CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

ANNUAL REPORT 1955-56

YOUR CITY COUNCIL

"Home Town of George Washington and Robert E. Lee"

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
VIRGINIA

LEROY S. BENDHEIM
MAYOR
JOSEPH M. PANCOAST
VICE MAYOR
EDWARD G. HEATWOLE
CITY MANAGER

COUNCILMEN
JAMES M. DUNCAN, JR.
JOHN J. EWALD
F. CLINTON KNIGHT
FRANK E. MANN
JOHN T. TICER

October 9, 1956

Honorable Mayor and
Members of City Council
Alexandria, Virginia

Gentlemen:

By direction of the Charter of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, this Annual Report has been prepared and submitted for information and has been printed at your request.

I wish to express my appreciation to you for the consideration extended to this office and to acknowledge the support of the other officials of the City, the Department Heads and their employees.

Sincerely,

E. G. Heatwole
City Manager

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CITY MANAGER

EDWARD G. HEATWOLE

MAYOR

LEROY S. BENDHEIM

VICE MAYOR

JOSEPH M. PANCOAST

COUNCILMEN:

JAMES M. DUNCAN, JR.

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"Home Town of George Washington and Robert E. Lee"

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
VIRGINIA

LEROY S. BENDHEIM
MAYOR

November 23, 1956

To the Citizens of Alexandria, Virginia

My dear Fellow Citizens:

The attached annual report of the operations of our municipality should be a source of justifiable pride to all of us residing in the City of Alexandria. I can say to the people of the City that your City Council has been ever conscious of the necessity of maintaining adequate and efficient City services at the lowest possible cost to the taxpayer.

The attached report clearly demonstrates that we have a municipality efficiently operated, modern in its consistency to a true Council-Manager form of government, and progressive in its governmental policies and philosophy. I congratulate the executive officer of the City, his department heads, and all of our many loyal employees upon the accomplishments and achievements exemplified in this very splendid annual report.

Sincerely yours,

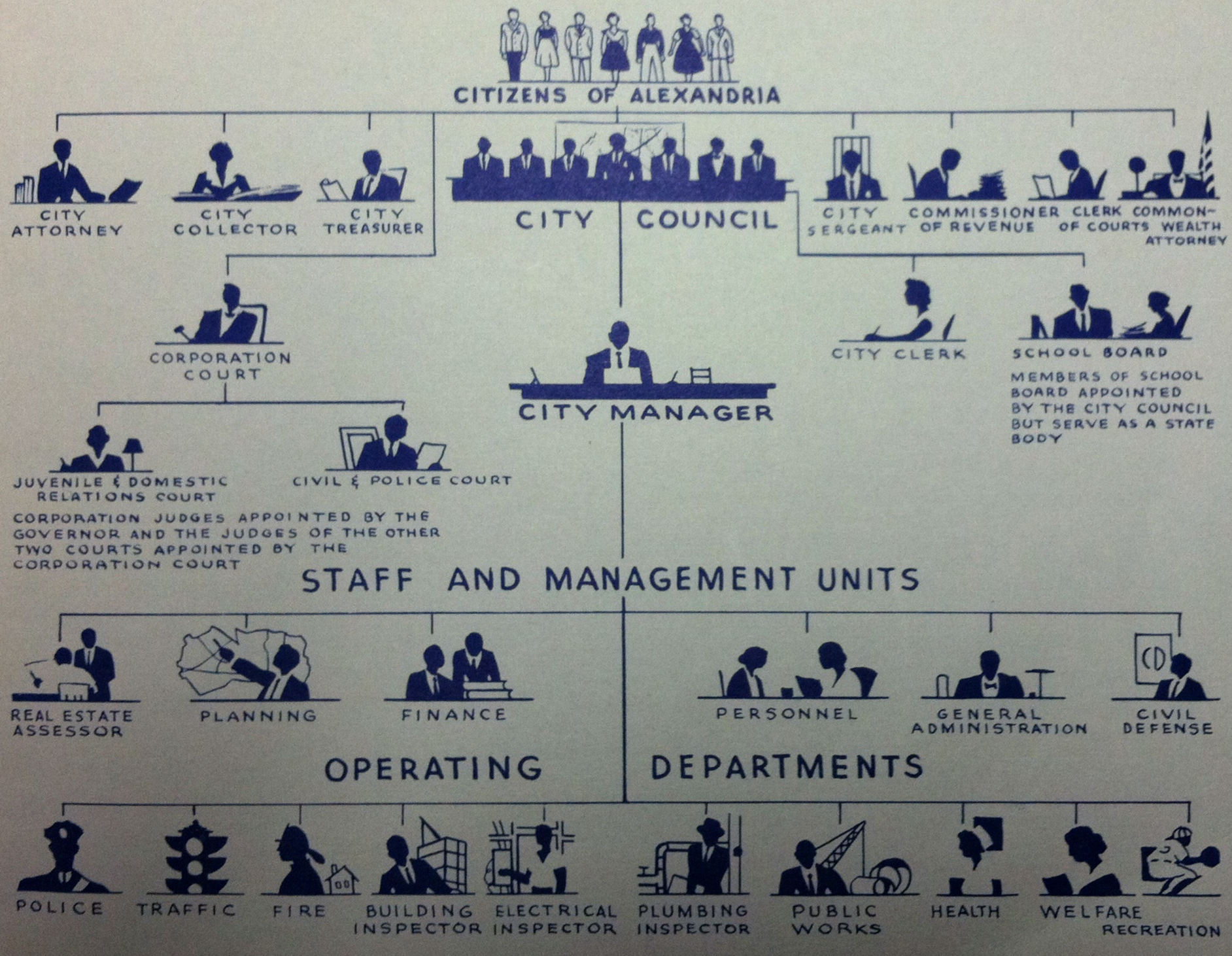
Leroy S. Bendheim
Mayor

LSB:ek

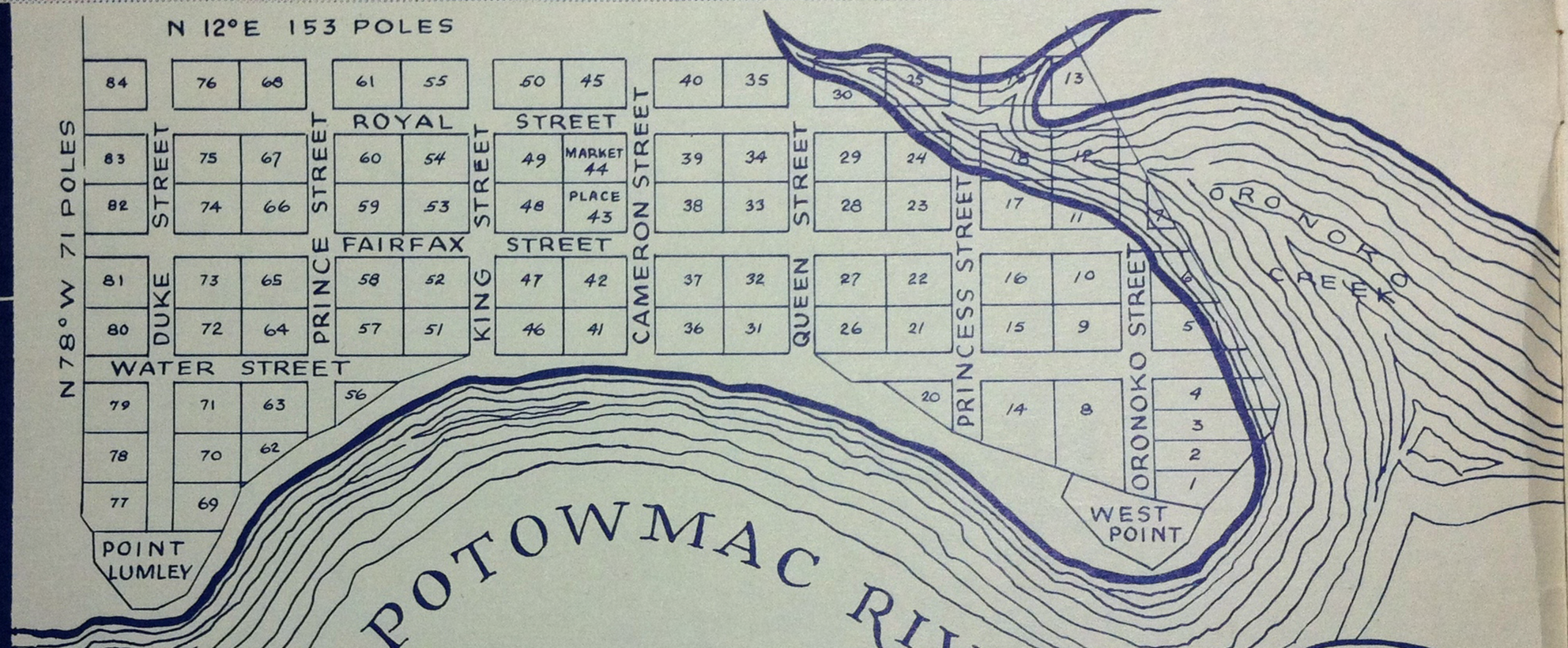
FRANK E. MANN

JOHN J. EWALD

ORGANIZATION CHART CITY OF ALEXANDRIA



PLAN OF ALEXANDRIA TOWN 1749



PLAN OF ALEXANDRIA TOWN

FAIRFAX CO. JULY 18, 1749

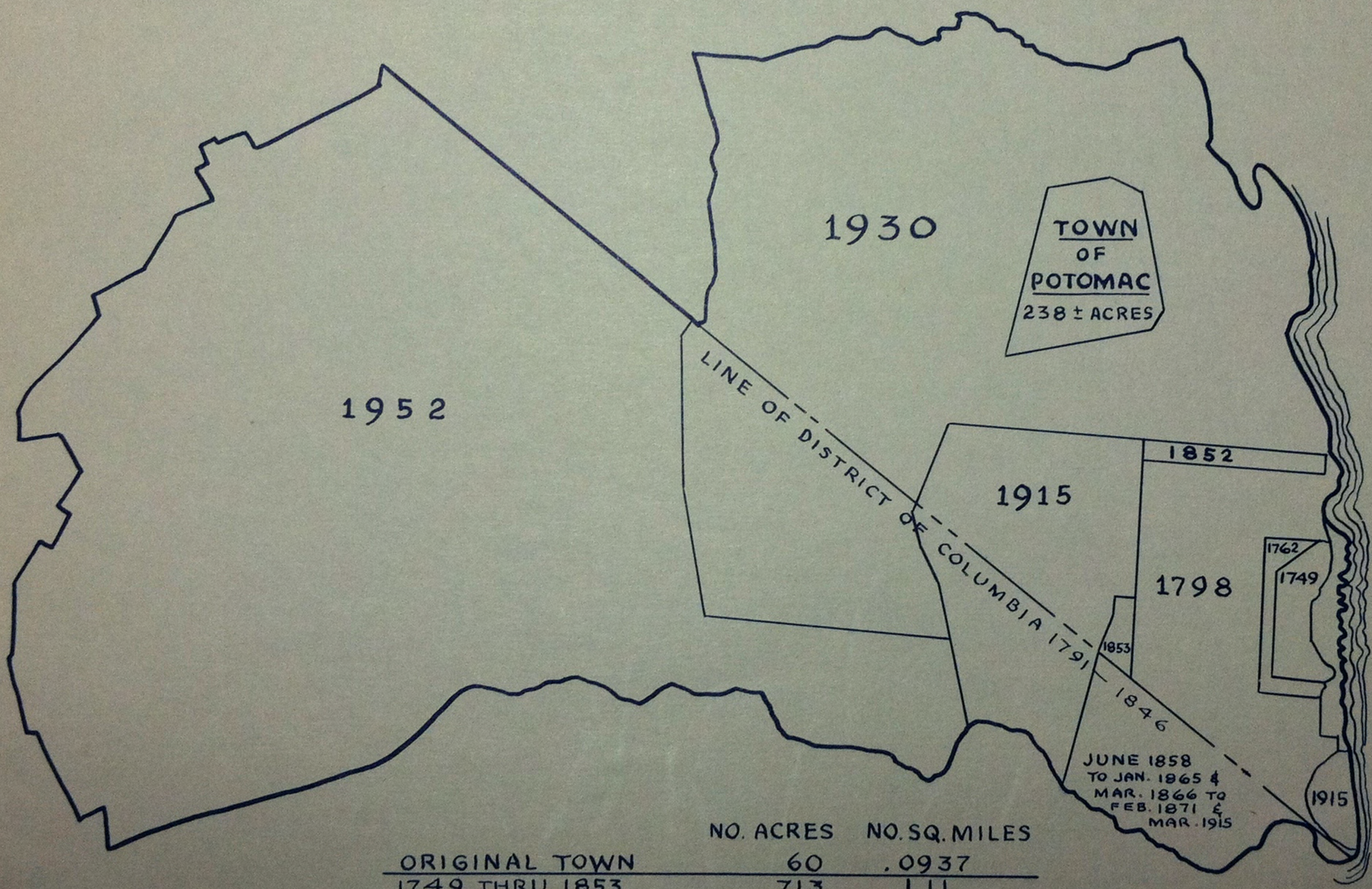
BY VIRTUE OF AN "ACT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MADE AT THE COLLEGE IN THE CITY OF WILLIAMSBURG, IN THE TWENTY-SECOND YEAR OF THE REIGN OF OUR SOVEREIGN LORD GEORGE THE SECOND BY THE GRACE OF GOD OF GREAT BRITAIN, FRANCE & IRELAND, KING, DEFENDER OF THE FAITH &c. AND IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND, SEVEN HUNDRED AND FORTY-EIGHT ENTITLED AND "ACT FOR ERECTING A TOWN AT HUNTING CREEK WAREHOUSES, IN THE COUNTY OF FAIRFAX,"--AND PURSUANT TO THE DIRECTIONS AND ORDER OF RICHARD OSBORNE, LAWRENCE WASHINGTON, WILLIAM RAMSEY, JOHN CARLYLE, GERARD ALEXANDER AND HUGH WEST, GENTLEMEN BY THE SAID ACT APPOINTED TRUSTEES FOR THE SAID TOWN TO BE CALLED ALEXANDRIA. I THE SUBSCRIBER DID SURVEY AND LAY OFF SIXTY ACRES OF LAND TO BE FOR THE TOWN AND DIVIDE THE SAME INTO LOTS, STREETS, &c AS PR THE PLAN THEREOF...

(SIGNED) JOHN WEST JR., DEPUTY SURVEYOR FAIRFAX CO.

MEMO: The General Assembly in which the act was made began the 27th of October 1748

GROWTH OF CITY BY ANNEXATION

1749
1762
1798
1852
1853
1915
1930
1952



	NO. ACRES	NO. SQ. MILES
ORIGINAL TOWN	60	.0937
1749 THRU 1853	713	1.11
1915	985.6	1.54
1930 ARLINGTON CO.	2585±	4.038
1930 FAIRFAX CO.	911±	1.423
1952 FAIRFAX CO	4800±	7.500
TOTAL	9994.6	15.611

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FOR 1955—1956

THE CITY COUNCIL PASSED A BOND ISSUE RESOLUTION AND ORDINANCE DURING THE YEAR IN THE AMOUNT OF $5,316,000

THE SCHOOL PORTION WAS $1,571,000

AMOUNT SOLD ON THIS ISSUE ON JANUARY 25, 1956, $2,300,000

ECONOMIC BASE STUDY AND LAND USE PLAN SURVEY COMPLETED

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

- Completion of $800,000 Incinerator
- Approval of plans for remodeling and enlarging city jail at cost of $400,000
- Restoration of Ramsey House, $24,000
- Authorization for construction of Seminary Road Fire House, $148,267
- Storm and sanitary sewers construction, $782,000
- Street rebuilding and resurfacing, $536,000
- Park land acquisition and improvements, $110,000

PUBLIC REPORTING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

- The City presented its departments and activities at a Municipal Exhibition-Demonstration, Sept. 1955
- Special reports and news articles prepared for all news media
- Trash and refuse procedures pamphlet placed in every dwelling unit
- Municipal operations explained on local civic club bi-weekly radio program
- City government participated in Chamber of Commerce Golden Jubilee with dedicatory ceremonies at four sites

SUPPORT OF LOCAL PROJECTS

- Aided Alexandria Tourist Council in printing of tourist booklet
- Worked jointly with Chamber of Commerce in promoting development of waterfront and harbor
- Requested state legislation for action on establishing a parking authority

MAJOR ORDINANCES ADOPTED DURING THE YEAR

- Creation of Personnel Department
- Reconstitution of Traffic and Parking Board
- Reconstitution of Board of Health
- Control of street trees
- Provision for microfilming of City Records

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

- Centralization of city insurance
- Commencement of annual assessment program
- Acceptance of retirement and pension plan, group life insurance plan and allowance for payroll deductions for group hospitalization

CHARTER CHANGES

FOR THE INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTION OF THE CITIZENS OF ALEXANDRIA THE FOLLOWING MAJOR CHANGES IN THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA ARE BEING STATED:

1. The Mayor shall be elected separately from the six Council Members-at-large. A candidate for Mayor shall file his petition specifically for this office. In the event no candidate shall file a petition for the office of Mayor, the ballot shall show no candidate for that office and the member of council receiving the largest popular vote shall be Mayor of the City.
2. The Vice Mayor shall be elected by a majority vote of the Mayor and the six Councilmen at Large.
3. Every ordinance after passage shall be given a serial number and shall be recorded by the Clerk in a properly indexed book kept for that purpose. The Council may have the Ordinance, under the direction of the City Attorney, codified, printed and distributed as it chooses. Changes of section numbers, titles, chapters, articles and correction of printers' errors or other unmistakable errors may be accomplished without further reference. Council can incorporate in its records by reference.
4. The City Manager is directed to prepare and submit to Council a program of capital improvement projects and a budget for such items, covering such a term of years as Council may designate.
5. The City Manager is given the authority to appoint a Real Estate Assessor. An annual assessment and equalization of assessments will be conducted by the administrative official through the Real Estate Assessor; and all real estate shall be assessed at the fair market value as of January 1 of each year by such Assessor.
6. The City Trial Board has been eliminated and all employees in the city service appointed by the City Manager are subject to administrative procedures established by the City Manager.

PROCEDURAL CHANGES IN TAX COLLECTION

Your State income tax for the income year 1955 must be paid in full by December 5, 1956. In order to help finance badly needed State capital outlays without increasing taxes for the purpose, the General Assembly, at its regular session of 1956, changed the date for the payment of individual and fiduciary income taxes for income years after the income year 1955. Your State income tax for the income year 1956 will be payable at the time you file your return between January 1, 1957 and May 1, 1957; your State income tax for the income year 1957 will be payable at the time you file your return between January 1, 1958 and May 1, 1958, and so on for succeeding years. If one's tax is more than $50, payment may be made in two installments; in such case, the taxpayer must pay $50 or one-half of the tax, whichever is the greater, when he files his return, and he may pay the balance, with interest, on or before October 1. Returns must be filed with the commissioner of the revenue of your county or city, as in the past, and the tax must be paid to the treasurer of your county or city. Your cooperation in making arrangements to file and pay on time is earnestly requested for the public good.

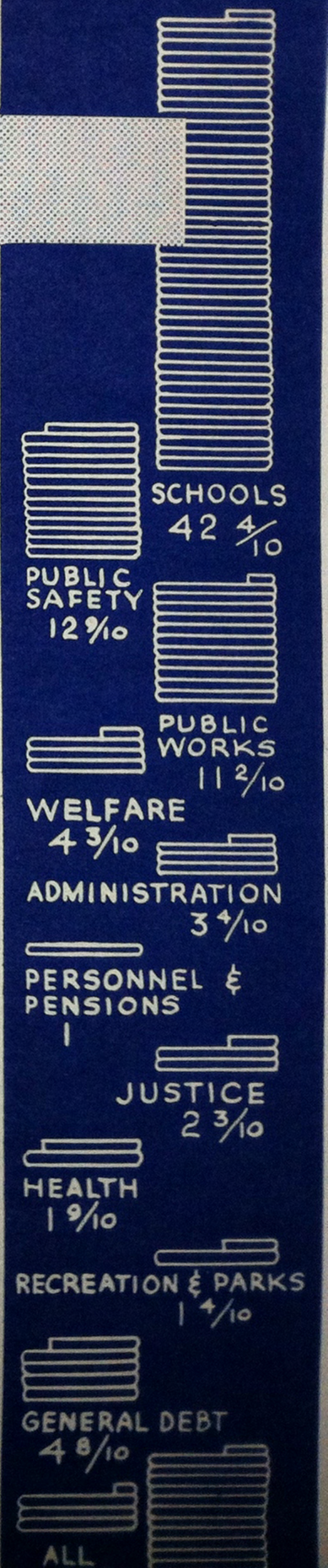
1955-56 REVENUE

Source of Revenue	Dollar Amounts	Portion of Dollar
TAXES		
Real Estate Tax	$ 3,720,526.41	.3828
Personal Property Tax	1,403,369.41	.1444
Consumer Utility Tax	490,606.84	.0505
Other Tax Revenue	129,076.57	.0132
Total Taxes	$ 5,743,579.23	.5909
LICENSES		
Business Licenses	$ 680,721.08	.0700
Motor Vehicle Tags	195,150.03	.0201
Permits and Fees	204,756.14	.0211
Total Licenses	$ 1,080,627.25	.1112
FINES AND COSTS	$ 145,738.64	.0150
STATE & FEDERAL FUNDS		
General Fund Grants	$ 812,232.57	.0836
School Fund Grants	1,512,472.47	.1556
Total State & Federal	$ 2,324,705.04	.2392
SERVICE CHARGES		
General Fund Charges	$ 326,108.59	.0336
School Fund Charges	21,542.50	.0022
Total Service Charges	$ 347,651.09	.0358
ALL OTHER REVENUE		
General Fund	$ 62,165.97	.0064
School Fund	14,370.45	.0015
Total All Other Revenue	$ 76,536.42	.0079
TOTAL REVENUE	$ 9,718,837.67	1.00

1955-56 EXPENDITURES

FUNCTION	BUDGET	PORTION OF DOLLAR
ADMINISTRATION		
Legislative	23,939.33	.0025
Law	20,368.01	.0021
Executive	27,475.58	.0028
Finance	253,823.18	.0261
Total Administration	325,606.10	.0335
PERSONNEL & PENSIONS	101,214.11	.0104
ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE	226,154.24	.0233
HEALTH	183,631.56	.0189
PUBLIC SAFETY		
Police	550,283.86	.0566
Fire	391,973.21	.0403
Traffic	122,625.53	.0126
Inspections, etc.	189,154.99	.0195
Total Public Safety	1,254,037.59	.1290
WELFARE	418,890.00	.0431
PUBLIC WORKS		
Engineering	128,470.95	.0132
Streets	476,222.47	.0490
Lighting Streets	36,367.00	.0038
Sewers	66,325.36	.0068
Sanitation	202,024.73	.0208
Shops	74,905.92	.0077
Capital Improvement	106,882.00	.0110
Total Public Works	1,091,198.43	.1123
RECREATION AND PARKS	139,924.56	.0144

FUNCTION	BUDGET	PORTION OF DOLLAR
PUBLIC SCHOOLS		
Operating Expense	3,613,023.19	.3718
School Debt Service	508,693.00	.0523
Total Public Schools	4,121,716.19	.4241
GENERAL DEBT SERVICE	462,153.72	.0476
CONTINGENCIES	.00	
ALL OTHER FUNCTIONS		
Libraries	59,511.17	.0061
Planning	33,620.49	.0034
Elections	18,889.71	.0019
Contributions	69,572.98	.0072
Buildings	56,860.29	.0059
Miscellaneous, Insurance, etc.	61,345.11	.0063
Total All Other Functions	299,799.75	.0308
SURPLUS ADDITION AT END OF YEAR		
General Fund	689,776.19	.0710
School Fund	404,735.23	.0416
Total Surplus	1,094,511.42	.1126
TOTAL EXPENDITURES & SURPLUS ADDITIONS	9,718,837.67	1.00



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET

FIVE YEARS 1956 — 1961

DEPARTMENT	TOTAL REQUEST	APPROVED BY BOND ORDINANCE	AMOUNT TO BE FINANCED
Schools	$ 4,739,300	$1,571,000	$3,168,300
Recreation and Parks	428,000	360,000	68,000
Public Buildings and Improvements	1,380,000	550,000	830,000
Fire Department	695,000	365,000	330,000
Public Works (Storm Sewers)	852,500	617,000	235,500
Public Works (Sanitary Sewers)	750,000	165,000	585,000
Public Works (Bridges)	535,000	210,000	325,000
Public Works (Streets)	3,926,800	536,000	3,390,800
Traffic Control	67,500	———	67,500
TOTALS	$13,374,100	$4,374,000	$9,000,100

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Recognition should be given to the significant contributions made by the officials and citizens who comprise the membership of the groups listed on this page.

AUTHORITIES

Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority
City of Alexandria, Virginia, Sanitation Authority

BOARDS

Board of Alexandria Library
Board of Architectural Review
Board of Barber Examiners
Board of Fire Zone Appeals
Board of Health
Board of Zoning Appeals
District Home Board
Electrical Board
Library Board
Mental Hygiene Board
Plumbing Board
School Board
Traffic and Parking Board

COMMISSIONS

Historical Records Advisory Commission
Northern Virginia Regional Planning Commission
Planning Commission (City of Alexandria)

COMMITTEES

Auditorium-Gymnasium Committee
Building Code Committee
Citizens Housing Advisory Committee
Committee for Extension of the University of Virginia in Northern Virginia
Juvenile Detention Home Subcommittee of the Northern Virginia Regional Planning Commission

ELECTED FISCAL OFFICERS

CITY TREASURER

This official collects all State taxes and licenses, and serves as Custodian of City Funds.

CITY COLLECTOR

This official collects all City taxes and licenses, and all other City revenues.

COMMISSIONER OF REVENUE

This official assesses all State and City taxes and licenses.

SERVICE TO THE CITY

SCHOOLS

The Alexandria Public Schools are controlled by a local School Board composed of seven members, each of whom is appointed by City Council. The Alexandria School Board operates under the laws of the State. It appoints a Superintendent to administer the policies of the Board.

There were seventeen Public Schools with a total enrollment of 11,089 during 1955-1956. The enrollment on the third day of the 1956-1957 school year showed that there was an increase of 1,204 students over the previous year.

The public schools employ 580 teachers and approximately 320 persons in clerical and maintenance services.

The Alexandria Public School System is the only school division in the metropolitan area which is operating on a full day basis. The other school divisions are compelled to operate on half day session for many classes.

The Adult Night School, which is divided into apprentice training, avocational pursuits, and sessions for adults wishing to finish high school, has more than 1,000 students enrolled each year. The local curriculum is more diversified than any other night school in the State of Virginia.

Summer School sessions are offered each year.

Francis Hammond High School was completed at a cost of $2,211,385.00 and was constructed at a cost of $12.50 a square foot. The average is over $13.00 a square foot.

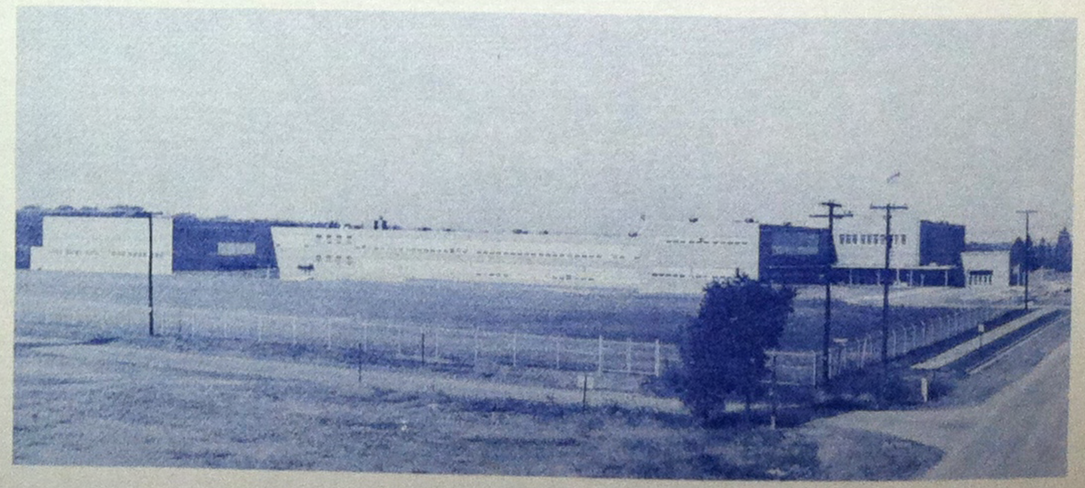
The annual cost to educate one pupil is $222.69. In order to receive this sum from a real estate tax payment, the sales price on the house would have to be $21,000.

The following schools have been constructed in the past five years:

Cora Kelly
Robert E. Lee
Patrick Henry
Minnie Howard
Francis Hammond

Additions have been made to:

Maury
George Mason
MacArthur
Mt. Vernon



FRANCIS C. HAMMOND HIGH SCHOOL

SERVICE TO THE CITY

The function of the POLICE DEPARTMENT is traditionally the protection of life and property and the prevention of crime. This Department is divided into 4 divisions: Patrol, Traffic, Detective and Records and Identification, with a total of 110 police officers, 10 civilian employees and 21 school crossing guards. With the increase in our population to nearly 85,000, the work load of the Police Department has increased likewise.

Although the adoption of and changeover to the five day work week was the most noteworthy accomplishment of the past year there were other conditions existing which affected the operation of the Police Department in large measure. The difficulty of securing and maintaining police officers can be said to head the list of problems.

Stolen Property Recovered	$180,897.00
Parking Meter Revenue	78,409.00
Taxi Cab Licenses	1,981.00
City and State Fines	138,858.00
Bicycle Licenses	132.00
Record Check, Fingerprints & Miscellaneous	478.00
	$400,755.00
Police Department Budget Request	$621,434.00
Remunerations in Fines, Revenues, etc.	400,755.00
Cost of Operation for Year	$220,679.00

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS FISCAL YEAR 1954-55 AND 1955-56

1954-55	ACCIDENTS	1460
1955-56	ACCIDENTS	1892
1954-55	INJURIES	345
1955-56	INJURIES	469
1954-55	5	DEATHS
1955-56	1	DEATHS

THE FOLLOWING TABULATION GIVES AN INDICATION OF SOME OF THE SERVICES PROVIDED:

OFFENSES REPORTED TO POLICE AND OFFENSES CLEARED

	Reported	Cleared	
Murder	4	4	1954-55
	5	5	1955-56
Manslaughter	2	2	1954-55
	1	1	1955-56
Rape	20	14	1954-55
	19	16	1955-56
Robbery	44	14	1954-55
	42	26	1955-56
Agg. Assault	218	163	1954-55
	221	157	1955-56
Burglary	331	71	1954-55
	486	166	1955-56
Larceny over $50	240	60	1954-55
	228	52	1955-56
Larceny under $50	1107	147	1954-55
	1228	224	1955-56
Auto Theft	198	85	1954-55
	198	72	1955-56

PERSONS ARRESTED AND CONVICTED

	Arrested	Convicted	
Murder	4	4	1954-55
	4	2	1955-56
Manslaughter	3	0	1954-55
Rape	0		
	7	1	1955-56
Robbery	13	12	1954-55
	22	20	1955-56
Agg. Assault	111	93	1954-55
	195	105	1955-56
Burglary	25	25	1954-55
	51	41	1955-56
Larceny Except Auto	95	75	1954-55
	191	116	1955-56
Auto Theft	12	10	1954-55
	16	10	1955-56

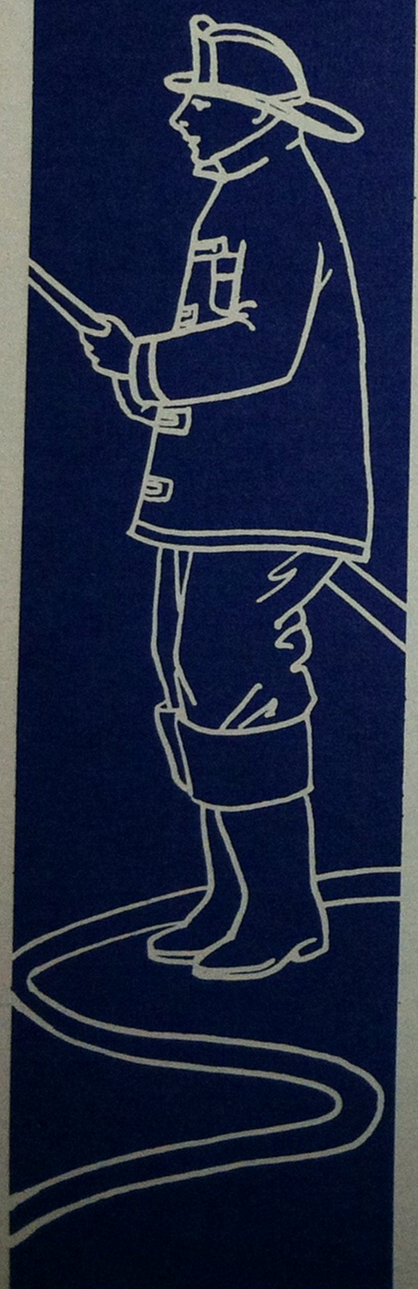
Arrested Convicted	1954-55	1955-56
Other Assaults	212	205
	135	134
Forgery & Counterfeiting	72	59
	66	39
Embezzlement & Fraud	7	5
	7	3
Buying and Receiving Stolen Property	4	2
	4	2
Concealed Weapons	32	39
	31	26
Commercialized Vice and Prostitution	1	0
	1	0

Arrested Convicted	1954-55	1955-56
Sex Offenses	11	7
	6	4
Offenses against Family and Children	522	600
	400	338
Narcotic Laws	2	2
	2	2
Liquor Laws	32	41
	60	31
Drunkenness	1,470	1,679
	1,419	1,671
Disorderly Conduct	413	429
	325	316
Vagrancy	81	39
	81	39

Arrested Convicted	1954-55	1955-56
Gambling	80	37
	54	37
Driving under the Influence	171	236
	161	171
Reckless Driving and Other Road Violations	3,805	4,286
	3,239	3769
Parking	16,234	22,491
	15,922	19,644
Other Traffic and Motor Laws	2,005	2,098
	1,869	1,952
All Other Violations	766	754
	619	644

SERVICE TO THE CITY

FIRE



The growth in population, development of both the new area and the older section of the City has caused an over-all increase in Fire Department activities. It is expected that the continued population increase and development of the new territory will require more services from the Fire Department.

Inauguration of five day week for firemen, authorized by City Council on June 28, 1955, has not been possible, due to lack of qualified persons to fill jobs available. Until personnel are hired, the five day week plan cannot be adopted.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Construction of No. 6 Station on Seminary Road and construction of a fire alarm system is in progress. No. 6 Station will house apparatus and personnel to serve a portion of the western part of the City. The fire alarm system includes an addition to No. 5 Station and will contain the headquarters equipment for the system. Street fire alarm boxes will be strategically located in the high value areas of the City for alarm reporting.

CLASSIFICATION OF ALARMS

	1954-55	1955-56	Increase or Decrease
HOW ALARMS WERE RECEIVED			
Box	6	16	10
Telephone	3,242	3,789	547
FIRES			
In buildings	387	437	50
Brush, grass, woods	213	179	34—
Trash, litter	58	31	27—
Miscellaneous fires outside	84	60	24—
Vehicles on the street	78	101	23
	820	808	12—
RESCUE SQUAD			
Rescue or emergency	2,095	2,560	465
Transfer	218	268	50
	2,313	2,828	515
CALLS OTHER THAN FIRES			
Silent alarm	81	100	19
Accidental alarm	12	20	8
False alarms	8	15	7
TOTAL CALLS IN THE CITY	3,234	3,771	537
OUT OF CITY CALLS			
Fire	14	34	20
	3,248	3,805	557
PERSONS KILLED	0	2	2
CITIZENS INJURED	21	17	4—
FIREMEN INJURED	41	58	17
FIRE AND AMBULANCE RESPONSE			
Fire department	921	943	22
Rescue squad	2,313	2,828	515
			537

FIRE LOSS

From September 1955 thru June 1956

$75,321.55

Reported fire losses in *high value areas* census tracts 7, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20 total $57,674.90, or approximately 75% of the total loss for the period indicated above.

FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTIONS

From January 1956 thru June 1956

Inspections	1,240
Re-inspections	194

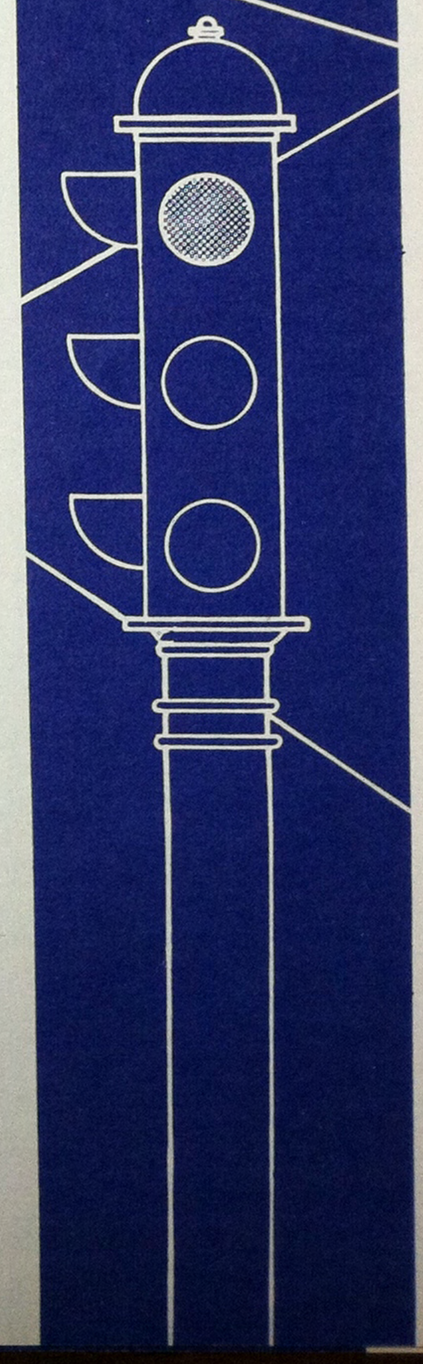
Approximately 80% of the total inspections have been made in the high value areas of the City. This program is designed to minimize the fire loss in these areas and while a concerted effort is being made to carry out inspections, we are unable to meet the requirements of the fire prevention ordinance due to the lack of sufficient personnel to perform the work.

In conformity with the National Board of Fire Underwriters' recommendation, two stations now answer each alarm.

Through the development of tactical procedures, commencing of fire alarm system installation and construction of new Number 6 Firehouse the penalty points, assessed by the National Board of Fire Underwriters, dropped from 2,006 to 1,685.

SERVICE TO THE CITY

TRAFFIC



The Traffic and Parking Board is composed of seven lay citizens appointed by the City Council for a term of two years. The ordinance adopted by the City Council designates the City Manager or any member of his staff as he may select to advise the Board in their consideration of certain problems. The same ordinance also created the position of the Director of Traffic and defines the duties of that office. The Traffic and Parking Board held sixteen regular and eight special meetings for the year 1955-1956.

OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT

1. The adoption and rapid replacement of the "yellow" STOP sign with the "red" STOP sign with increased reflectorization for night observance.
2. The installation of a "flashing speed limit" sign in the immediate vicinity of schools.
3. The adoption of the "Yield Right of Way" sign at intersections.
4. The use of the electric speed timer to determine accurately the speed of vehicles on a given street.
5. The first full complete installation of a "Walk — Don't Walk" system which can be controlled by the pedestrian.
6. The first installation of the "12" red signal lens to aid in the reduction of signal violations.
7. A comprehensive analysis of traffic problems in a given area or at a particular location.
8. The reflectorization of street name signs.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Total number of signs placed	7,164	Issuance and approval of permits	1,564
Stolen or misplaced bicycles picked up	115	Number of vehicles impounded	660
Emergency fire calls responded to	138	Impounded vehicles released	536
Emergency auto accidents responded to	26	Impounded vehicles sold at public auction	62
Parades covered by department	6	Vehicle volume (mechanical) counts taken	210
Special events covered by department	49	Pedestrian studies and counts taken	71
Accident studies and diagrams made	34	Investigations made of high accident rate intersections	71
Speed studies conducted	16		

TRAFFIC SIGNAL DIVISION

Number of signalized intersections	87
Number of signalized intersections interconnected with controller	42

PARKING METER DIVISION

PARKING METER COLLECTIONS ON STREET		PARKING LOT	
1954-1955	1955-1956	1954-1955	1955-1956
$73,224.75	$75,442.39	$2,849.59	$3,429.25

Preparation and design of traffic signs processed, 5,697
Signs installed and maintained, 5,214
Number of miles of streets and highways marked with center line, 54
Number of miles of street and highway marked with lane or skip line, 31
Number of curb markings, 1,021
Number of intersections marked with permanent cross-walks, 44
Number of intersections marked with painted cross-walks, 19
Number of intersections marked with permanent "stop" line, 11
Number of intersections marked with painted "stop" line, 9
Number of permanent type markers used, 7,275
Total number of vehicles assigned to the department, 6

SERVICE TO THE CITY

INSPECTIONS

DEPARTMENT OF CONSTRUCTION AND INSPECTION

Research has been conducted and reports prepared in conjunction with legislation which has been adopted changing permit fees and builders license fees, which resulted in a more equitable tax burden on local contractors and the collection of such revenue on a more current basis.

The expansion and development of regular periodic physical testing of materials for the purpose of improving the quality of such materials that enters into construction of buildings has been initiated.

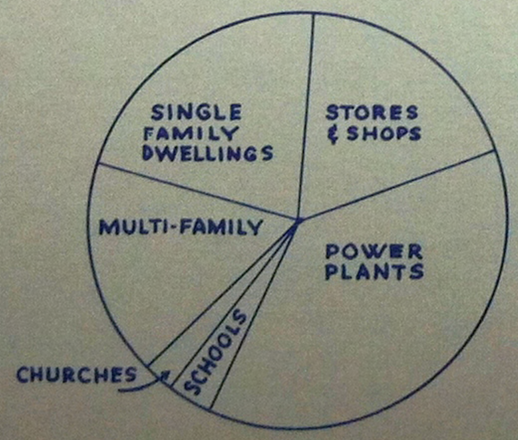
During the past year arrangements were made for in-service training of personnel in the Department of Civil Engineering at the George Washington University in Washington, D. C. The particular courses pursued were in advanced work in the field of reinforced concrete design and construction. Similar programs are being arranged for the coming scholastic year which will involve the pursuit of studies in the recent development in the uses of steel and glued laminated wood. This particular activity is being carried out at no cost to the city government nor to the employees.

	1954-1955	*1955-1956*
Building permits issued	1,015	988
Certificate of occupancy permits	77	146
Field inspections	10,085	12,538
Sign permits issued	194	214
Material specimens sampled and tested	358	237
Building completion reports delivered to city assessor	1,238	1,168
Cases processed for Board of Architectural Review	115	103
Total amount of permit fees collected	$48,791.95	$73,478.23
Contractors' license fees collected with assistance of the Department of Construction and Inspection	46,602.87	79,879.51
TOTAL FEES	$95,394.82	$153,357.74

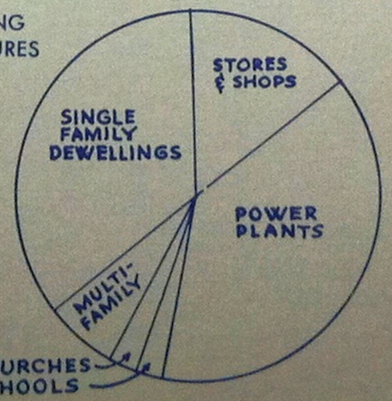
AUTHORIZED CONSTRUCTION

	1954-1955			*1955-1956*		
	No. Units	*No. Bldgs.*	*Estimated Cost*	*No. Units*	*No. Bldgs.*	*Estimated Cost*
Single dwellings	310	306	$4,052,579	516	516	$6,364,950
Multi-dwellings	393	139	2,945,000	204	74	1,376,500
Total residential construction	703	445	$6,997,579	720	590	$7,741,450
Garages, sheds and warehouses	.....	37	$ 313,293	.....	21	$ 459,950
Stores and shops	.....	12	784,828	.....	8	103,000
Service Stations	.....	4	80,000	.....	6	130,500
Office Buildings	.....	3	41,000	.....	8	824,894
Churches	.....	1	128,000	.....	2	320,200
Schools	.....	6	1,260,080	.....	1	390,000
Power Plants	.....	3	6,726,000	.....	2	7,295,900
Others	.....	15	820,050	.....	25	900,286
Total non-residential construction	.....	81	$10,153,251	.....	73	$10,424,730
Total new construction	703	526	$17,150,830	720	663	$18,166,180
Repairs, etc.						
Residential	.....	530	582,732	.....	528	561,841
Non-residential	.....	87	397,594	.....	105	450,830
Total repairs	.....	617	980,326	.....	633	1,012,671
Installations	.....	89	299,827	.....	102	420,692
Others	.....	531	187,656	.....	264	31,451
Grand Total	703	1,763	$18,618,639	720	1,662	$19,680,994

DISTRIBUTION OF BUILDING CONSTRUCTION EXPENDITURES 1954-1955



DISTRIBUTION OF BUILDING CONSTRUCTION EXPENDITURES 1955-1956



SERVICE TO THE CITY

PLUMBING INSPECTION DEPARTMENT

The fiscal year of 1955-56 was one of much progress in this department. During this period an ordinance, making frost-proof toilet installations unlawful became effective. As a result of this ordinance, this department began a survey of the city to determine the locations of these health menaces, and a drive to eliminate them. This drive during the period of July 1, 1955 to June 30, 1956 resulted in the removal of 500 of these toilets and the installation of a like number of modern bathrooms and kitchens, and greatly improved living conditions in these as well as more valuable homes.

On July 1, 1955 this department began the inspection of all sewer lateral connections to the public sewers. This means that now this office does the complete job of plumbing inspections in all premises.

Under this method all sewers are constructed with extra heavy cast iron pipe, which means a permanent installation, and which should eliminate many of the sewer problems with which the city has been confronted in the past. 679 such installations were inspected, approved and recorded during the past year.

The Department has installed a card system of filing sewer records, which shows the exact location of the private sewer tap to the public sewers. This record will be valuable in the future when, for any reason, it may become necessary to know the exact location of a sewer.

In-service training was used by the Department to the fullest extent possible.

1955-1956

6	Master Plumbers' Certificates	$ 150.00
147	Master Plumbers' Certificate Renewals	1,470.00
7	Master Plumbers' Examinations	70.00
9	Master Gas Fitters' Certificate Renewals	22.50
71	Journeyman Plumbers' Examinations	177.50
226	Journeyman Plumbers' Cards	452.00
4	Journeyman Plumbers' Examinations and Cards	18.50
55	Journeyman Gas Fitters' Cards	110.00
2,469	Plumbing Permits Issued (488 canceled)	21,035.00
	TOTAL	$23,505.50

15,836 Plumbing Inspections Made

ELECTRICAL INSPECTION DEPARTMENT

	1954-1955	1955-1956
Permits issued	3,255	3,827
Master A certificates	155	143
Journeyman B certificates	770	766
Regular inspections	4,835	5,313
Survey inspections	882	1,127
Material inspections	309	766
Total inspections	6,026	7,206

	1955-56
Journeyman fees	2,295.00
Permit fees	$21,504.20
Master fees	1,660.00
Total	$25,459.20

STREET LIGHTS

	1954-1955	1955-1956
New	119	107
Total	2,055	2,162

INSPECTIONS

SERVICE TO THE CITY

PUBLIC WORKS

The Department of Public Works is charged with the responsibility for the contract construction, maintenance and repair of all city streets, curb and gutter, sanitary and storm sewers. It is also responsible for the collection and disposal of refuse, the cleaning of streets, operation of a city garage and the maintenance of public buildings. The Department is also responsible for the acquisition of land for city purposes, the maintenance of records pertaining to public improvements, the issuance of permits, such as sewer connection, street opening, tree planting and removal, and the supervision of the installation of public improvements in all new subdivisions.

In addition to the above, the Department of Public Works operates its own engineering division, which includes engineering surveys, design and drafting of many public improvements. A total of 22,000 man hours was utilized for the above in 1955-1956.

For the past two years this Department has gradually been changing from doing public improvement work by city forces to performing work by contract. As of July 1, 1955, the last two remaining types of construction, sanitary sewer and storm drain, which work was formerly done by city forces, was changed to contract work.

HIGHLIGHTS

Following is a report of the major items handled by the Sanitation and Service Division and the Highway Division.

SANITATION AND SERVICE DIVISION

The major addition of this Division was the completion of the new city incinerator in June, 1956. The operation of this plant provides for the most sanitary method of disposing of refuse and, in addition, it reduces the volume of ash to one-tenth of the original volume. On July 1, 1955, the city made a change in the method of refuse collection from three separate and costly collections to one economical once per week collection.

SANITATION SECTION	1954-55	1955-56
Tons refuse collected by city	16,800	17,500
STREET CLEANING SECTION		
Machine swept, curb miles	7,210	9,810
Flushed, curb miles	2,054	2,719
Hand swept, curb miles	3,232	4,632

REFUSE COLLECTION

SANITARY SEWER SECTION (CONSTRUCTION)	1954-55	1955-56
New sewer, city	36,330	9,418
New sewer, developers	23,908	35,124
Sewer permits issued	213	171
SANITARY SEWER SECTION (MAINTENANCE)		
Miles of sewers cleaned	26	37
Catch basins cleaned	29,272	33,780
Sewer stoppages investigated	165	142

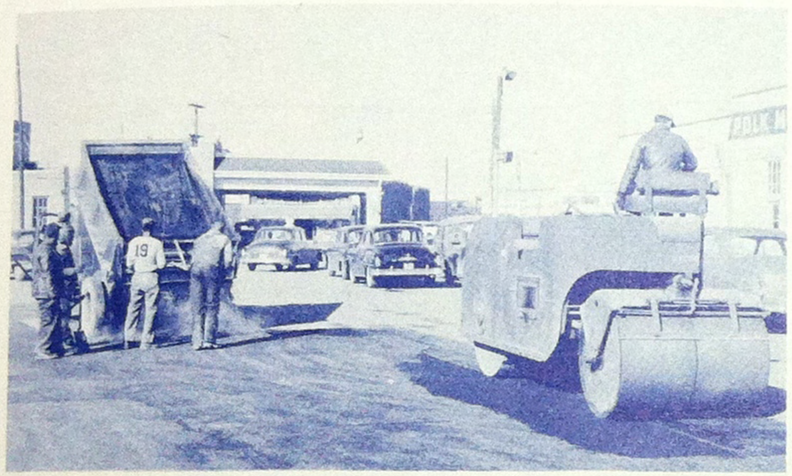
MAJOR ITEMS HANDLED BY THE HIGHWAY DIVISION

CONSTRUCTION, STREETS AND STORM DRAINS		
New streets, city and developers, miles	2.75	4.8
Curb and gutter, city, miles	4.11	1.57
Curb and gutter, developers, miles	2.40	7.50
Sidewalk, city, miles	2.24	1.39
Sidewalk, developers, miles	2.60	6.10
Concrete pipe drain, city, miles	1.45	0.14
Concrete pipe, developers, miles	4.52	3.72
STREET MAINTENANCE		
Surface treatment, miles	9.70	16.30
Plant mix resurfacing, miles	2.74	3.70
STREET OPENINGS		
Street opening permits issued	1,626	1,351

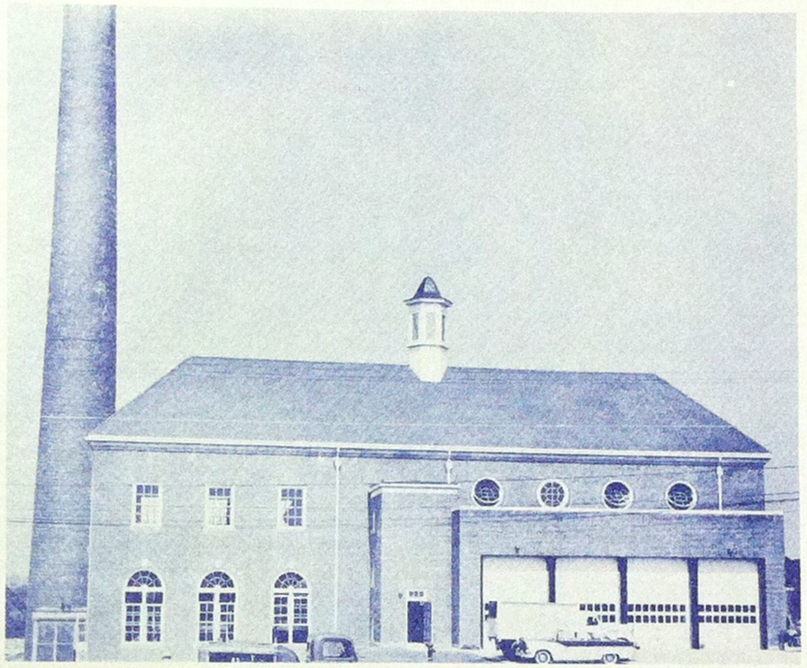
Among the many functions within the Highway Divisision are maintenance of streets, bridges, curb and gutter, sidewalks, trees, and the cutting of weeds and grass, snow removal and ice control. Also included under this division is the repair of all utility cuts made in the streets.

SERVICE TO THE CITY

PUBLIC WORKS



RESURFACING OF CITY STREET



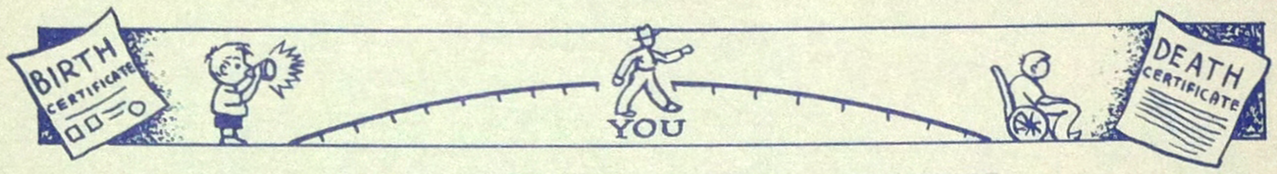
ALEXANDRIA'S NEW INCINERATOR

STORM SEWER, CURB AND GUTTER CONSTRUCTION

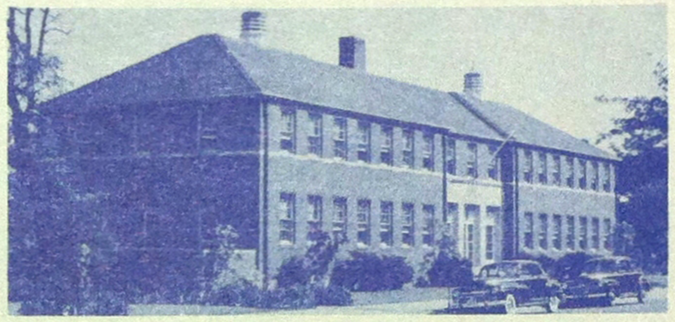
NEW 2500 GALLON STREET FLUSHER PURCHASED IN JUNE, 1956, RELEASES THE MOTORIZED SWEEPERS FROM THE DOWNTOWN SECTIONS SO THAT THEY CAN CLEAN OUTLYING AREAS MORE FREQUENTLY

SERVICE TO THE CITY

HEALTH



When you accept delivery of a quart of milk; when you turn on the water faucet; when your children are not threatened with diphtheria and typhoid fever; when you eat your wholesome dinner at an attractive restaurant — do you realize that all of these are indirect services of your Health Department? But it is true! These are results of the direct services shown on the steps of the Health Department.



All through your life — from the issuing of the birth certificate — your Health Department serves you. All of these services are part of a team activity — physician, nurses, sanitarians, laboratory technicians, clerks, maintenance personnel — designed to bring total health care to you, your family and your community.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE
ANIMAL DISEASES
PEST CONTROL
SWIMMING POOLS
TOURIST ESTABLISHMENT SAN.
POLIO
MATERNITY SERVICE
VENEREAL DISEASE CONTROL
TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL
X-RAYS
ORTHOPEDICS
DENTAL CLINIC
SCHOOL HEALTH
IMMUNIZATION
PRE-SCHOOL CLINIC
WELL-BABY CLINIC
BIRTH CERTIFICATE

MENTAL HYGIENE
NUTRITION
WEIGHT CONTROL
CANCER CONTROL
CHRONIC DISEASES
ALCOHOL CLINIC
IN-SERVICE TRAINING
HOUSING
INSECT CONTROL
MULTI-TESTING
ACCIDENT PREVENTION
WATER — SEWAGE
MILK SANITATION
COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL
P.H. LABORATORY SERVICE
FOOD SANITATION
DEATH CERTIFICATE

HEALTH DEPARTMENT SERVICE

Birth Certificates Recorded, 2,935
Well-Baby and Pre-School Clinics Held, 107
Field Visits to Infants, 3,377
Field Visits to Pre-Schoolers, 5,196
Immunization Clinic Injections Given, 8,748
School Health Inspections and Visits, 19,527
Dental Clinic Operations, 4,947
Maternity Service Visits, 2,610
Orthopedic Visits, 666

X-ray — Chest X-rays, 10,655
Tuberculosis Control Visits, 2,237
Venereal Disease Control Clinic Sessions, 224
Venereal Disease Control Field and Office Visits, 207
Polio Prevention — Polio Vaccine, 6,349
Communicable Disease Control Visits, 198
Weight Control Conferences, 14
Chronic Disease Visits, 785
Accident Prevention Nursing Visits, 27

SERVICE TO THE CITY

Our first responsibility, as we see it, is to provide financial assistance and case service to a needy adult, a family or a child who has been visited by human disasters, with the hope that each may regain and maintain a place in community life which is as nearly normal as possible.

The work with children is an investment in the future. With the aged, ill or handicapped it is the relieving of economic need and human suffering; with those who have serious personal problems it means helping to reestablish them as productive members of society.

There are three divisions within the Welfare Department:

THE FAMILY DIVISION determines if prescribed eligibility requirements are met and reviews from time to time to establish if circumstances have changed in any way so that proper adjustments in grant may be made. Withdrawal of state funds from this group in February, 1955, has hampered the effectiveness of service to this group, since even the basic financial needs are not being met.

THE CHILD WELFARE DIVISION is concerned with children of all ages. In order to place children, studies must be made of the homes in which the children are to make their home.

MEDICAL DIVISION plans with those persons who are not receiving any other type of assistance from the agency, but who are found to be unable to meet the cost of hospitalization, physician's care, when bedridden or cost of medications.

	Number Applications	*Accepted*	*Denied*
Application for ASSISTANCE	664	450	214
Applications for SERVICE	555	487	68

NUMBER OF FAMILIES OR INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING ASSISTANCE OR SERVICE IN THE YEAR 1955-56

Old Age Assistance	162	Aid to the Disabled	70	General Relief	388
Aid to Dependent Children	120	Aid to the Blind	10	Foster Care	140

SERVICES: CHILD WELFARE, 112; OTHER, 600; TOTAL ASSISTANCE AND SERVICE, 1602

Patients receiving MEDICAL care, 643; INTERVIEWS AWAY FROM OFFICE, 3,430; IN OFFICE, 4,029

TOTAL FOR 1955-1956 — *7,459*

COST OF PUBLIC WELFARE PROGRAM AND SOURCE OF FUND

		SOURCE	
Total assistance expenditures	$257,602		
Total personal services expenditures	64,263	City of Alexandria	$183,693
Total administrative expenditures	7,766	State and Federal	234,895
Total cost of medical care	95,368	*Refunds from parents	6,411
TOTAL	$424,999	TOTAL	$424,999

* Collected by the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court from parents of dependent and neglected children.

Although all three divisions of the Department were affected by the total increase of fifty-three more approved applications than the previous year, child welfare received the larger percentage.

Children committed to the Department from courts in the state	22
Children entrusted to the department by a parent or parents	18
Unmarried mothers receiving services	26
Adoptive placement of babies and older children	20
Adoptive home studies	35

SERVICE TO THE CITY

RECREATION

The Recreation Department continues to grow with the City both budget-wise and program-wise, yet the Department is still unable to provide more than token services in many areas.

JULY 1, 1955 - JUNE 30,1956

ACTIVITY	BOYS	GIRLS	MEN	WOMEN	SPECIAL	TOTAL
Active Games and Sports	64,064	11,925	20,937	1,402	75,226	173,554
Low Organized Games	19,597	8,259	4,559	917	5,761	39,093
Individual and Dual Games	1,602	789	160	95	1,250	3,896
Group or Team Games	42,865	2,877	16,218	390	68,215	130,565
Special Activities	11,268	9,013	2,656	2,130	9,104	34,171
Music Activities			1,899	1,168	165	3,232
Art and Crafts	311	649	15	256	111	1,342
Dancing Activities	2	340	574	643	106	1,663
Service Activities	29,212	32,825	9,283	8,954	8,401	88,675
Allied	28,815	32,428	7,719	7,260	8,151	84,373
Rental	397	397	1,564	1,694	250	4,302
Playgrounds	49,256	33,663	3,824	3,323	3,801	93,867
Alexandria Municipal Pool						53,440
Johnson Pool						7,969
Supervisor Visits (412)						13,925
Picnic Kits (Attendance)						1,040
TOTALS	154,113	88,415	39,188	17,876	96,914	472,878

The Department of Recreation has developed several new areas during the past year. Improvements were made at Johnson Memorial Pool, George Mason Playground and Potomac View Playground. Work commenced on the development of the Armory lot for use as a small neighborhood park. Additional land was purchased at Fort Ward Park and Fort Williams Park.

TAX FACTS

Here are some of the taxes applicable in the City of Alexandria. This listing is not complete nor are all the provisions within the license tax ordinance included below. These taxes are listed merely as an indication of the scope and type of the licenses authorized by the City Council and administered by Officials of the City.

REAL ESTATE TAX is $2.75 per $100 of assessed value. The assessed value is that value to which the tax rate is applied to determine the levy on each parcel. Currently 42½% of the appraised value is applied to determine the assessed value. In Alexandria the appraised value of real estate for tax purposes averages 80% to 90% of the selling price. Therefore, the formula for determining real estate taxes in Alexandria is the appraised value times 42½% which sum is the tax bill.

PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX is $3.00 per $100 of assessed valuation. Privilege would be given the property owner to take 10% of the assessed value of the home times the rate instead of listing his personal belongings. Other provisions are made for the person who is renting.

CONTRACTORS, $50.00 annual license tax.

ANNUAL REGULATORY LICENSE tax, $25.00.

NON-REGULATORY, professional occupations and businesses, $.50 per $100 of gross receipts in excess of $500.

PERSONAL SERVICES, business services and occupations, repair services and occupations, retail merchants, and restaurants, $.29 per $100 of the gross receipts in excess of $8,620.

WHOLESALE MERCHANTS, $.29 per $100 of the gross receipts in excess of $11,904.

AMUSEMENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT, $.59 per $100 of gross receipts in excess of $4,238.

SOLICITING AGENTS, annual license tax of $1.03 per $100 of the gross receipts of business done within the City.

MANUFACTURING, MILLS AND PROCESSES, annual license tax $25.00.

AUTOMOBILE LICENSE TAGS, $7.00 per year.

STAFF AND MANAGEMENT

ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER'S STAFF AND MANAGEMENT UNITS

CIVIL DEFENSE
- Prepared and distributed disaster plan
- Conducted course in radiological monitoring
- Distributed 15,000 air raid instruction cards

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Tax Inspection Division
- 240 audits completed
- $76,323.81 collected in rental license tax
- $20,916.89 collected on transient lodging tax

Weight and Measures Division
- 1,978 weighing and measuring devices tested
- 5,425 prepackaged foods and fuel deliveries were check-weighed for correct weight and processing (this Division enforces State laws)

Purchasing Division
- 6,515 purchase orders processed
- 2,123 requisitions received
- $2,367.30 gained through cash discounts
- Tabulates all bids, and informs bidders of results

Accounting Division
- Administers quarterly allotments
- Exercises budget control by pre-audits
- Compiles initial budget requests

Machine Tab
- Prepares tax rolls and bills
- Prepares payroll and auto license bills

PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT
- 691 employees on municipal payroll at end of year
- 1,209 applications were received
- 39 merit promotions made
- Responsible for City-Wide Safety Committee
- 124 accidents handled; 83 being no loss of time
- Conducted employees' attitude survey
- Aided Jaycee Municipal Awards program
- Coordinated training courses for municipal employees
- Administered payroll savings and group hospitalization plans
- Maintains personnel file for each municipal employee

PLANNING DEPARTMENT
- Completed economic base study and started land use study
- Initiated study of minimum housing standards
- Cooperated with organizations in port study
- Served as technical advisor to Board of Zoning Appeals and Planning Commission

REAL ESTATE ASSESSOR
- Supervised continuous real property evaluation and assessment
- Aided in preparation of complete mapping for Western Section
- $129,105,949 real estate assessed value, January 1, 1956
- $124,611,467 real estate assessed value, January 1, 1955
- $4,493,982 is the increase for the year

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION
- 140 major complaints handled
- Served as Chairman for City-Wide Safety Committee
- Prepared special reports and administrative regulations dealing with such municipal activities as Standard Reporting Procedure, Citizens Advisory Survey Study
- Completed data functional survey on City Council and City Manager's Office for fiscal survey
- Coordinated Municipal Exposition Demonstration
- Coordinated Municipal Activities in Golden Jubilee
- Aided in compilation of calendar year report
- Served as liaison in study of insurance centralization

STAFF AND MANAGEMENT

PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT

RECRUITMENT
EXAMINATION
CERTIFICATION
CLASSIFICATION
AND PAY PLANS
RETIREMENT
PERSONNEL RECORDS

DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING

CITY PLAN DEVELOPMENT
PROJECTS ANALYSIS
SUBDIVISION REVIEW
ZONING AMENDMENTS

REAL ESTATE ASSESSOR

REAL PROPERTY
ASSESSMENT

CITY MANAGER

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

WORK PROGRAM AND
PRODUCTION ANALYSIS
PROCEDURES ANALYSIS
RESEARCH AND REPORTS
COMMUNICATIONS
LEGISLATIVE LIAISON
SERVICE

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

BUDGETING —
OPERATIONS AND
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS
ACCOUNTING
PURCHASING AND
EQUIPMENT INVENTORY
AUDIT AND TAX INSPECTION
MACHINE TABULATION

CIVIL DEFENSE

TEST ALERTS
NATURAL DISASTERS

CENSUS TRACTS

WHAT

WHY

WHERE

Realizing that there is a definite indication that information on a small area basis is essential for the analysis of modern problems of larger cities for the efficient administration of the municipal, welfare and commercial enterprises, the total corporate area of the City of Alexandria has been divided into permanently established geographic tracts which can serve as comparative information divisions.

After a careful study of the City, the tracts were laid out with a view to approximate uniformity, population and size, present and future, and each was designed to include an area fairly homogenous with respect to race, economic status, living conditions and neighborhood interests.

These tracts have been approved by the U. S. Bureau of Census, which means that information obtained on these tracts today will be updated by the 1960 Federal Census. All operating departments of the Municipal Government whose activities reflect trends and growth, report their monthly activities to the Planning Department through the City Manager.

A degree of flexibility in tract boundaries has been provided to meet the demands of our rapidly expanding community areas. These tracts provide a common base for all local statistics. By careful inventory, the Planning Commission and the City Council will know which areas are deficient in parks, recreational facilities; which areas will need schools and other capital improvements. In certain tracts, substandard conditions exist. Careful study and attention will be given to these tracts so as to prevent further blight.

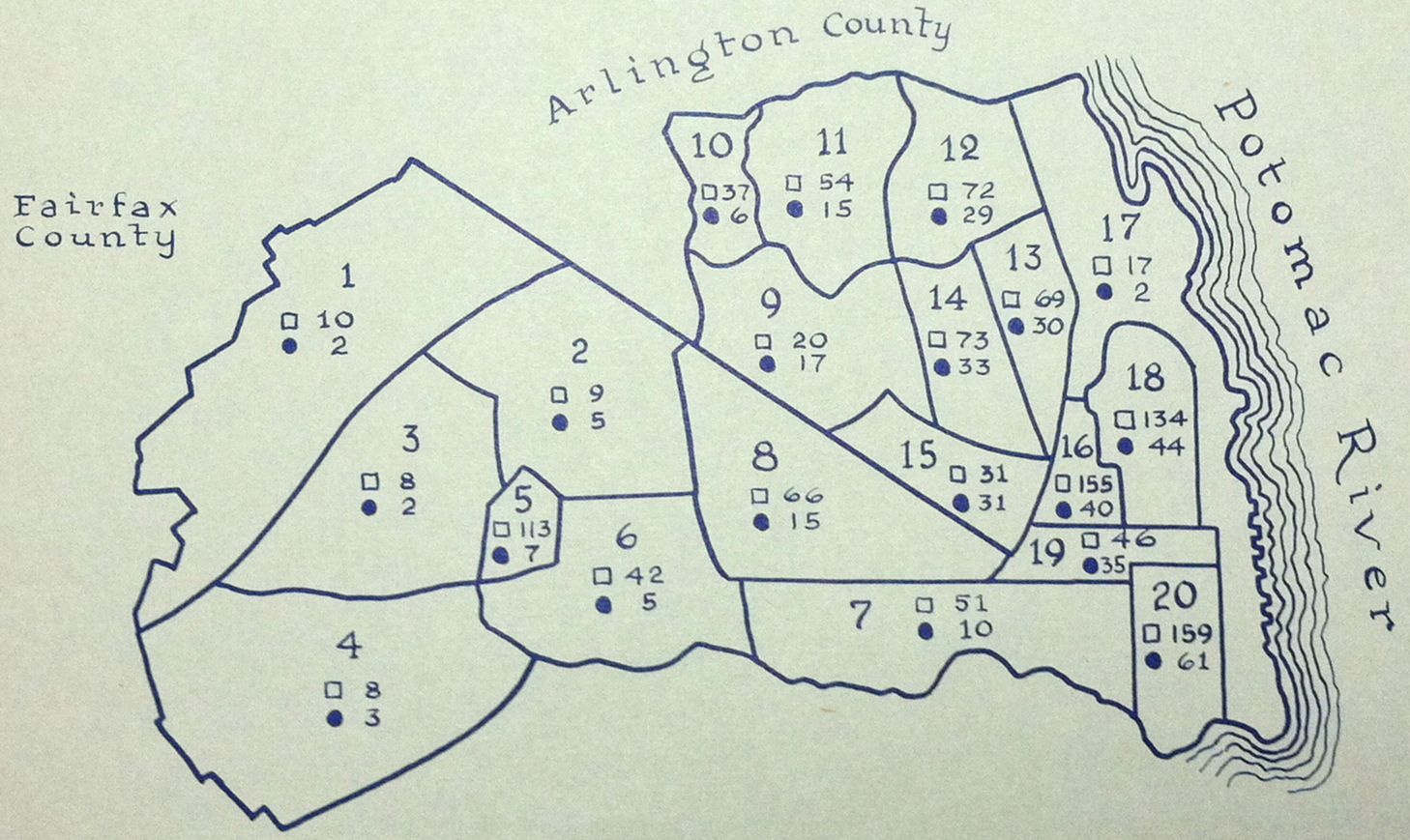
HOW DOES PROCEDURE HELP

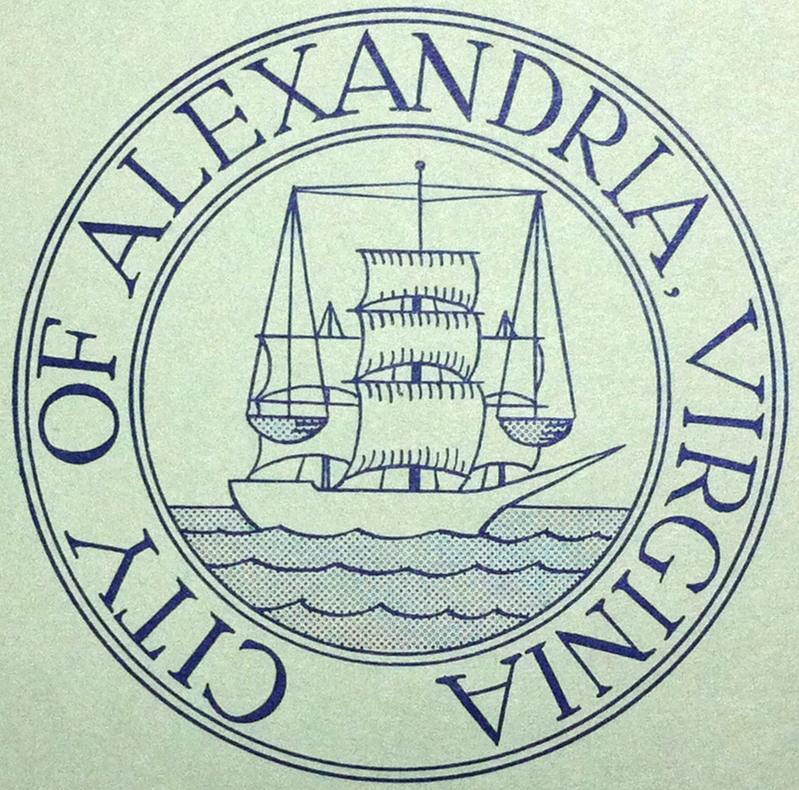
In analyzing the tracts, the City can best relate the problem to its cause by defining it in terms of a district area and the conditions influencing that area.

MAP OF CENSUS TRACTS

SHOWING HOW USE IS MADE OF RECORDING CENSUS TRACT DATA

□ Births 1955-1956
● Deaths 1955-1956




CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA