

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 11, 2005

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMAN, CITY MANAGER *J*

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO # 33: QUESTIONS REGARDING THE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM AND THE COMMUNITY VOICE MAIL PROGRAM AT *JOBLINK*

This memorandum responds to a request from Councilman Gaines to provide (1) the impact of proposed *JobLink* staff reductions on *TEENWORKS!* Youth Employment Program. Costs associated with maintaining FY 2005 Summer Youth employment levels, and alternatively, increasing those levels to provide additional job opportunities for City youth. How many youth could be employed with a \$10,000 through \$50,000 increase in funding; and (2) the status and impact of budget cuts to *JobLink* on the Community Voice Mail Program for the homeless and others eligible to participate in a free voice mail program.

(1) The impact of proposed *JobLink* staff reductions on *TEENWORKS!* Youth Employment Program. In FY 2005 *JobLink* had its grant funding reduced in the amount of \$687,482 and instituted a plan to reduce the quantity of services, not the quality. The City Manager has recommended a supplemental budget request to add \$200,000 in General Fund monies and 4.0 FTEs to continue to maintain current services at *JobLink*. The planned use of one of the FTEs is to staff the Youth Employment Program on a permanent basis. This position will otherwise be eliminated due to the loss of grant funding.

(2) Costs associated with maintaining FY 2005 Summer Youth employment levels, and alternatively, increasing those levels to provide additional job opportunities for City youth. How many youth could be employed with a \$10,000 through \$50,000 increase in funding. The funding to maintain the FY 2006 Summer Youth Program at the FY 2005 service level is \$125,000 and is included in the City Manager's Proposed Budget. These funds will subsidize the wages for 100 youth in the public program and provide support services. These funds also allow for seasonal Youth Advisor positions who provide case management for the youth and perform job development for private sector jobs which serve an additional 135 youths.

100

Additional funding in the amount of \$10,000 would fund 7 youth; \$20,000 equals 13 youth; \$30,000 equals 20 youth; \$40,000 equals 26 youth and \$50,000 equals 33 youth in the subsidized public program.

(3) The status and impact of budget cuts to *JobLink* on the Community Voice Mail Program for the homeless and others eligible to participate in a free voice mail program.

Work continues on the implementation of the Community Voice Mail Program and it will be up and running in approximately 30 to 45 days. This system using City phone capacity already in place will allow residents in transition, who are in between jobs and can not afford phone service, to access up to 400 mail boxes that are housed in conjunction with *JobLink's* phone service. The one-time start up costs and the nominal on-going monthly charges will be charged to other Department of Human Services accounts and are not linked to *JobLink's* budget.