

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: NOVEMBER 7, 2018

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: BUDGET AND FISCAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BFAAC)

SUBJECT: MEMO #1 - BUDGET AND FISCAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FISCAL YEAR 2020 WORK PLAN

Again this year, BFAAC plans to provide Council with memos throughout the year rather than delivering one comprehensive report in the spring. Last year, in addition to a work plan and budget guidance, BFAAC delivered two memos jointly with the School Board's Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) commenting on the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Joint City Schools Facilities Investment Task Force, which primarily addressed budget process, broad City planning and facilities maximization. BFAAC also provided memos addressing the ten-year cumulative impact of budget cuts on core City services, and recommendations related to the City Manager's proposed FY 2019 budget. The latter memo also included a recommendation to plan for long term revenue needs.

Recognizing a new Council will be seated in January, BFAAC proposes the following preliminary work schedule for 2020, largely continuing work already in progress. We also invite requests from Council during the course of the year to address other topics of concern.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FY 2020 BUDGET GUIDANCE (November 2018) – BFAAC's first memo will provide recommendations for Council to consider as it develops FY 2020 budget guidance. The memo, along with this one, will be the foundation for BFAAC's briefing to Council at its November 10 retreat.

SUSTAINABLE CITY SUPPORT FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING (Q1 2019) – BFAAC recognizes the negative impact of a dwindling supply of affordable housing on quality of life for residents, economic development, and our ability to house providers of key City services within Alexandria, and applauds the efforts of Council, City staff and local partners to address this need. BFAAC will issue a report assessing the budget's readiness to support affordable housing goals and exploring opportunities to maximize resources for affordable housing including creative or alternative approaches to financing.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JOINT TASK FORCE (Q1 2019) – BFAAC plans to work with the School Board’s BAC to monitor the implementation of the Joint Task Force recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND OBSERVATIONS RELATED TO THE CITY MANAGER’S PROPOSED FY 2020 BUDGET (April 2019) – BFAAC will provide Council a memo with recommendations regarding major issues facing the City in FY 2020. The memo will follow up on revenue and process recommendations made in BFAAC’s FY 2019 Budget memo. BFAAC continues to recommend the creation of a Revenue Master Plan and identifying actionable strategies to grow the City’s revenue base with a focus on increasing the commercial contribution to the tax base. In this memo BFAAC also intends to address employee compensation (both general schedule and public safety), and the costs of recruiting and maintaining staff.

ADDITIONAL MEMOS TBD – BFAAC will be available to support Council throughout the year as matters may arise, welcoming requests from Council on matters where guidance can be helpful.

BFAAC appreciates Council’s support of its work and will endeavor to continue to provide the best recommendations possible on the budget and fiscal affairs of the City of Alexandria.