

Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention Center

February 13, 2024

Consideration of Release of FY 2024 Funding from contingent reserves:

City Council in FY 2024 placed a portion (\$657,629) of the City's FY24 appropriation for the Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention Center into contingent reserves. This contingent allocation has remained pending until staff provide recommendations that:

- 1) Optimize capacity within Northern Virginia for Juvenile Secure Detention services
- 2) Leverage available physical plant capacity for alternative uses
- 3) Pursue new regional partnerships for use of facilities and staffing



**Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention Center
200 South Whiting Street, 22304**

NOVA Juvenile Detention Center

- One of 24 such facilities in Virginia – opened in 1956 (renovated 1990s, several upgrades)
 - Designed to accommodate 70 youth but, due to decreased utilization prior to 2020, has been staffed since 2017 to handle no more than 46 juveniles at any one time
 - Site includes **Sheltercare** (established 1988), a short-term group home for culturally diverse, at-risk adolescents
- Regulated by the **Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice**
- Operated by Arlington, Falls Church, & Alexandria through a Juvenile Detention Commission (comprised of members from Arlington (2), Falls Church (1), Alexandria (2) – appointed by Council
- Closest similar facility is in Fairfax County

Utilization

TABLE 1: NVJDC DAYS UTILIZED BY JURISDICTION

■ Alexandria ■ Arlington ■ Falls Church

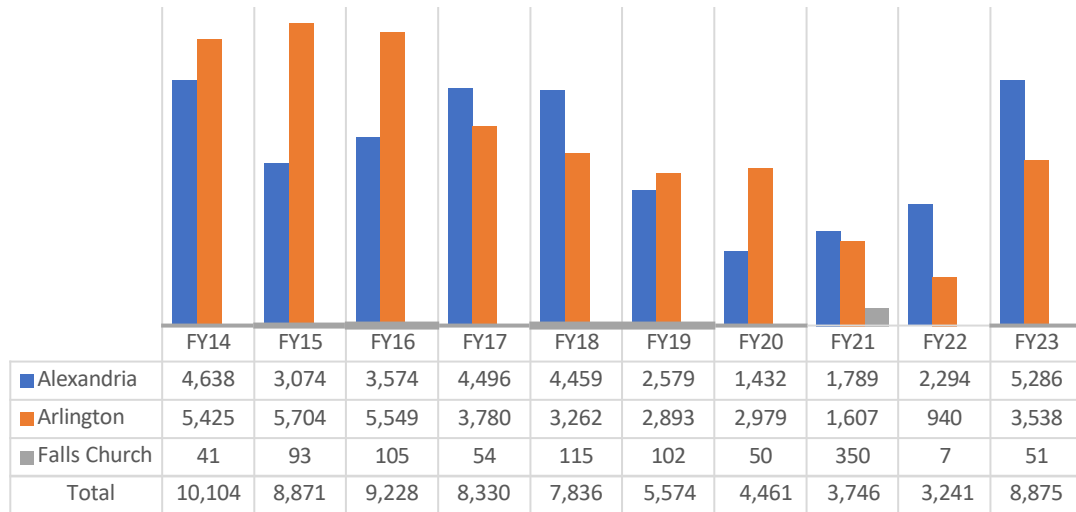
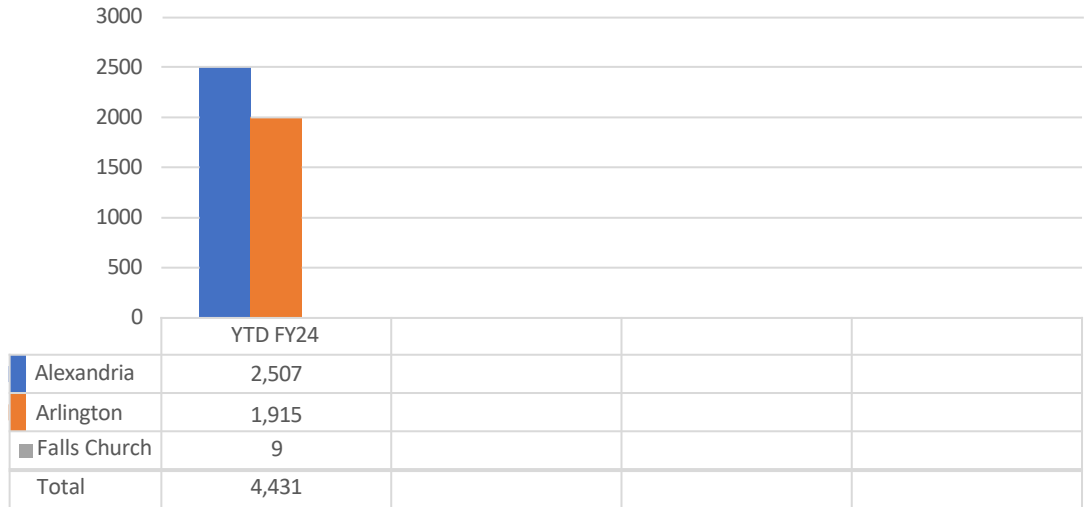


TABLE 2: NVJDC DAYS UTILIZED BY JURISDICTION - FY24 YEAR TO DATE



Question 1: How is NVJDC demonstrating progress toward optimizing capacity within Northern Virginia for Juvenile Secure Detention services?

- Managing increase in utilization of detention services since 2022; impact of substance use on population
- Increase in placements through established DJJ programs:
 - Central Admission and Placement (CAP)
 - Community Placement Program (CPP)

Question 2: How is NVJDC demonstrating progress toward leveraging physical plant capacity for alternative uses?

- Continued consideration of how best to use “Unit 7,” including best fit for Sheltercare
- Pilot contract with National Capital Treatment & Recovery
 - Using capital reserves in short term, continued cooperation with Board and jurisdictions for long-term approach
- Additional alternatives

Question 3: How are staff demonstrating progress toward pursuing new regional partnerships for use of facilities and staffing?



- 2020: Cost-Benefit Analysis of Northern VA Juvenile Detention Center & Alternatives major findings:
 - No viable further regionalization alternative
 - Continued operation with cost efficiencies
- December 2021: Joint Legislative Audit & Review Commission Study on Juvenile Justice major finding:
 - Virginia has excess detention capacity, statewide.
- General Assembly commissioned Commission on Youth to study further – end of 2022.
- General Assembly in FY 2024 directed the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, in collaboration with the Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to evaluate and submit to the General Assembly no later than **October 15, 2024**.

Next Steps

1. **Governance:** Coordination with Board and partner jurisdictions to deliver first-rate services to youth while best considering jurisdictional needs
2. **Cost Efficiencies:** Continued consideration of efficiencies as outlined in 2020 cost benefit analysis
3. **Collaboration with Commonwealth:** Continued close coordination in preparation of recommendations for October 2024 report

THANK YOU!

Questions and Discussion