

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 24, 2006

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO # 25: FUNDING LEVELS AT ST. MARTIN DE PORRES SENIOR CENTER

At the March 13 Public Hearing on the Proposed FY 2007 budget, several speakers expressed their concern over three staff positions that are in jeopardy at the St. Martin Senior Center.

The City has contracted with Catholic Charities since the 1980's to provide partial funding to operate the St. Martin De Porres program (St. Martins Senior Center). As a congregate meals site, partial funding is provided with Title V federal money from the Virginia Department for the Aging. Title V money is designed to train seniors in job skills that will enable them to obtain employment in the open market. The eligible seniors must meet income guidelines, are paid minimum wage and generally work 20 - 25 hours per week. The federal program requires Catholic Charities (in this case) to develop a training program for each senior and have progress review sessions to make sure the senior is meeting their goals. It also has specific guidelines as to how long seniors should remain at each training site.

Currently St. Martins Senior Center has two senior employment Title V staff: the food service worker and the receptionist. The food service worker will not be eligible for the program beyond March 31, as she will no longer meet the program guidelines. The receptionist has been at St. Martins for over 5 years, and it is quite possible she will be transferred to another job site due to the federal regulations stating that these are training positions and not long-term positions. The City does not have a choice in keeping these Title V positions at St. Martins unless we pick up the cost with City money.

The other Catholic Charities employee mentioned at the Public Hearing is a social worker that has always been funded through Catholic Charities. It is the City's understanding that funding for this position will be eliminated in June 2006 due to non-renewal of a non-City grant to Catholic Charities.

On October 20, 2005, Catholic Charities requested \$20,000 from the City to “help offset the increased costs of the St. Martin De Porres program.” (Attachment 1). This request was received after DHS’ supplemental budget requests were prepared and submitted to the Office of Management and Budget. For that reason this request was not forwarded to or considered by the City Manager. FY 2006 Approved funding from the City is \$67,628 and \$62,636 federal Title V funds (\$130,264 total). Proposed FY 2007 funding is \$69,657 City General Fund and \$61,876 federal Title V funding (\$131,533 total).

If the City were to pick up the cost of the two Title V positions, the cost would be approximately \$38,038 . If the City were to pick up the cost of the Social Worker, the cost would be approximately \$65,645.

Attachment