

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 28, 2006

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO #45: THE USE OF UNALLOCATED MARKET SQUARE RENOVATION FUNDS FOR STREET TRASH CAN REPLACEMENT AND THE POSTPONED SIGN PROGRAM

This memorandum is in response to Councilman Krupicka's and Councilman Macdonald's requests for further information regarding the use of unallocated Market Square Renovation funds (\$696,110) for street trash can replacement (\$118,000) and the remaining funds for the postponed sign program.

The unallocated \$696,110 was originally intended to fund initial design work of the Plaza renovation to include waterproofing of the second half of the Plaza (the first portion was completed in 1999), replacing and/or reworking the planters, new lighting, redesign of the fountain, new seating and other considerations. Due to competing capital projects, this project was postponed. The Plaza now requires major maintenance to preserve its current appearance and function including:

- Replacement of the fountain pumps and piping systems.
- Sealing of the upper deck parking area.
- Significant limestone and masonry repairs (particularly adjacent the fountain area and main staircases).
- Repair or replacement of coping (tops of masonry walls).

Additionally, the garage elevator and ticketing systems require replacement as well as electrical conduits and distribution to the lighting systems throughout the structure.

These capital repairs were postponed in anticipation of the major proposed renovation project but need to be done now at an estimated cost of \$500,000. To continue to delay repairs will result in increased deterioration, unreliable mechanical performance which will result in increased expenses for emergency repairs. Plans are being developed and solicited for the elevator, fountain pump and piping replacement and general masonry work. It is anticipated that this work will begin this spring (2006), and the remaining funds (\$196,110) could be considered for reprogramming. However, the sign program would not likely need these funds in FY 2007, as the consultant study and community/Council process to develop and to design a City-wide sign program would likely take all of FY 2007 to complete.