Annual Report
Public Health Advisory Commission
July 2016 - June 2017

Submitted September 25, 2017
The primary role of the Public Health Advisory Commission (PHAC) is to advise and support the City and City Council by evaluating and advising on all health matters and on the priority of public health needs in Alexandria. The sixteen-member group meets on the third Thursday of the month at the Alexandria Health Department (AHD). Per the City code, the functions, powers, and duties of the Commission include: advising and supporting citizens and City Council on health matters in the city, providing information and evaluation of public health related matters at the request of City Council, investigating specific public health issues on its own initiative and at the request of the City Council, and providing a forum for the discussion of public health matters. The following report highlights PHAC’s activities in Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17).

**Overview**

PHAC was very busy in FY17, engaging in activities such as hosting speakers, aiding in drafting a resolution on health care access, and continuing its focus on AHD’s budgetary concerns. Invited speakers included the Chief Financial Officer of Inova Alexandria Hospital, proponents of the City’s Vision Zero program, and representatives from a community organization and the City’s Commission on Aging regarding developing a health care access resolution. In response to PHAC’s ever-growing workload, the Commission formed subcommittees and a working group to address issues such as public health priorities for inclusion in the City’s annual legislative packet, restructuring the Flora Kraus Casey award, and follow-up activities associated with the health care access resolution.

**FY17 Priority Areas**

In FY17 PHAC continued focusing on the priorities from the previous year: budget challenges facing AHD, pedestrian and bicycle injuries and fatalities, and access to care issues. (See Appendix A for a detailed breakdown of dates, actions and Commissioners involved in specific activities.)

**Budget Concerns**

AHD’s budget concerns were addressed both by pursuing the option of local administration for the department and requesting no further budget cuts. Commission Chair Katya Wanzer and Vice Chair Ann Harbour met with the City’s Legislative Director to discuss local administration for AHD. While the City Manager’s office declined pursuing the issue at this time, PHAC remains committed to the concept and will revisit the possibility in the future if the economic climate becomes more amenable. Chairwoman Wanzer also sent a letter to the City Manager’s office requesting no further budget cuts to AHD, pointing out that in the previous ten-year budget cycle the department’s city-funded portion of Alexandria’s budget had a 1% decrease despite a 36% increase in the general fund.

Rick Talento, CFO of Inova Alexandria Hospital, was the guest speaker at PHAC’s December meeting. Clarification of the hospital’s role in the City’s public health infrastructure has long been an issue of inquiry for PHAC. In particular, the Commission has been interested in learning the particulars of the Memo of Understanding between Inova Alexandria and the City. Mr. Talento provided a detailed overview of the hospital’s historic and complex financial arrangements with the City, and in particular the OB Hospitalist program as detailed by the MOU.

**Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety**

PHAC continued promoting the findings from its AHD-Commissioned report *Alexandria Fire Department Response to Pedestrians Struck and Bicycle Crashes*. Commission Chair Wanzer commented on the findings of the report in relation to the high number of
pedestrian fatalities in the City at Council’s December 17th Public Hearing meeting. PHAC hosted both Ray Hayhurst, the City’s Complete Streets Coordinator, and Jim Durham, Chair of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, to learn about the Vision Zero program. As a follow up, PHAC sent a letter of support to City Council endorsing adoption of the Vision Zero program. Annual updates to the Alexandria Fire Department Response to Pedestrians Struck and Bicycle Crashes report were being finalized and approved at the end of FY17.

**Health Care Access**
The issue of health care access in the city was primarily addressed by working on a resolution in response to potential changes to the Affordable Care Act. The Healthcare Team of Grassroots Alexandria, a community-based education and action group, approached PHAC in March 2017 for assistance in drafting such a resolution. Multiple meetings were held between the Grassroots Healthcare Team and specific PHAC Commissioners, AHD epidemiologists, and City Council members. By the end of FY17, a draft resolution was being finalized in order to be submitted for the docket of City Council’s September legislative meeting.

From the *Alexandria Gazette*, March 30, 2017.
“Community activists in Alexandria thanked Mayor Allison Silberberg for her decision to sign the Cities Thrive letter denouncing the GOP Health Care bill. From right are PHAC members Dan Hawkins, Arlene Hewitt; Richard Merritt; Elizabeth Ghandakly, Katya Wanzer, and Lauren Tamara Wilson.”

**Membership Changes**
PHAC’s membership was relatively consistent in FY17. Ann Harbour was elected Vice-Chair, replacing Katie Dziak who had quit the Commission in the prior Fiscal Year. Former chair Meredith Taylor resigned, due to relocating outside of Alexandria, and was replaced by long-term former Commissioner Arlene Hewitt. Chris Dunay, a representative with the Alexandria Community Services Board, attended the April meeting and by June was an official member of the Commission. (See Appendix B for a detailed roster of Commission membership and Appendix C for the Meeting Attendance Report.)

**Flora Krause Casey Award**
For over two decades, the Flora Krause Casey Award has been recognizing individuals for their work in furthering the health of the Alexandria community. The award is in honor of Flora Krause Casey, whose life work improved the health of Alexandria’s most needy and vulnerable residents. In FY17 PHAC chose to not grant the award, but rather to form a subcommittee to streamline and update the award process. Both the awardee criteria and planning timeline will be examined to expand eligibility and determine a more practical event date. The subcommittee met in February and its recommendations will be acted on in the fall.

**Recommendations**
The Commission appreciates City Council’s review of this year’s Annual Report and welcomes questions and feedback regarding its content. Going forward, PHAC encourages City Council to proactively refer to the Commission as a resource on Alexandria’s public health matters. The Commission welcomes the opportunity to examine public health issues of interest and develop recommendations as appropriate.
### Appendix A

#### PHAC Activity Timeline July-December 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JULY</th>
<th>AUGUST</th>
<th>SEPTEMBER</th>
<th>OCTOBER</th>
<th>NOVEMBER</th>
<th>DECEMBER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7/21 Monthly meeting (Not held - too few commissioners available)</td>
<td>8/2 Meeting with Alexandria Legislative Director • With Commissioners Harbour and Wanzer</td>
<td>9/15 Monthly meeting</td>
<td>10/13 FY18 Budget Kick-Off Community Meeting • Attended by Commissioners Wanzer, Harbour, and Lomax</td>
<td>11/17 Monthly meeting</td>
<td>12/15 Monthly meeting – guest speaker Rick Talento, CFO, Inova Hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/18 Monthly meeting (not held – per summer tradition)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10/14 Meet with Mayor Silberberg to discuss local administration of AHD and other general public health matters • With Commissioners Haering (AHD Director) and Wanzer</td>
<td></td>
<td>12/15 Query memo sent to City Manager regarding Inova MOU</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>10/20 Monthly meeting – guest speaker Ray Hayhusrt, Complete Streets Coordinator</td>
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<td>12/17 City Council Public Legislative Meeting • Commissioner Wanzer spoke on AHD Bicycle and Pedestrian incident Report</td>
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<td>10/31 Budget priorities letter sent to City Manager</td>
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Appendix A, Cont.

**PHAC Activity Timeline January-June 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JANUARY</th>
<th>FEBRUARY</th>
<th>MARCH</th>
<th>APRIL</th>
<th>MAY</th>
<th>JUNE</th>
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<tr>
<td>1/5 Vision Zero Program support letter submitted to City Council</td>
<td>2/7 Casey Award subcommittee meeting • Commissioners Lomax, Nowack, and Rogers</td>
<td>3/16 Monthly meeting</td>
<td>4/20 Monthly meeting - guest speakers Grassroots Alexandria Healthcare Team representatives to discuss ACA support resolution</td>
<td>5/8 Working group meeting held • Commissioners Hawkins, Ghandalky, Wanzer and Wilson</td>
<td>6/15 Monthly meeting cancelled (Chair and Vice Chair unavailable)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/16 Monthly meeting</td>
<td>2/16 Monthly meeting</td>
<td>3/30 City Hall gathering to thank Mayor Silberberg for signing Cities Thrive letter • Attended by Commissioners Hawkins, Hewitt, Ghandalky, Merritt, Wanzer and Wilson</td>
<td>5/18 Monthly meeting</td>
<td>5/18 Monthly meeting</td>
<td>6/23 Commission Chair Wanzer discussed findings from the Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Report at the ‘Red Light for Traffic Deaths’ session at Spotlight Health festival in Aspen, Colorado</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6/29 Legislative Agenda subcommittee meeting • Commissioners Harbour, Lomax, Merritt and Rogers</td>
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Appendix B
Membership Roster
July 2016 - June 2017

July 2016 - June 2017 Roster

Three health professional citizen members:
- Dan Hawkins
- Patricia Rogers
- Katya Wanzer (Chair)

Five non-health professional citizen members:
- Ruth Chamowitz
- Liz Ghandalky
- Arlene Hewitt (as of April 2017)
- Richard Merritt
- Meredith Taylor (resigned February 2017)
- L. Tamara Wilson

A physician practicing in the city, nominated by the Medical Society of Northern Virginia:
- Dr. Michael C. Trahos

A dentist practicing in the city, nominated by the Northern Virginia Dental Society:
- Dr. Jessica Hill

A representative of the Alexandria Community Services Board:
- Christopher Dunay (appointed June 2017 – no meeting held that month)

A representative from Inova Alexandria Hospital, nominated by the hospital:
- Ann Harbour

A representative from Neighborhood Health Board of Directors:
- Keith Hearle

A representative from the city's Office of Emergency Preparedness/Fire Department:
- Brian Hricik

A representative from the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria:
- Allen Lomax

A representative from the Alexandria City School Board:
- Barbara Nowak

A representative from the Alexandria Health Department (non-voting):
- Dr. Stephen Haering
### CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
### BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
### MEETING ATTENDANCE REPORT

**JULY 1, 2016 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2017**

**COMMISSION:** Public Health Advisory Committee  
**CHAIRPERSON:** Katya Wanzer

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<tr>
<th>MEMBER'S NAME</th>
<th>2016</th>
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<td>Wilson, Tamara</td>
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**INDICATE:**
- **X** - FOR PRESENT
- **E** - FOR EXCUSED
- **U** - FOR UNEXCUSED

**LIST OF THOSE WHO DID NOT ATTEND 75% OF MEETINGS:**

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**APPROVED:**

[Signature]

Katya Wanzer