

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 19, 2008
TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL
FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER
SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO # 36 : PLANNED SECURITY ELEMENTS FOR THE NEW ALEXANDRIA POLICE FACILITY

This memorandum is in response to Councilman Krupicka's question regarding the security related elements currently planned for the new Alexandria Police facility.

As part of the planning process the City retained the services of the architectural and engineering firm HDR Architecture, Incorporated and security consultant Hinman Associates (Hinman) to perform a complete security analysis and provide recommendations for the proposed new Alexandria Police Department facility. Hinman used the United States Department of Homeland Security's National Strategy for the Physical Protection of Critical Infrastructure and Key Assets; the Federal Interagency Security Committee's Security Design Criteria for New Federal Office Buildings and Modernization Practices, the Federal Security Design Criteria contained in the Unified Facilities Criteria DoD Minimum Antiterrorism Standards for Buildings and other references as support for their conclusions and recommendations.

The process included a security workshop attended by project team members, including Police, followed by a number of work sessions in which key elements were identified, alternatives were considered and solutions were recommended.

At this point the following security elements are recommended for inclusion in the project and a diagram depicting locations is provided as an attachment to this document:

Building:

- Because the project can achieve the desired 82 foot security setback from its nearest unsecured neighbor, total hardening of the facility will not be required. The first floor will be reinforced concrete block construction with the upper floors constructed with steel studding and brick. The windows for the Emergency Communications Center will be bullet resistant.

- The building will have secured exterior entry doors; secured staff only interior doors to secured areas inside the building; as well as access systems throughout the building to allow for various levels of access authority to parts of the building not normally accessible to the public.

Site:

- A post and cable security fencing system will be provided at the visitor parking and pedestrian passage area located at the front, plaza area of the building, as well as along the Wheeler Avenue side of the building. This fencing system is proposed to be combined with landscaping to soften the effect;
- Three drop type "Delta" barriers are to be provided at vehicle access points. These access points are located (1) off of Wheeler Avenue and (2) the new garage access road. These are similar to the barriers at the Public Safety Building and can be deactivated in non emergency situations;
- Perimeter fencing (8 ft high) is provided for the perimeter boundaries not immediately accessible to pedestrians. This fencing will be anti-ram construction on the vehicle accessible perimeters located to the east and west of the site and of general anti-personnel construction to the south and interior portions of the site;
- A low security wall/bollard system will be provided along the area adjacent to the visitor parking area to the east entrance of the facility. This is to prevent possible vehicle incursion onto the site from that area;
- Close Captioned Television (CCTV) coverage will be provided for the entire site and the parking garage.

Current estimates/allowances for these outlined interior and exterior security items are approximately \$850,000. Because the project will not be in the final design stage until later in the summer of this year, these elements are subject to change or revision based on input received as part of that design process.

Attachments

