

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 11, 2006

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO #106: COSTS OF UPDATING THE STRATEGIC PLAN

This information is supplied in response to Councilman Krupicka's following question: What is the purpose of \$40,000 to update the strategic plan? Can't we just fine tune it? Do we really need consultants coming back to help?

The proposed budget contains \$40,000 in the Non-Departmental budget for hiring a consultant and/or other expenses to update the City Council's Strategic Plan. Whether or not a minor fine-tuning or a more major review is necessary, of course, will be a decision for Council to make. Our thought was that at the beginning of new Council a more complete review would be in order. The cost estimate is a little less than that actually spent on developing the initial City Council strategic plan. It envisions a consultative process with opportunities for community input and discussion. It would also come after a new resident survey was completed and a report issued. Hiring a facilitator experienced in designing and implementing a process for receiving community input would be the primary cost of such a broader review.