

City Council Strategic Planning  
Public Safety – Goal #6;  
The City Protects the Safety and Security of its Residents, Businesses, and Visitors  
November 4, 2009  
4:00pm  
Alexandria Police Department Headquarters  
2034 Eisenhower Avenue – Roll Call Room

In Attendance (and contact phone numbers):

Vice-Mayor Kerry Donley (703.746.4500)  
Councilman Frank Fannon (703.746.4500)  
Assistant City Manager Michele Evans (703.746.4300)  
Assistant City Manager Tom Gates (703.746.3716)  
Fire Chief Adam Thiel (703.706.3953)  
Assistant Fire Chief Andrew Snead (703.930.3610)  
Battalion Chief Dwayne Bonnette (703.746.5184)  
Police Chief Earl Cook (703.838.4700)  
Police Deputy Chief Blaine Corle (703.838.6336)  
Police Deputy Chief Cleveland Spruill (703.838.4580)  
Undersheriff Tony Davis (703.746.5008)  
Sheriff Division Commander Mondre' Kornegay (703.746.5009)  
Director Lillian Brooks, Court Service Unit (703.746.7742)  
Assoc. Director Liz Wixson, Mental Health/Retardation/Substance Abuse (703.746.3577)  
Kimberly Kaplan, Consumer Affairs (703.535.3189)  
Pamela Copley, Emergency Medical Services Council (703.909.4168)  
Karen Helbrecht, Local Emergency Management Committee (703.548.5784)  
Paul Pepper, Community Services Board (703.746.4477)  
Raighne Delaney, Community Criminal Justice Board (703.525.4000)  
Tom Walezkyowski, Citizen Corps Council (703.461.9206)  
Dan Rosenblatt, International Association of Chiefs of Police (703.836.6767 x201)  
Jeffrey Washington, American Correctional Association (703.224.0103)  
Daniel W. Jackson, INOVA Alexandria Hospital (703.504.7437)  
David Denardo, Alexandria Firefighters Local 2141 (703.855.2244)  
Robert Robinson, Alexandria Firefighters Local 2141 (610.764.8969)  
EMS Supervisor Brian Hricik, Alexandria Medics Association (703.505.6316)  
Pat Miller, Commission for the Arts (703.683.2570)

Minutes prepared by: Cameron Hall, Alexandria Fire Department (703.706.3953)

Representatives of Public Safety community stakeholders assembled to assist the Public Safety group with establishing Strategic Initiatives for Goal #6: The City Protects the Safety and Security of its Residents, Businesses, and Visitors. The expert panel will develop approximately three Strategic Planning goals, initiatives under those goals, and a process to measure them.

The time frame is short, as to have these goals, initiatives, and performance measures supplied to Council in time for budget preparation.

Representatives from the Sheriff's Office, Fire Department, and Police Department each gave a brief, 20 minute presentation to the panel detailing the current environment, key issues, and challenges. Copies of each presentation are available at [alexandriava.gov/StrategicPlanning](http://alexandriava.gov/StrategicPlanning).

Following Chief Thiel's presentation, panelist Tom Walczykowski asked about the use of volunteers to increase staffing levels. Firefighter and EMS certifications are difficult to maintain even for career staff. Many volunteers simply don't have the time to dedicate to maintaining these strict guidelines. Due to low staffing levels, ambulances, and the high volume of calls, Alexandria consistently relies on surrounding jurisdictions for mutual aid. All firefighters are currently certified in Basic Life Support (BLS) and with 8 engines and 5 trucks, and are often the first responders on scene on many EMS calls. Advanced Life Support (ALS) is provided by medics, who, when able to respond timely have the highest save rate in the National Capital Region. Unfortunately, during the peak hours of 8am to 10pm, medic units are simply too busy and in too high demand to respond to every call under 6 minutes. The 6 minute mark is important because a cardiac arrest patient requires ALS after 6 minutes for the greatest chance of recovery.

Lillian Brooks of the Court Service Unit provided a brief summary of gang prevention programs in Alexandria. The city has been extremely aggressive in combating gang violence and has succeeded in keeping gangs out and violence down. Working with the Police Department and Sheriff's Office, the hope is to remain vigilant and maintain the Local Gang Task Force which has been shown to deter gang membership. The entire presentation is available at [alexandriava.gov/StrategicPlanning](http://alexandriava.gov/StrategicPlanning).

The Police Department will be moving into a new public safety facility in 2011. For the recent past and until the facility is completed, the police department has been working out of 4 separate locations. Chief Cook stressed the toll this work environment has taken on the culture within the department and looks forward to the move, sure to increase the cohesiveness in the department.

Pamela Copley of the EMS Council raised her concerns regarding a possible new program to be implemented in the Fire Department. Her presentation is attached.

Raighne Delaney of the Community Criminal Justice Board suggested adding a representative from the Commonwealth's Attorney and Public Defenders offices. An invitation may also be extended to the Court System, although history dictates that judges rarely participate. However, Judge Becky Moore may likely participate if invited. Mr. Sengel, the Commonwealth's Attorney was invited to the meeting, but was unable to attend. One panel member, Mr. Paul Pepper, is employed by the Public Defenders Office as the Deputy Public Defender.

Vice Mayor Donley stressed to the panel that this group was not assembled to research or suggest service or budget cuts to public safety. While the city has had to cut positions and services in the last year due to a decrease in city revenue, this group has been impaneled to discuss and set goals and a roadmap in measuring those goals. Councilmember Fannon suggested

finding other sources of revenue and researching the current budget and city spending. A budget retreat is scheduled for this Saturday, November 7. The public is invited to attend.

In order to study projected trends in population growth and business development, the committee will ask Ken Billingsly of the Economic Sustainability Group to make a presentation. This could assist the group in determining what deficiencies are expected in the future and what appropriate resources may be needed.

Councilman Fannon suggested providing educational sessions to city employees regarding available grant funding programs to assist with home purchases in Alexandria.

The next meeting will be a roundtable discussion and is scheduled for Wednesday, November 18 at 4pm at Fire Station 209, 2800 Main Line Boulevard in Potomac Yard. All presentations, notes, and background documents have been placed on the City Website and may be accessed by logging onto [alexandriava.gov](http://alexandriava.gov).