

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 24, 2012

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: RASHAD M. YOUNG, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO #55: HILLSIDE PARK

This memorandum responds to a request from Vice-Mayor Donley regarding funding for the lighting at Hillside Park, requested by Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities (RPCA) through the Capital Improvement Program development process.

Background

Hillside Park, in the Warwick Village neighborhood, connects a residential area at the top of a hill to the parking lot of a retail center along W. Glebe Road. The unlit park is partially obscured from roadside surveillance and is at-times a location for disruptive and illicit activity. Some of the nighttime activity in the park has created a nuisance for the adjacent residents. The community has been involved in trying to keep the park clean and safe, but feel their efforts are limited given the current light levels in the park. In response to this on-going concern, RPCA requested security lighting to illuminate the area.

Cost Analysis

The City Manager's Proposed FY 2013 – 2022 CIP did not recommend funding for this project because of the associated cost of installation and because the Council guidance for the proposed CIP did not recommend new or expanded projects, such as this one. Currently, there is no electrical service in Hillside Park. Installation of a single light would require provision of separate electric service by Dominion Virginia Power at either W. Glebe Road or along Tennessee Street, installation of an electric transformer and meter with weatherproof housing and placement of underground electrical service conduit to service the light. The estimated installation cost for this work including engineering is \$40,000 of which \$4,500 is the cost of the fixture, pole and foundation. The estimated annual operational cost for this type of security lighting when illuminated continuously through the night yields an estimated annual utility cost of \$3,300 per fixture (in 2012 dollars). If funding were available for this project, a Special Use Permit would be required for installation.

Should the project remain unfunded, RPCA will continue to explore alternative options for park surveillance.

STAFF: Debra Collins, Assistant City Manager
Laura Triggs, Acting Chief Financial Officer
James B. Spengler, Director, RPCA
Morgan Routt, Acting Budget Director
Kendel Taylor, Assistant Budget Director