

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 20, 2012

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: RASHAD M. YOUNG, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO #12: PROPOSED BUDGET REDUCTION TO THE
NORTHERN VIRGINIA URBAN LEAGUE COMMUNITY SERVICE
PROJECT/NEW HORIZONS PROJECT

This memorandum is provided to City Council in response to a question at the budget public hearing on March 5, 2012 regarding the Community Service Project, administered by the Northern Virginia Urban League.

The Community Service Project began in 1981 through a non-competitive award by City Council. This Project had two components:

- 1) Opportunities for youth offenders to complete community service assignments for City and community non-profit agencies. For youth who committed an offense or delinquent act, it was offered as a diversionary alternative, condition of probation or alternative sentence. The major referral source was the Alexandria Court Service Unit (CSU).

- 2) Primary prevention and early intervention services for at-risk youth ages 11-18 through the New Horizons and NULITES (National Urban League Incentives to Excel and Succeed), which address such high-risk issues as delinquency, teen pregnancy, violence, and/or minority male achievement. Program activities include life skills development group sessions, group counseling, field trips, and enrichment activities.

In FY 2011, the Court Service Unit discontinued referrals for the placement of juvenile offenders when they developed an in-house program to provide this service. New Horizons and NULITES expanded and currently serves 85 youth.

The proposed elimination of funding for this program will result in the termination of prevention services for these 85 at-risk youth.

STAFF: Laura Triggs, Acting Chief Financial Officer
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