive detection, and the Special Operations Team regularly provides security at certain large scale public events. Officers have been issued new personal protective gear. As a result of a federal Byrne Grant the City is acquiring new vehicles, safety and tactical equipment, and specialized training for Police, Fire and Sheriff Department staff.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY CENTER EXTERIOR SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS**

The interior and exterior security at the Alexandria Detention Center and the Alexandria Public Safety Center has been enhanced to keep inmates secure and to protect staff and citizens who visit the center. Alexandria Deputy Sheriffs screen pedestrians and vehicles 24-hours a day at two posts near the facility. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2002-2003, the City approved nine additional Deputy Sheriff positions to support this enhanced Public Safety Center exterior security.



The Police Department and Office of Sheriff work closely with the U. S. Marshal and the Federal Protective Service to secure, hold and transport federal prisoners held in Alexandria and tried at the federal courthouse in Alexandria.



In summer and fall 2002, the City provided a site near the federal courthouse and coordinated a location for worldwide media coverage of court hearings for two of the alleged terrorist involved in the September 11 terrorists attacks.

City Police, Sheriff and Fire employees have received training in explosive, chemical and biological hazards and will be better equipped to respond to such incidents in the future. The Health Department has received state/federal funds to hire a bio terrorism coordinator.

### **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SECURITY**

In order to secure its information infrastructure, the City government has strengthened its internal data back-up and recovery operations by installing an off-site data back-up system.



## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The Alexandria Community Services Board's Community Resilience Project provided a team of 15 multi-cultural outreach workers to provide counseling, information and referral, and to make community presentations on emergency issues. From November 2001 through July 2002, over 22,000 persons attended educational presentations, 1,274 individuals were counseled, and over 800 referrals were made for other services.

