

City Of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 4, 2008

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO # 68 : LIGHTING CONDITIONS AT SIMPSON FIELD

This memo is written in response to Councilman Wilson's inquiry about the lighting conditions at the Simpson Baseball Complex.

In recent years, RPCA staff has been addressing a long list of needs for the Simpson Baseball Complex. One of the items that has been a continual issue is the substandard lighting. Working with the various sport user groups at Simpson, it was agreed that the lighting issue should be fixed subsequent to the other identified problems due to the large project cost. The estimated cost to replace the lighting systems on both Simpson fields is between \$300,000 and \$350,000.

The Simpson electrical system is over 50 years old and can no longer support the electrical loads necessary to adequately light the fields at Simpson due to the faults in the electrical breaker system. In order to meet the demands at this baseball complex, the City will have to install new lamps/lights and upgrade the entire electrical service. Without the new electrical service, no additional lights can be added at Simpson. The new transformer box costs around \$100,000. This cost is included in the total project estimate listed above.

On March 13, 2008, the City changed out all the light bulbs, cleaned the lenses at each light stand, and conducted a light photo metric's study to see the increase in light levels. The study shows a 40% overall increase in light levels at the field. (See attached Simpson Field Light Study results.) This should provide better lighting through this season and buy time until funding is in place for the project. However, this is only an interim solution and does not change the inherent problem that exists at the field.

Another consideration is that as the City proceeds with the development of Land Bay K and the Potomac Yard soccer field relocation, it seems prudent that the entire complex lighting be wrapped up into one project. The tentative time frame for this activity is in the FY 2010 budget cycle. If the Potomac Yard lighting costs are included, the total cost of the re-lamping the four fields is around \$650,000. This estimate includes the cost of the new transformer box. Once the funding is in place,

this project should only take about 6 to 8 months to complete. This is all dependent on working with the Potomac Yard developer to determine a schedule.

Overall, the City has been diligent in upgrading the field lighting systems around the City. Recently, the systems at Minnie Howard, Ft. Ward, and 4-Mile Run have been replaced. Simpson Complex is the next priority on the City's list. RPCA intended to include the Simpson Lighting project in its FY 2010 CIP request to the City Manager.

Attachment: Simpson Field Light Study Results