

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 3, 2006

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO # 60: VISITORS CENTER CIP FUNDING

This memorandum is in response to Councilman Krupicka's request for information on whether the unallocated prior year CIP funds for the Visitors Center can be used to complete the City-wide sign program or purchase Old Town parking signs.

In the City Manager's Proposed FY 2007-FY 2012 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), there are \$259,000 in unallocated prior year funds set aside for the Visitors Center.

In follow up to the Visitors Center consultant study, these funds (\$259,000) have been set aside to undertake architectural and planning work to look at options for making improvements to the City's Visitor Center. Options could include both interior and exterior improvements such as greater handicapped accessibility and/or facility expansion. During 2006, the City, working with ACVA, plans to engage a specialized architectural firm to work on this project. At Council's prior direction, 132 North Royal (Election Board/Voter Registration) will be added as a possible Visitors Center site.

Council could redirect these funds to purchase informational signs directing people to parking in Old Town or to complete the City-wide sign program. However, we do not recommend such action at this time. The City's Visitor Center is in need of improvements, as well as sufficient funding is available in FY 2006 (\$400,000) to begin planning and designing the City-wide sign program. It is unlikely that the implementation of the sign program would need to occur prior to FY 2008. Although better informational parking signs are needed, we do not recommend an ad-hoc approach to this part of the City-wide sign program.