

**City of Alexandria Gang Prevention Community Task Force
Annual Report
July 2023 – June 2024**

Summary of Accomplishments

The mission of the City of Alexandria Gang Prevention Community Task Force is to create a gang free community through collaboration, community outreach, and advocacy. Within these guidelines, the City of Alexandria Gang Prevention Community Task Force membership completed the following activities during its 2023/24 year.

Gang Prevention Community Task Force Policy and Membership Accomplishments

- All vacant positions on the task force were successfully filled.
- The Task Force appointed Luke Daniele, Crime Prevention Project Manager with the Court Services Unit (CSU), to serve as the City Liaison and Gang Prevention Coordinator for the Task Force.

Gang Prevention Community Task Force Member Activities

- The Task Force developed a Gang Prevention Information and Resources brochure with a link to the city's recently updated [Gang Prevention Resources Webpage](#).
- The Task Force completed the second iteration of the Pillars Series: *The Pillars Series is based on seven pillars, Goal Setting, Relationships, Responsibility, Self Confidence, Discipline, Service, and Leadership. To help deliver the message we enlisted successful individuals from many arenas to lead a discussion, we bookended the second series at Casa Chirilagua with D.C. United soccer players, along with participation by a real estate professional, professional musician, and fitness trainer. The Pillars series provides a blueprint for success so the youth can be a Pillar of their Family, Pillar of their Community, and Pillar of their Future.* Following the series, about half of the participants surveyed reported a heightened passion for a specific personal or professional goal. Additionally, many participants identified discipline as the pillar they learned the most about.
- The Gang Prevention Coordinator participated in (4) Gang Prevention and Awareness Presentations at Francis Hammond Middle School and Alexandria City High School.
- The first Junior City Academy was successfully launched in April 2024. This academy, modeled after the [City Academy](#), is specifically for young people ages 13 – 17. Throughout the course of six weeks, 12 middle and high school students visited City Hall, the Alexandria Sheriff's Office, the Alexandria Police Department, the Offices of Zoning and Code Administration, Transportation & Environmental Services, Court Services, and the Alexandria Fire Department. The goal was to help to demystify authority figures and build a sense of comradery for the kids that participated, while introducing them to a potential career path. Of the youth that participated, 70% became more familiar with city departments, 40%

reported being more comfortable with city officials or authority figures, 60% reported being more knowledgeable about accessing city resources, and 30% reported an improved perception of themselves as leaders.

- The CSU, in collaboration with the Sheriff's Office and Transitions, launched its first iteration of the G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education and Training) program. This evidence-based program, endorsed by the Department of Juvenile Justice, aims to immunize youth against delinquency, violence, and gang membership by fostering positive relationships with law enforcement. Through a curriculum taught by probation officers, participants learn essential life skills, including goal setting, empathy, community pride, violence prevention, conflict resolution, decision-making, and problem-solving. The program is currently only offered to youth on probation.
- The Task Force continued its participation in APD sponsored Community Cookouts, which are held at various locations throughout the city and present a great opportunity for neighbors and families to come together and connect with community resources. During these events, gang prevention resources were offered at a CSU Crime Prevention Resources table.

Program and/or Legislative Accomplishments

- The Senior Policy Work Group on Gangs reconvened twice after several years, reaffirming its purpose to inform the objectives of all gang-related suppression, intervention, and prevention activities in Alexandria. The group will continue meeting to ensure effective collaboration among stakeholders and alignment with the Alexandria Gang Prevention Community Task Force's objectives.

Goals for 2024-2025

- Strengthen mechanisms for receiving and acting upon relevant information within the task force and amongst partnering agencies.
- Provide opportunities and social intervention to underserved populations most at risk of gang/crew involvement.
- Advocate for formal and informal social controls, such as appropriate Law Enforcement staffing levels to address gang/crew issues.

Leadership

Jim Dillon, Chair
Marilyn Nevy Cruz, Vice-Chair

New Terms

Joined – Frank Broomell, October 2023
Joined – Dana Wedeles, December 2023
Joined – Timothy Beaty, March 2024
Joined – Cassandra Lewis, April 2024

- Throughout the year, membership included the following individuals:
Alyia Gaskins, Canek Aguirre, Jim Dillon, Marilyn Nevy Cruz,
Tim Brannon, Rachael RB Dischner, Michael Burch, Steve Nelson, Bryan Kirkes
Noraine Buttar, Pastor Anthony Oliver, Willie Bailey, Roberto Gomez, Everin Zelaya,
Mubashir Adelaja, Dana Wedeles, Timothy Beaty, Frank Broomell, and Cassandra Lewis.
- In September, Luke Daniele from the Court Service Unit was appointed as the staff liaison to the City of Alexandria Gang Prevention Community Task Force.

Attachments

1. Alexandria Gang Prevention Resources Flyer.



Gang Prevention
Flyer.pdf

2. Junior City Academy Program Flyer.



Jr. Academy
Flyer.pdf

**ADVISORY GROUP ANNUAL ATTENDANCE REPORT
CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
ALEXANDRIA GANG PREVENTION COMMUNITY TASK FORCE
MEETING ATTENDANCE REPORT**

JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024

CHAIRPERSON: Jim Dillon

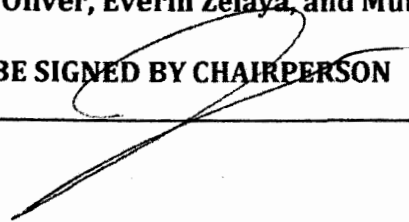
MEMBER'S NAME	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Jim Dillon			X	E			X		X		X	X
Marilyn Nevy Cruz			X	X			E		U		E	X
Alyia Gaskins			X	E			X		E		E	E
Canek Aguirre			E	E			X		E		E	X
Tim Brannon			X	E			X		X		X	X
Rachael Dischner			X	X			X		X		X	X
Michael Burch			U	X			U		X		U	X
Steve Nelson			X	X			E		X		X	X
Bryan Kirkes			X	X			X		X		X	X
Dana Wedeles (Noraine Buttar before January)			X	X			X		X		X	E
Pastor Anthony Oliver			X	U			E		E		X	X
Timothy Beaty (Willie Bailey prior to January)			U	U			V		X		X	X
Roberto Gomez			X	X			X		E		X	X
Frank Broomell (Fay Slattery prior to October)			U	X			X		X		X	E
Everin Zelaya			X	U			U		U		U	V
Mubashir Adelaja			X	U			U		U		U	V
Cassandra Lewis			V	V			V		V		X	U

INDICATE: X - FOR PRESENT E - FOR EXCUSED U - FOR UNEXCUSED V - FOR VACANT

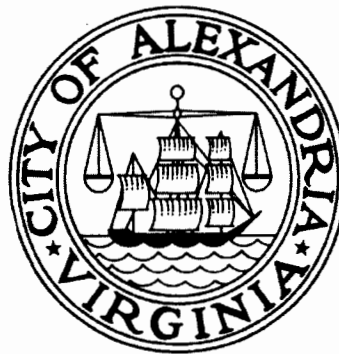
LIST OF THOSE WHO DID NOT ATTEND 75% OF MEETINGS:

- **Councilman Aguirre, Councilwoman Gaskins, Marilyn Nevy Cruz, Michael Burch, Pastor Oliver, Everin Zelaya, and Mubashir Adelaja**

**FORM MUST BE SIGNED BY CHAIRPERSON
(APPROVED) _____ (Chairperson)**



**The Alexandria Housing Affordability
Advisory Committee
FY24 Annual Report**



September 2024

**The Alexandria Housing Affordability Advisory Committee (AHAAC)
Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Report, July 2023-June 2024**

The Alexandria Housing Affordability Advisory Committee (AHAAC) comprises members appointed by the Alexandria City Council and is staffed by the Office of Housing. A list of the committee positions and members serving during Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 is included at the end of this report. The purpose of the committee is to advise City Council on issues regarding the preservation and creation of affordable housing, to make recommendations on policies governing expenditures of the City's Housing Trust Fund (HTF) and Housing Opportunities Fund monies, to review affordable housing plans, to monitor implementation of the Housing Master Plan and the Beauregard Small Area Plan, and to oversee the administration of the HTF. AHAAC held nine official meetings during the annual reporting period. In addition, the AHAAC Investment Subcommittee met two times during the fiscal year.

No new members were appointed to the Committee during FY24, and one member was reappointed for another term. The Committee had three vacancies during the year: one vacancy from March 2024 to June 2024, another vacancy that remained unfilled during the fiscal year for a representative of the Commission on Persons with Disabilities, and one vacancy as of May 2024 for the representative of a civic association.

FY24 Accomplishments Overview

- Recommended approval of a \$291,300 loan request from Wesley Housing for the Parc Square Rehabilitation project.
- Recommended approval of a \$3 million loan and a \$350,000 subsidy grant request from Community Lodging, Inc. (CLI) for the Elbert Avenue project.
- Recommended approval of a \$14 million loan request from Housing Alexandria for Phase II of its Glebe-Mount Vernon (Sansé and Naja) project.
- Recommended approval of the 301 N. Fairfax Street affordable housing plan.
- Recommended approval of ARHA's Ladrey Senior High-Rise affordable housing plan. The 270-unit redevelopment project will replace 170 aging public housing units with 270-units of committed affordable housing, ranging in affordability from 30% to 80% AMI.
- Recommended approval of an affordable housing plan for South Alfred Street Townhomes (820 Gibbon Street).
- Recommended approval of the affordable housing plan for 1201 E. Abingdon Drive.
- Recommended approval of an affordable housing plan for 6101 and 6125 Stevenson Avenue.

During the past fiscal year, AHAAC considered the following funding requests, affordable housing plans, and issues:

A. Housing Funding Requests: During the reporting period, AHAAC voted on three funding requests described below.

- 1. Parc Square Partial Rehabilitation Loan (Wesley Housing):** In May, AHAAC considered a loan request for \$291,300 to repair and rehabilitate eight units, which are uninhabitable due to structural challenges. This loan will enable Wesley Housing to make repairs so tenants can reside in the units, which are affordable to households earning up to

55% AMI. It is noted that Wesley Housing anticipates this property will be part of an assemblage for a future redevelopment. **At its May meeting, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of the loan, with one abstention.**

2. **Elbert Avenue Project Loan (CLI):** In June, AHAAC considered a \$3 million loan and \$350,000 rental subsidy grant request for Community Lodging, Inc.'s (CLI) 3908 Elbert Avenue project. The \$3 million loan will contribute toward the construction of 91 one-, two-, and three-bedroom rental units affordable at 30%, 40%, 50%, and 60% AMI. The \$350,000 rental subsidy grant will allow the project to provide more units at deepened levels of affordability. The \$3 million loan derives from funds approved by City Council in the FY 2025 budget process to assist an unfunded pipeline project. CLI plans to apply for State Housing Opportunity Tax Credits in July. **At its June meeting, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of the loan and rental subsidy grant requests.**
3. **Sansé and Naja, also known as Glebe-Mount Vernon (Housing Alexandria):** In June, AHAAC considered a loan request of \$14 million for Phase II of the project. \$64 million in loans from the Housing Trust Fund are committed to the project for Phases 0 and I. Phase 0 construction is ongoing while Phase I vertical construction is anticipated to begin in Fall 2024. Phase II vertical construction is anticipated to begin in early 2025.

When completed, the project will provide 416 affordable rental housing units, 58 affordable homeownership units, and commercial space envisioned for neighborhood-serving uses and City flex space. All units are planned to be affordable for households with incomes ranging up to 80% AMI, with 25% of rental units proposed to be deeply affordable for households with incomes at or below 40% AMI. 60% of the units are planned as two-bedroom and three-bedroom units to serve a range of household sizes. **At its June meeting, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of the loan, with one abstention.**

B. Affordable Housing Plans: During the reporting period, AHAAC voted on five affordable housing plans that were included as part of the development process.

1. **301 N. Fairfax Street:** This project proposes redeveloping an existing office building at the corner of Fairfax and Queen Streets to construct a 48-unit condominium building, with 10,000 square feet of private open space and underground parking. The project will provide two committed affordable homeownership units to households earning up to 100% of AMI, as required by the 2021 Housing Contribution Policy, and a \$105,948 contribution to the Housing Trust Fund. **At its October meeting, the Committee voted to recommend approval of the Affordable Housing Plan unanimously, with one abstention.**
2. **Ladrey Senior High-Rise Redevelopment:** ARHA's Ladrey redevelopment project proposes replacing 170 public housing units with 270 affordable units contained in a five to seven-story building with a courtyard, community room, rooftop terrace, and pocket park. The project will provide one and two-bedroom units. 80% of the project's units will be designated for households with at least one individual aged 55 and over while 20% of

units can be occupied by households of any age. 170 units will be deeply affordable at 30% AMI, 20 units will be available to households with incomes ranging up to 60% AMI, and 80 units will be available to households with incomes up to 80% AMI. The project paired the Residential Multifamily Zone (RMF) with bonus density (Section 7-700 of the Zoning Ordinance).

In addition, the Landlord-Tenant Relations Board approved a tenant relocation plan at its October meeting; during the project's expected two-year construction period, ARHA will provide relocation services, case management, and temporary housing funded through Tenant Protection Vouchers to eligible residents currently living at Ladrey. All relocated residents in good standing will be given the right to return to the redeveloped site.

At its December meeting, the Committee voted unanimously to endorse the Affordable Housing Plan.

3. **South Alfred Street Townhomes (820 Gibbon Street):** Madison Homes proposes redeveloping an existing office building, surface parking lot, and storage facility to construct a 14-unit townhouse community. The project paired bonus density (Section 7-700) with a rezoning to increase density. Under the 2021 Housing Contribution Policy and Section 7-700, the project will yield one committed affordable for-sale unit affordable to a household with an income between 70% and 100% AMI. The developer will also contribute \$50,618 to the City's Housing Trust Fund. **At its December meeting, the Committee voted unanimously to endorse the Affordable Housing Plan.**
4. **1201 E. Abingdon Drive:** The Pinkard Group proposes to convert and expand an aging five-story office building known as Parkway Center, into a residential building with 136 rental units. The project paired a rezoning for additional density with a Master Plan Amendment to increase building height. Consistent with the 2021 Housing Contribution Policy, the project will yield seven committed units affordable to households with incomes up to 60% AMI. The developer will also contribute \$181,568 to the City's Housing Trust Fund. **At its December meeting, the Committee voted unanimously to endorse the Affordable Housing Plan.**
5. **6101 and 6125 Stevenson Avenue:** This project proposes to convert an existing office building into a residential building with 270 rental units. This project paired a rezoning for additional density with bonus density (Section 7-700). Consistent with the 2021 Housing Contribution Policy and Section 7-700, the project will yield 23 committed affordable rental units. Four units will be affordable up to 40% AMI and 19 units will be affordable up to 60% AMI. In addition, the developer will also contribute \$433,962 to the Housing Trust Fund. **At its May meeting, the Committee voted unanimously to endorse the Affordable Housing Plan.**

C. Housing Trust Fund Overview: FY24

\$5,028,316 was pledged, and \$1,014,811 was received.

D. Housing Master Plan:

As stewards of the Housing Master Plan, the Committee helped monitor implementation through:

- Reviewing and providing guidance on a quarterly basis on the implementation of the Housing Master Plan (see Attachment 1);
- Receiving briefings and updates on the planning process for the Housing Master Plan update.
- Receiving monthly progress reports from ARHA and Housing Alexandria representatives.

E. Small Area Plans and Planning Initiatives:

Members of the Committee frequently serve as liaisons to various planning efforts on behalf of the Committee.

- Received updates and provided input on the Alexandria West Small Area Plan, including information about community engagement, housing contributions, and tenant protections. The Committee submitted a letter to the Department of Planning and Zoning, voicing concerns about affordable housing funding mechanisms, tenant protections, and base density.
- Received updates and provided input on the Zoning for Housing/Housing for All initiative. The Committee submitted a letter with feedback on Zoning for Housing recommendations to Planning Commission and City Council.
- Monitored the implementation of the Landmark Van Dorn Corridor Plan and the Eisenhower West Small Area Plan by sending an AHAAC representative to the Eisenhower West/Landmark Van Dorn Implementation Advisory Group.
- Monitored meetings of the Hilco Potomac River Generation Station redevelopment.
- Monitored meetings of the ARHA Redevelopment Work Group

F. Other

- Received briefing on the Regional Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing report submitted to City Council and HUD
- Held a public hearing on the Citizen Participation Plan for Housing & Community Development Activities, which guides how City conducts participation related to the HUD Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan.
- Held a public hearing on the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER), a requirement to report back on the City's performance and progress towards housing program goals.
- Held a public hearing on the FY2025 Annual Action Plan for Housing and Community Development, a one-year plan that directs the City's spending of Federal Home Investment Partnership and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from HUD.
- Received briefing on the Federal Transit Administration grant sought by the Department of Planning and Zoning (P&Z) to support planning studies focused on transit-oriented development, namely the Duke Street transitway plan. The

Committee submitted a letter to Secretary Buttigieg in support of the grant application.

- Received briefings and provided feedback on City’s application to HUD Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing Grant (PRO Housing).
- Received briefings and provided input on the Arlandria-Chirilagua Housing Cooperative Project, an ongoing \$2.5 million renovation providing a new roof and HVAC system upgrades.
- Received briefings and provided input on the Procedures Regarding Affordable Housing Contributions policy.
- Received updates and provided feedback on the City’s Fiscal Year 2025 Office of Housing budget. Provided public comments at budget hearings. Drafted a memorandum to the City Manager and a letter to City Council in support of additional budget allocation for affordable housing projects and policy recommendations to ascertain additional funding.
- Received updates on the Local Rental Subsidy Study, which is researching a potential local rental subsidy program.
- Received updates on Virginia General Assembly legislative session, including bills on board and commission accessibility, lease translation, eviction prevention, rent stabilization, access to council, right to first refusal for affordable housing with expired subsidies, rental fees, and the Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act.
- Voted to approve the revised Electronic Participation Policy (EPP).
- Received updates on City homelessness, including DCHS’s annual Point in Time (PIT) count and the new Strategic Plan adopted by the Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness.
- Received updates on senior housing + care options in the City.
- Received updates on the proposed Potomac Yard arena and entertainment district and its estimated fiscal impact and impact on affordable housing in the City.
- Voted to approve revised committee bylaws to allow for two co-Chairs with the same functions and responsibilities as a Chair.
- Elected 2025 co-chairs Shelley McCabe and Sean Zielenbach.

G. Attachments

1. FY24 Housing Master Plan Progress Report

Committee Composition (voting members): 19

- 1 Builder or developer of residential property
- 1 Real estate professional with knowledge and experience in residential real estate
- 1 Landlord of residential property in the City
- 1 Residential tenant in the City
- 1 Homeowner in the City
- 1 Commissioner from the ARHA Board
- 1 Representative of the City's faith community
- 1 Representative of a civic association in the City (*vacant*)
- 1 Representative who is employed by or affiliated with an organization that promotes and maintains affordable housing

- 2 Financial professionals with knowledge and experience in the field of finance
- 1 Representative of an employer in the City who employs at least 100 employees
- 1 Licensed and practicing attorney
- 1 Person designated by, but who need not be a member of the Commission on Aging
- 1 Person who is either an employee of the City or the Alexandria City Public Schools
- 1 Person who represents housing consumers under 30 years of age
- 2 Representatives of the City's small business community, including the retail, restaurant, or hospitality sectors
- 1 Person designated by, but need not be a member of, the Commission on Persons with Disabilities (*vacant*)

Voting Members between July 2023 and June 2024:

Betsy Faga, Chair	Shelley Murphy McCabe
Peter Sutherland (né Siderovski)	Felicia Brewster
Jon Frederick	Michael Jackson
Aschalew Asasbie	Jan Macidull
Robyn Konkel	Yeshewase Ayele (<i>membership ended March 2024; re-appointed in May 2024</i>)
Michelle Krocker	Coss Lumbé
Peter-Anthony Pappas (<i>membership ended due to term limit in May 2024</i>)	Sean Zielenbach
Michael Doyle	Michael Butler
Annette Bridges	Melissa Sathe

The Committee voted approved this report on September 11, 2024.

Housing Master Plan Progress Report

Period: FY24 Q1-Q4

City of Alexandria, Office of Housing

Updated: 08/07/24

HMP TYPE OF ACTIVITY	FY24 Q1-Q4 Impact (Jul 2023-Jun 2024)			Prior Reported Impact (Jan 2014-Jun 2023)	Total Impact (Jan 2014-Jun 2024)	Housing Master Plan (Jan 2014-Dec 2025)	
	Completed	Underway	Pipeline	Prior Completed	Total Completed	Target	Balance
Units Created, Converted and Preserved through Partnerships	0	409	683	855	855	660	-195
<i>Created</i>							
Jackson Crossing				78			
The Nexus at West Alex (Gateway at King and Beauregard)				74			
The Bloom (Carpenter's Shelter)				97			
Waypoint at Fairlington (Fairlington Presbyterian Church)				81			
Friends of Guest House - 120 South Payne				4			
Housing Alexandria Seminary Project		37.5					
Sanse (Glebe/Mount Vernon) - also see workforce affordable units		370					
Naja (Glebe/Mount Vernon)			58				
Parview II			154				
Wittier Place			94				
Ebert Avenue Redevelopment			63				
<i>Converted</i>							
New Hope Veterans Home (Aspen Street)				3			
Blisworth Apartments				20			
Parkstone (Avaro) Apartments				130			
Square at 511 (Park Vue)				196			
Arbelo Apartments				34			
Longview Terrace Apartments				41			
Community Lodgings				7			
Lynhaven Apartments				28			
Lacy Court Apartments				44			
<i>Preserved</i>							
Bellefonte Permanent Supervised Apartments				12			
Friends of Guest House - 120 South Payne				6			
The Heritage - Blocks I & 4			140				
Housing Alexandria Seminary Project		1.5					
Parview I			146				
Ebert Avenue Redevelopment			28				
Units Created through the Development Process	42	61	325	151	193	336	143
Alexandria Memory Care Community (Silverado)				2			
Goodwin House			6				
Cambrisa Square (Pickett's Place/The Delaney)				4			
Notch 8				12			
Station 650 at Potomac Yard				8			
The Bradley (Braddock Station/Braddock Metro Place)				10			
Parc Meridian at Eisenhower Station				33			
The Thornton (Hunting Terrace)				24			
2901 Eisenhower Ave (The Point [Derizien] + South Tower)			8	13			
Raeburn (Oakville Triangle Block A)	4	34					
Ives (Oakville Triangle Block B)		11					
Oakville Triangle (balance)			16				
Gables Old Town North (ABC/Giant site)				9			
Platform 1 (Braddock Gateway Phase II)				4			
Dylan (Potomac Yard Landbay HI)	9						
Sunrise Senior Living				2			
The Foundry (Block 6A)*				2			
Meridian 2250 (EE Block 20)	15						
Grayson (1200 North Henry)	11						
Monday Properties				5			
Silverstone Senior Living				7			
Platform 2 (Braddock Gateway Phase III)				4			
Alexan Florence (600 Royal Street - WMATA Bus Barn)				12			
Alize (Aspire Independent Living)		9					
Aidan Old Town (701 N. Henry)		7					
North Potomac Yard Phase I (Buildings 15 & 19)			14				
Benchmark Senior Living	3						
Newport Village			12				
The Heritage			55				
Braddock West			14				
805 N. Columbus			8				
TideLock			15				
Landmark Overlook			15				
901 N. Pitt			16				
Eisenhower East Block 23			44				
Landmark Redevelopment-Blocks I, K, E, G			45				
Montgomery Center			22				
The Rutherford			25				
South Alfred Street Townhomes (820 Gibbon)			1				
301 Fairfax Condos			2				
1201 East Abingdon			7				
Beauregard Committed Units	0	0	0	311	311	494	183
<i>Created</i>							
St. James Plaza (Fillmore)				93			
The Spire (Church of the Resurrection)				113			
<i>Converted</i>							
Southern Towers				105			
Units Created or Preserved through Redevelopment Support to ARHA	0	0	430	52	52	174	122
<i>Created</i>							
The Lineage (Ramsey Homes)				37			
Samuel Madden - also see workforce affordable units			174				
Ladrey - also see workforce affordable units			20				
<i>Preserved</i>							
The Lineage (Ramsey Homes)				15			
Samuel Madden			66				
Ladrey			170				

* Project also includes three units affordable at 80% AMI.

HMP TYPE OF ACTIVITY (continued from page 1)	FY24 Q1-Q4 Impact (Jul 2023-Jun 2024)	Prior Reported Impact (Jan 2014-Jun 2023)	Total Impact (Jan 2014-Jun 2024)
	Loans Closed/Units Issued	Prior Closed/Issued	Total Closed/Issued
Rental Accessibility Modification Projects (Grants)	1	22	23
Homebuyer Loans (Individuals served by first-time homebuyer assistance, and individuals receiving SPARC allocations)	17	97	114
Homeowner Rehab Loans/RTA Projects (Rebuilding Together/DC-Allocations/Grants =>ESK)	9	134	143

Housing Master Plan (Jan 2014-Dec 2025)	
Target	Balance
2,000	309

HOUSING MASTER PLAN PROGRESS REPORT SUMMARY	FY24 Q1-Q4 Impact (Jul 2023-Jun 2024)	Prior Reported Impact (Jan 2014-Jun 2023)	Total Impact (Jan 2014-Jun 2024)
	Created & Preserved/Completed Units/Loans Closed/Grants Issued		
TOTAL	69	1,622	1,691

Housing Master Plan (Jan 2014-Dec 2025)	
Target	Balance
2,000	309

HMP TYPE OF ACTIVITY	FY24 Q1-Q4 Impact (Jul 2023-Jun 2024)	Prior Reported Impact (Jan 2014-Jun 2023)	Total Impact (Jan 2014-Jun 2024)
Committed Affordable Units Lost Due to Expiration of Affordability	0	-101	-101
101 North Ripley (housing assistance contract expired)		-76	-76
Northampton Place (set-aside term of affordability expired)		-12	-12
The Alexander (set-aside term of affordability expired)		-13	-13

Adjusted Housing Master Plan (Jan 2014-Dec 2025)	
Target	Balance
2,000	410

REGIONAL HOUSING INITIATIVE (RHI) TYPE OF ACTIVITY	FY24 Q1-Q4 Impact (Jul 2023-Jun 2024)			Prior Reported Impact (Jan 2014-Jun 2023)	Total Impact (Jan 2014-Jun 2024)
	Completed	Underway	Pipeline	Prior Completed	Total Completed
Workforce Affordable Units (70-80% AMI) Created, Converted from Existing Residential, or Preserved	0	104	239	347	347
The Foundry (Block 6A) (also see above)				3	3
Ford + Park				10	10
Sansé (Glebe/Mount Vernon) Workforce Affordable Units		104		0	0
Parcview II (also see above)			73	0	0
Samuel Madden			86		
Ladrey			80		
Completed				114	114
Parkstone (Avara) Apartments				114	114
Landmark Towers				154	154
Parc Square				66	66

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
MEETING ATTENDANCE REPORT
JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024

COMMISSION: Alexandria Housing Affordability Advisory Committee
CHAIRPERSON: Betsy Faga

MEMBER'S NAME	2023						2024					
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Peter Sutherland	/	/	X	U	U	X	/	X	X	X*	X	U
Jon Frederick	/	/	X	X	U	X	/	X	X	X*	X	X
Aschalew Asabie	/	/	X	X	X*	X	/	X	X	X	X	X
Robyn Konkell	/	/	X	X	X	U	/	X	E	X	X	X
Michelle Krockner	/	/	X	X	X	X	/	X	X	X	X	X
Peter-Anthony Pappas	/	/	X	U	U	X	/	X	X	X	U	/
Michael Doyle	/	/	U	X	X	X	/	X	X	X	X	X
Annette Bridges	/	/	X*	X*	X*	X*	/	X	X*	X*	X*	X
Shelley McCabe	/	/	X	U	U	X	/	X	X	X	X	U
Betsy Faga, Chair	/	/	X	X	X	X	/	X	X	X	X	X
Felicia Brewster	/	/	X	X	X	X	/	X	U	X	X	X
Michael Jackson	/	/	X	X	U	U	/	X	E	X	X	X
Jan Macidull	/	/	X	X	X	X	/	X	X	X	X	X
Yeshewase Ayele	/	/	X*	U	X	U	/	U	U	/	/	X
Coss Lumbé	/	/	X	X	X	E	/	X	X	X	U	U
Sean Zielenbach	/	/	X	E	X	X	/	X	X	X	X	X
Michael Butler	/	/	X	X	X	X	/	X	X	U	X	X
Melissa Sathé	/	/	X	X	X	X	/	X	X	X	U	X

*Participated electronically.

INDICATE:

X - FOR PRESENT

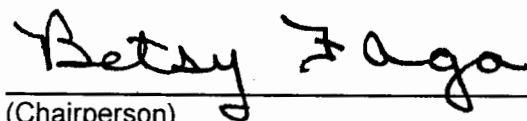
E - FOR EXCUSED

U - FOR UNEXCUSED

LIST OF THOSE WHO DID NOT ATTEND 75% OF MEETINGS:

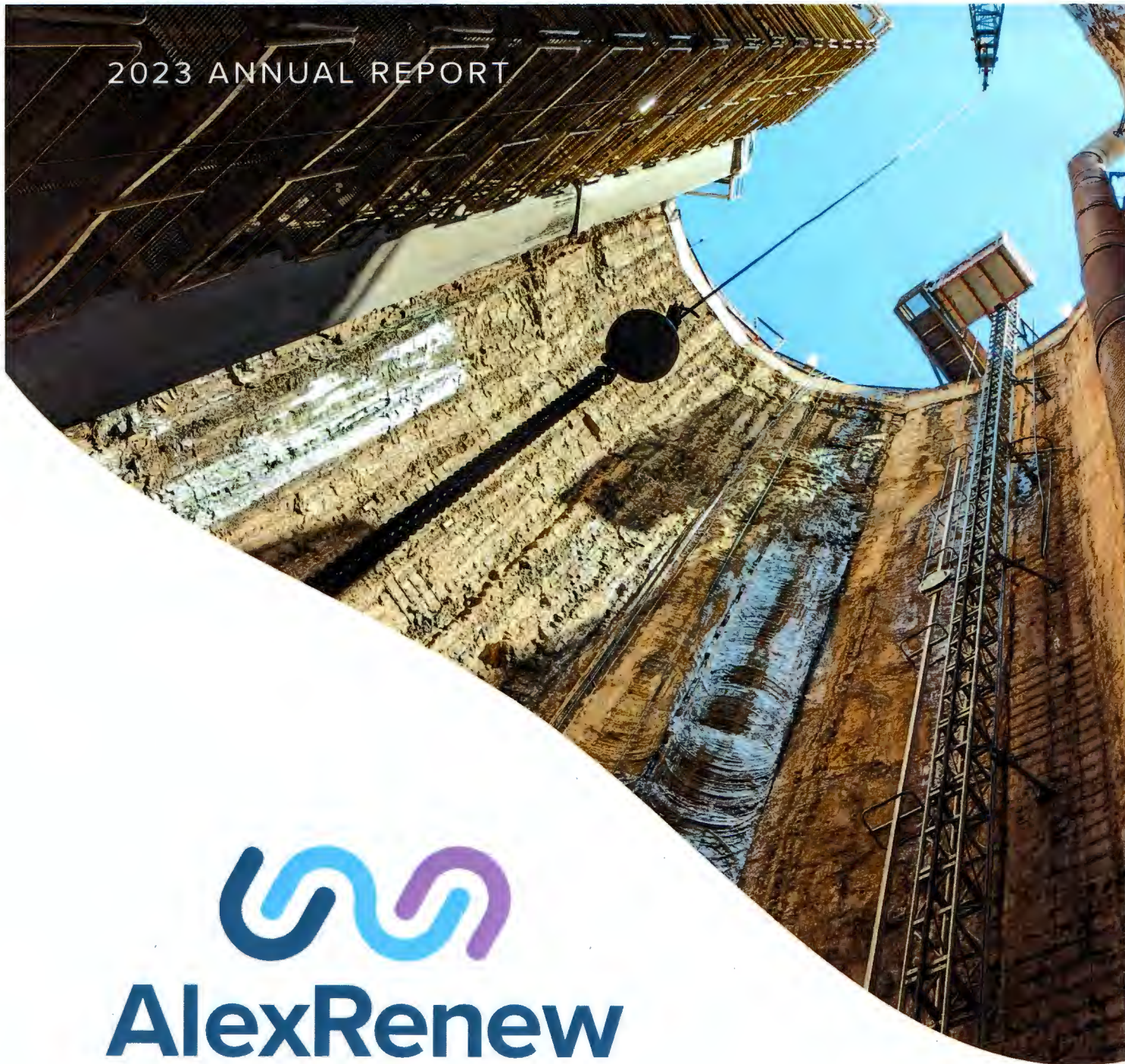
1. **Peter Sutherland**—Peter was actively engaged in Committee activities outside of regular meetings, including providing feedback on Committee correspondence and testifying at public hearings.
2. **Shelley McCabe**—Shelley was actively engaged in Committee activities outside of regular meetings, including providing feedback on Committee correspondence and testifying at public hearings. She now serves as the FY25 AHAAC co-chair.
3. **Peter-Anthony Pappas**—Membership ended May 2024

APPROVED:



(Chairperson)

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



AlexRenew

Building a
Sustainable
Future

A Message From Our Board of Directors

Since our first pumps powered on in 1956, AlexRenew has embraced the spirit of innovation, working to deliver sustainable solutions to the City of Alexandria and Fairfax County communities we serve.

That same spirit propelled us into fiscal year 2023, as our team of 100+ employees worked tirelessly to meet stringent water quality requirements while processing 13 billion gallons of wastewater. We also reached several milestones on our path to delivering healthier waterways with our \$615 million RiverRenew program — the largest infrastructure project in Alexandria’s history. Crews completed shaft excavation activities across multiple construction sites, made significant progress on the massive 2.2-mile-long, 12-foot-wide Waterfront Tunnel, and oversaw a microtunnel boring expedition at Hooffs Run. When the RiverRenew program is complete, it will prevent 130 million gallons of sanitary sewage mixed with stormwater from polluting Alexandria’s waterways each year.

Our communities remain at the heart of our mission at AlexRenew. Trust is essential to our success, and we work hard to build and maintain relationships with all customers. Each year, we meet with area residents at community events, volunteer efforts, and community association meetings. We also frequently share updates on a wide range of digital and traditional communications platforms.

These efforts ensure that we are educating our communities about the complex and often unseen tasks that the AlexRenew team performs every day.

In January 2023, AlexRenew welcomed Justin Carl, our new General Manager and Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Carl has already seen AlexRenew through many critical milestones in his five years as the Program Manager of RiverRenew. AlexRenew will leverage his proven leadership abilities and experience solving complex water issues to help our team complete the RiverRenew program and continue to deliver innovative clean water solutions.

As we reflect on the accomplishments and transformations in fiscal year 2023, we want to take the time to appreciate all those who support AlexRenew’s vital mission: from our customers and community partners to the residents of Alexandria who inspire us to continue building a sustainable future for our community.

Front Cover Photo: Screening shaft at AlexRenew

AlexRenew Board of Directors
James Beall
John Hill, Chair (back)
Adriana Caldarelli
Mark Jinks
Rebecca Hammer (front)





Secondary
Settling Tanks

Our Mission

PROTECTING THE WATERWAYS THAT CONNECT US

AlexRenew provides essential wastewater services for Alexandria — protecting its citizens, delivering healthier waterways, and building a lasting legacy of environmental stewardship in the region.

Each year, our team processes approximately 13 billion gallons of wastewater from area homes, schools, and businesses before safely returning it to local waterways.

OUR IDENTITY

Embracing our lasting legacy, AlexRenew unveiled a new mark that illustrates our connected waterways and treatment process.

Deep Navy, a color that has always reflected AlexRenew.

Vibrant Blue represents the clean water AlexRenew returns to our waterways, symbolizing reliability.

Royal Purple has been added to our brand and symbolizes trust, safety, and care while referencing AlexRenew's commitment to water reuse.

HISTORY STABILITY TRUST



2023 Major Capital Projects



INVESTING IN OUR PERFORMANCE

To protect the health of our community and its waterways, AlexRenew continually invests in our systems and facilities to ensure we remain on the cutting edge of wastewater treatment.

Cybersecurity Upgrades

Software and infrastructure upgrades to enhance information technology safety and security

Preliminary and Primary Treatment System Upgrade

Implementing process upgrades to screenings, grit removal, and raw sewage

Asset Management

Managing AlexRenew infrastructure assets to minimize costs and maximize performance

Solids Program

Designing improvements to increase reliability around our solids process

Biosolid Processing



Control Valves



Anaerobic Digesters



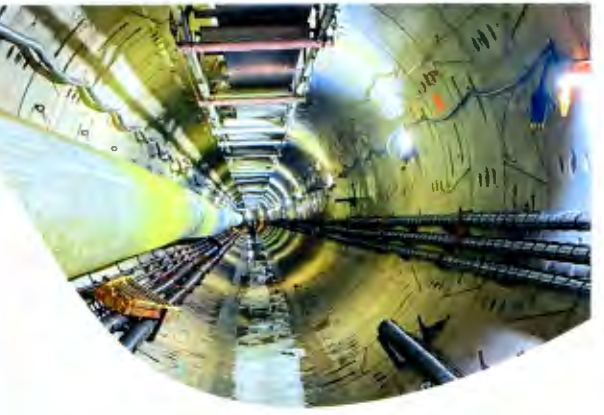


Pendleton Street

Waterfront Tunnel



Royal Street



Hooffs Run



INVESTING IN HEALTHIER WATERWAYS

Since 2018, we've been hard at work on the largest infrastructure initiative in Alexandria's history — the RiverRenew Tunnel Project.

This year, we achieved major milestones: launching a state-of-the-art tunnel boring machine, completing shaft excavation across all sites, excavating critical portions of the Hooffs Run Interceptor, and continuing to build toward a healthier future for our city's waterways.

This project is subject to legislation requiring its completion by 2025.

Pendleton Street

Hooffs Run

AlexRenew

Royal Street

Growing Together



2023 WATER QUALITY AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ACHIEVEMENTS



Gold Peak Performance

Received Gold Peak Performance Award from National Association of Clean Water Agencies for 100% permit compliance in calendar year 2022



Virginia Environmental Excellence Program

Selected as a 2023 Sustainability Partner in the Department of Environmental Quality's Virginia Environmental Excellence Program



Utility of the Future Today

Recognized as a 2023 Utility of the Future Today honoree by the Water Environment Federation



Plant Tour Attendees



Noel Reyes,
Operations Team



Water Quality Testing

OUR NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED WORKFORCE CONTINUES TO LEAD THE WAY IN THE WASTEWATER INDUSTRY

Electrical Monitoring

- 29** Wastewater Works Licenses
- 16** Certified Maintenance Technicians
- 8** Electrical Journeymen
- 7** Professional Engineers
- 5** Professional Operators
- 3** Sustainability Certifications
- 2** Certified Project Management Professionals



Centrifuge Maintenance

Equipment Inspection



A Culture of Community Engagement



CONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITY TO SHARE OUR MISSION

Community Days

- Earth Day
- Bike to Work Day
- Alice Ferguson Foundation Potomac River Cleanup
- Imagine a Day Without Water

Community Meetings

- Approximately 14 Public Meetings With Our Board of Directors
- 4 Public Meetings With the Council-Board Workgroup
- 6 Public Meetings of the RiverRenew Stakeholder Advisory Group
- 6 Community Listening Sessions



River Cleanup

Community Listening Session





AlexRenew
Plant Tour



High School
Career Fair



Tunnel Tour

Education

- Tours of AlexRenew's Wastewater Treatment Plant and Environmental Center
- RiverRenew Program Tunnel Tours
- Interactive RiverRenew Banners
- Presentations to Local Schools

Digital Programming

- Social Media Initiatives Highlighting AlexRenew's Workforce, Women in Engineering, and More
- RiverRenew Program Updates
- Important Customer Notifications



Ellen Pickering
Environmental Award

Sip 'n See

Community Anchor

- Co-Sponsor of Ellen Pickering Environmental Award
- Meeting Location for Local Nonprofit Groups
- Polling Place for Alexandrians





Tertiary Settling Tanks

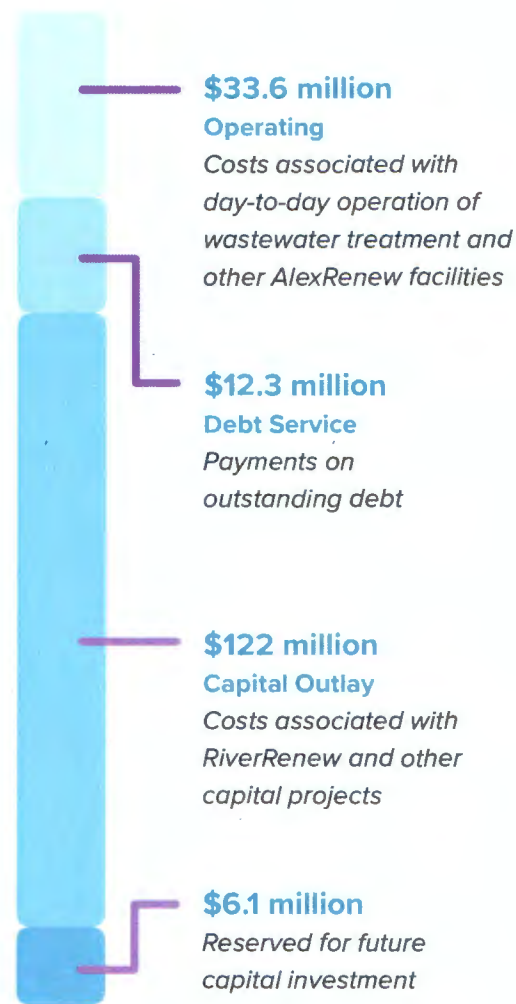
Funding Our Mission

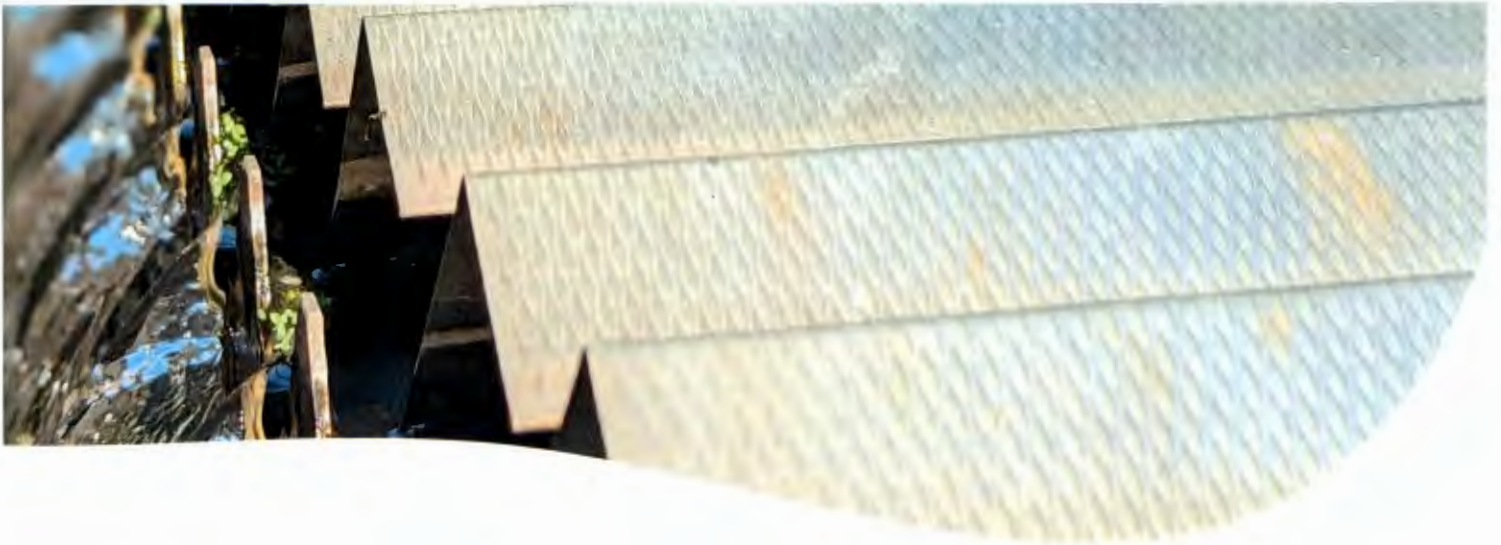
FISCAL YEAR 2023 REVENUES AND EXPENSES

Total Revenues \$174 million



Total Expenses \$174 million





In FY23, AlexRenew continued to maintain a strong and balanced budget to meet its mission to protect the waterways that connect us.

AlexRenew met or performed better than the standards established by its financial policies, maintaining a debt service coverage ratio of 2.6 and unrestricted cash of 136 days of operating expenses.

Operating revenues were approximately \$3.9 million higher than projected due to customer water usage, and expenditures were \$2.1 less than budget projections because planned drawdowns of loans to finance elements of the RiverRenew project occurred later

than originally budgeted. This resulted in approximately a \$6 million surplus available for future capital investments.

AlexRenew received the Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, which is the highest form of recognition for excellence in state and local government financial reporting.



**EXCEEDED
FINANCIAL POLICY
REQUIREMENTS FOR
DEBT SERVICE
COVERAGE AND
OPERATING
CASH**

AlexRenew's Finance Team. AlexRenew received a clean audit on the Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Comprehensive Report.





AlexRenew

1800 LIMERICK STREET | ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

alexrenew.com

Back Cover Photo: AlexRenew Wastewater Treatment Plant

ADVISORY GROUP ANNUAL ATTENDANCE REPORT

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
AlexRenew Board of Directors
MEETING ATTENDANCE REPORT**

JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024

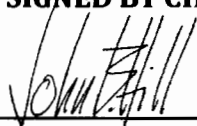
CHAIRPERSON: John B. Hill

MEMBER'S NAME	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
John Hill	X	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	E	X	X
Jim Beall	X	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X	E	X	X	X
Adriana Caldarelli	X	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	E	X	X	X	X
Rebecca Hammer	X	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Mark Jinks	X	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

INDICATE: X - FOR PRESENT E - FOR EXCUSED U - FOR UNEXCUSED
LIST OF THOSE WHO DID NOT ATTEND 75% OF MEETINGS:

- None

**FORM MUST BE SIGNED BY CHAIRPERSON
(APPROVED)**



_____ **(Chairperson)**
 John B. Hill
 Chair

**Transportation Commission
Annual Report
July 2023 – June 2024**

Summary of Accomplishments

The mission of the Transportation Commission includes to advocate and promote development of balanced transportation systems for the City of Alexandria, through oversight of the implementation of the Transportation Chapter of the City's adopted Master Plan. Within these guidelines, the Transportation Commission membership completed the following activities during its 2023/24 session.

Transportation Commission Policy and Membership

- While a few positions turned over during the year, and a few new members joined, membership remained steady with a quorum achieved at all scheduled meetings.
- Additionally, the former Chair and Vice-Chair resigned last August, so an interim Chair volunteered in September and new elections were held in October.
- The Commission held eight in-person meetings and one all-virtual meeting per state guidance. In addition, some commissioners participated virtually at in-person meetings, as this was allowed per new state legislation.

Coordination with Other Boards

- The Transportation Commission includes membership from the Planning Commission, the Traffic and Parking Board, the Environmental Policy Commission, the DASH Board of Directors and the Eisenhower West/Landmark/Van Dorn Advisory Group. The DASH Board Liaison resigned in February and that position has remained vacant.
- At every Transportation Commission meeting, the Transportation Commission receives updates and reports back on Transportation Commission topics to their respective boards.
- The Transportation Commission provided a letter of feedback on the FY25 WMATA Budget to the WMATA Board of Directors.
- Members of the Transportation Commission provided letters of support for projects previously endorsed by the Commission to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation in April 2024.

Transportation Commission Member Activities

- Casey Kane is serving on the Eisenhower West/Landmark/Van Dorn Advisory Group.

2023-2024 Accomplishments

- See Attachment 2

Goals for 2024-2025

- Provide input on City consideration of transportation grants.
- Consider endorsements for transportation grants and weigh in on transportation components of other plans and the city budget.

- Continue to hold primarily in-person meetings and up to three all-virtual meetings (per the adopted Updated Electronic Meeting Policy) to ensure convenient participation for the Commissioners and the public.

Leadership

- The council appointed new members to the Commission including Tim Lovain, Leslie Catherwood and Dan Beattie. Melissa McMahon was voted as Chair, and Matthew McManus was voted as Vice Chair. In February, Murat Omay resigned from the Commission, and in November, Oleksandr Faryga resigned from the Commission.
- List term expirations and new members, with month they were appointed.
 - Dan Beattie – December 31, 2026
 - Leslie Catherwood – September 12, 2026
 - Casey Kane – May 31, 2027
 - Tim Lovain – September 30, 2026
 - Jody Manor – January 31, 2025
 - Jim Maslanka – October 31, 2024
 - Melissa McMahon – October 31, 2026
 - Matthew McManus – January 31, 2025
- During the course of the year, membership included the following individuals:
 - Councilman John Chapman (non-voting)
 - Councilman Kirk McPike (non-voting)
 - Dan Beattie
 - Leslie Catherwood
 - Oleksandr Faryga
 - Casey Kane
 - Tim Lovain
 - Jody Manor
 - Jim Maslanka
 - Melissa McMahon
 - Matthew McManus
 - Murat Omay
- Megan Oleynik and Christopher Ziemann, Transportation & Environmental Services, acted as the staff liaisons to Transportation Commission during the 2023/2024 year. Emilie Wolfson will serve as liaison for the 2024/2025 year.

Attachment 1: Annual Attendance Report

Attachment 2: FY23 Accomplishments Summary

Attachment 3: Notable Letters

**ATTACHMENT 1
ADVISORY GROUP ANNUAL ATTENDANCE REPORT**

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
MEETING ATTENDANCE REPORT**

JULY 1, 2023, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024

MEMBER'S NAME	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
COUNCILMAN JOHN CHAPMAN (NON-VOTING) OR CHARLES SUMPTER			X					X				
COUNCILMAN KIRK MCPIKE (NON-VOTING) OR KARL BACH			X	X	X		X	X			X	
MELISSA MCMAHON (CHAIR)			X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
MATTHEW MCMANUS			X	X	X		X	X	X	E	X	X
JODY MANOR			X	V	E (V)		V	X	U	X	X	V
OLEKSANDR FARYGA			U	U								
JAMES MASLANKA			X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
CASEY KANE			X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
TIM LOVAIN			X	X	X		V	X	U	X	X	X
LESLIE CATHERWOOD			X	X	V		X	X	X	X	X	X
MURAT OMA Y			X	X	E		E					
DAN BEATTIE							V	U	V	X	E	X

INDICATE: X - FOR PRESENT E - FOR EXCUSED U - FOR UNEXCUSED
V - FOR VIRTUAL Light grey shade - not a commissioner
Dark grey shade - no meeting held

LIST OF THOSE WHO DID NOT ATTEND 75% OF MEETINGS: NA

FORM MUST BE SIGNED BY CHAIRPERSON
(APPROVED) _____ 
CHAIRPERSON: MELISSA MCMAHON

**ATTACHMENT 2
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MAJOR INITIATIVES IN FY 2024**

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	SCHEDULE
Grant Endorsements	<p>The Transportation Commission regularly reviewed and endorsed grant applications for Council approval as being consistent with the Alexandria Mobility Plan and Vision Zero Action Plan, including for the following programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program Grant - Virginia Highway Safety Improvement Program (VHSIP) Systemic Safety Funding Program - USDOT TOD Planning Grant Program Application - DRPT FY 2024 Mid-Cycle Transportation Ridership Incentive Program (TRIP) New Passenger Amenities Category - Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvements (CMAQ) and Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Project Funding Requests for FY30 - RAISE Grant Application for Safety Improvements along Seminary Road - DRPT Operating and Capital Assistance State Aid Applications, Commuter Assistance Program Operations Grant Applications, and Transit Rider Incentive Program, and Approval of a Required Matching Funds - MWCOG Grant Applications - Alexandria Transit Strategic Plan - FY25-30 Six Year Improvement Program (SYIP) - AlexWest SAP - Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Round 2 Discretionary Grant Application - Consideration of FY2030 SMART SCALE Funding Requests - FY2030 SMART Scale Funding Requests - FY2024 Safe Streets and Road for All Grant Program - SMART Grant Application for Detection Technology <p>These grant applications included funding for, electric bus and vehicle conversion, roadway improvements around high crash intersections, Transportation Demand Management, Safe Streets and Roads, and other pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure improvements.</p>	Ongoing

Transportation Updates	Throughout the year, the Commission received updates on the progress of plan implementation and other major events impacting transportation in the City including Complete Streets and Vision Zero Program, AlexWest Small Area Plan, Electric Vehicle Planning, WMATA budget, WMATA Better Bus Network, Maintenance of Traffic Plans, AlexMoves 2023 Transportation Survey, Transportation Long Range Plan Scoring, the Transportation Management Plan, Eisenhower Transportation Study Update, Trails Maintenance and Planning, Smart Mobility Capital Bikeshare and Dockless Mobility, DASH ridership, and other topics related to transportation.	Ongoing
FY25 City Operating Budget and FY25-34 Capital Improvement Program	The Transportation Commission provided input to the City Manager on the proposed transportation related budget items in the City Manager's budget. The Commission also provided input to City Council after the City Manager's budget was submitted.	October 2023 and March 2024
Complete Streets	Staff presented their annual report to the Commission on the activities of the Complete Streets Program, including Safe Routes to School, trails and Vision Zero	October 2023
Capital Bikeshare and Micromobility	Staff provided an update to the Commission on the City's Capital Bikeshare program and the micromobility program (dockless scooters, etc.)	February 2024
AlexWest Small Area Plan	Staff provided updates to the Commission on the AlexWest Small Area Plan and the Commission provided feedback. The Commission also provided input on the draft Transportation Chapter of the AlexWest Small Area Plan.	November 2023, May 2023, June 2024
Transportation Commission Retreat	During May of 2024, the Commission held their bi-annual retreat where the commission's purpose, processes, goals, and priorities were discussed.	May 2024

ATTACHMENT 3
NOTABLE LETTERS

1. Any notable letters to City Council, date, subject
 1. Endorsed Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Program Grant- September 2023
 2. Endorsed Virginia Highway Safety Improvement Program (VHSIP) Systemic Safety Funding Program- September 2023
 3. Endorsed USDOT Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Planning Grant Program Application- September 2023
 4. Endorsed Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) FY 2024 Mid-Cycle Transportation Ridership Incentive Program (TRIP) New Passenger Amenities Category- October2023
 5. Endorsed Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvements (CMAQ) and Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Project Funding Request for FY30- November 2023
 6. Endorsed RAISE Grant Application for Safety Improvements along Seminary Road- January 2024
 7. Endorsed FY2025 DRPT Operating and Capital Assistance State Aid Applications, the Commuter Assistance Program Operations Grant Applications, and the Transit Rider Incentive Program, and Approval of Required Matching Funds- January 2024
 8. Endorsed FY2025 Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) Grant Applications- January 2024
 9. Endorsed FY25-FY34 Alexandria Transit Strategic Plan (ATSP)- March 20, 2024
 10. Endorsed FY25-30 Six Year Improvement Program (SYIP)- April 17, 2024
 11. Endorsed AlexWest SAP – June 2024
 12. Endorsed Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Round 2 Discretionary Grant Application- June 2024
 13. Endorsed Consideration of FY2030 SMART SCALE Funding Requests- June 2024
 14. Endorsed FY2024 Safe Streets and Road for All Grant Program- June 2024

15. Endorsed SMART Grant Application for Detection Technology- June 2024

2. Any letters to other Advisory Groups, date, subject

16. Provided Letter of Feedback on the FY25 WMATA Budget to the WMATA Board of Directors- February 21, 2024

17. Provided Letters of Support for Projects Previously Endorsed by the Commission to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation- April 2024

3. Any completed reports or relevant documents

- N/A



Alexandria Transportation Commission
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

alexandriava.gov

Phone: 703.746.4025

Honorable Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

September 21, 2023

Re: **Endorsement of Grant Application for the FY 2025-2026 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TA) Program**

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council:

At its September 20 meeting, the Transportation Commission voted to endorse two grant applications for cumulative funding of up to \$4,000,000 through the FY 2025-2026 Transportation Alternatives Set-Side (TA) Program.

The Transportation Commission supports staff's proposal to request funding for two projects. The first project would be the design and construction of several crossing improvements identified in prior Safe Routes to School (SRTS) walk audits. The second project would be the design and construction of safety improvements on Slaters Lane between the intersection of Richmond Highway (Route 1) and Powhatan Street. Commissioners noted that they would like specifically like to see bicycle accommodations considered in the improvements on Slaters Lane, in addition to the pedestrian ones thus far envisioned.

Both projects support the Vision Zero Action Plan strategy to build safer streets for everyone and to accelerate safety improvements as part of the City's Safe Routes to School Program.

The Transportation Commission appreciates the opportunity to review staff's proposal and to provide its endorsement to Council.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Melissa McMahon
Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
Jim Parajon, City Manager
Emily Baker, Deputy City Manager
Adriana Castaneda, Director, T&ES
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES
Christopher Ziemann, Division Chief, T&ES
Philippe Simon, Grants Coordinator, T&ES



Alexandria Transportation Commission
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

www.alexandriava.gov

Phone: 703.746.4025

Honorable Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

September 21, 2023

Re: **Endorsement of Grant Application for the FY 2025 Virginia Highway Safety Improvement Program (VHSIP) Systemic Safety Funding Program**

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council:

At its September 20 meeting, the Transportation Commission voted to endorse a grant application for funding of \$2,000,000 through the FY 2025 VHSIP Systemic Safety Funding Program from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to support systemic safety measures at all of the City's signalized T-intersections.

T-intersections are particularly challenging for pedestrians because all crossings with a vehicle present include a turning vehicle movement which is inherently more dangerous. The Transportation Commission supports staff's proposal to request funding for these signage and signal systems upgrades to improve safety for all users at these locations.

This project supports the Vision Zero Action Plan strategy to implement systemic safety improvements. It also supports the following strategies in the Alexandria Mobility Plan:

- Implement the Vision Zero Action Plan to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries by 2028.
- Create a safe, well-maintained, and comfortable walking and biking environment.

The Transportation Commission appreciates the opportunity to review staff's proposal and to provide its endorsement to Council.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Melissa McMahon
Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
Jim Parajon, City Manager
Emily Baker, Deputy City Manager
Adriana Castaneda, Director, T&ES
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES
Bob Garbacz, Division Chief, T&ES
Maha Gilini, Civil Engineer, T&ES
Philippe Simon, Grants Coordinator, T&ES



Alexandria Transportation Commission
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

www.alexandriava.gov

Phone: 703.746.4025

Honorable Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

September 21, 2023

Re: **Endorsement of Grant Application for the FY 2023 U.S. Department of Transportation's Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Planning Grant Program**

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council:

At its September 20 meeting, the Transportation Commission voted to endorse the City of Alexandria's 2023 U.S. Department of Transportation's Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Planning Grant Program application. Consistent with the goals of the Alexandria Mobility Plan, the proposed application will help us advance transit-oriented development planning in the Duke Street Corridor of Alexandria.

The City is a leader in advancing and expanding equitable transportation access and providing new methods for guideway and transit project corridors. This grant would provide funding to better integrate land use and transportation planning in the planning process for this area. In June 2023, City Council approved the concept design for the Duke Street Transitway. That same month, the City approved the FY 2024-2025 Long-Range Planning Work Program, identifying the Duke Street Corridor Plan as the next Comprehensive Plan the City will undertake, scheduled to begin mid-2024. This planning effort represents an opportunity to promote equity and sustainability through the creation and retention of affordable housing and mixed-use development near transit and increased street, sidewalk, and bicycle-network connections. The funding opportunity aligns well to timing and need.

The proposed planning effort will comprehensively analyze and update land use for the areas adjacent to the planned Duke Street bus rapid transit (BRT) corridor to reflect current City policy and priorities related to housing affordability, equity, sustainability, and mobility while leveraging transit-oriented development principles, such as walkability, variety of uses, and transit-supportive density, among others. The planning effort will continue to integrate recommendations from the recently completed transit planning process for the corridor.

The Transportation Commission appreciates the opportunity to review staff's proposal and to provide its endorsement to Council.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Melissa McMahon', with a long, sweeping underline.

Melissa McMahon
Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

CC: Alexandria Transportation Commission
Jim Parajon, City Manager
Emily Baker, Deputy City Manager
Jeffrey Farmer, Deputy Director, Department of Planning & Zoning
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES
Carrie Beach, Division Chief of Neighborhood Planning, Dept. of Planning & Zoning
Andra Schmitt, Urban Planner 1, Department of Planning & Zoning
Megan Oleynik, Transportation Planning, T&ES



Alexandria Transportation Commission
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Phone: 703.746.4025

www.alexandriava.gov

Honorable Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

October 23, 2023

Re: **Endorsement of Grant Application for the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) FY 2024 Mid-Cycle Transportation Ridership Incentive Program (TRIP) New Passenger Amenities Category**

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council:

At its October 18 meeting, the Transportation Commission voted to endorse a grant application for funding of up to \$544,000 through the DRPT FY 2024 Mid-Cycle TRIP New Passenger Amenities category.

The Transportation Commission supports staff's proposal to request funding to provide passenger amenities at Landmark/West End until the facility funded through SMART SCALE can be constructed, at which point the amenities can be relocated to other high need areas in the City.

This project supports the Alexandria Mobility Plan strategy to improve the rider experience and will ensure that appropriate amenities are available for this major transfer facility at the opening of Duke Street and West End Transitways. It also provides the opportunity to potentially leverage the new developer-funded Transportation Management Plan GoAlex Fund for the local match for these amenities.

The Transportation Commission appreciates the opportunity to review staff's proposal and to provide its endorsement to Council.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Melissa McMahon
Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
Jim Parajon, City Manager
Emily Baker, Deputy City Manager
Adriana Castaneda, Director, T&ES
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES
Philippe Simon, Grants Coordinator, T&ES



Alexandria Transportation Commission
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Phone: 703.746.4025

www.alexandriava.gov

Honorable Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

November 20, 2023

Re: Endorsement of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Project Funding Requests for FY 2030

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council:

At its November 15 meeting, the Transportation Commission voted to endorse the CMAQ and RSTP Project Funding Request for FY30 for up to \$5 million. We enthusiastically support funding for multi-modal transportation projects which have many goals, including reducing air pollutants in nonattainment areas such as the Washington region. The City's request for FY30 includes funding for Mt. Vernon Avenue North Safety Improvements, DASH Technology (Computer-Aided Dispatch/Automated Vehicle Location (CAD/AVL) system), DASH electric charging infrastructure, Safe Routes to School identified improvements, and a Multimodal Access Study for the Landmark/Van Dorn neighborhood including locations for a pedestrian and bicycle bridge over 395, bridges over Cameron Run, and connections over the rail tracks and Backlick Run to the Eisenhower Metrorail station.

FY 2030 CMAQ/RSTP Proposed Program

Project Name	FY30
DASH Technology	\$1,000,000
Mt. Vernon Avenue North	\$1,000,000
Multimodal Access Study	\$500,000
Safe Routes to School	\$1,500,000
DASH Charging Equipment	\$1,000,000
TOTAL	\$5,000,000

Thank you as always for your support for these important grant program funding requests, which provide long-term support for many elements of the Alexandria Mobility Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Melissa McMahon', with a long, sweeping underline.

Melissa McMahon
Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
City Manager James F. Parajon
Adriana Castañeda, Director, T&ES
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES



Alexandria Transportation Commission
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

www.alexandriava.gov

Phone: 703.746.4025

Honorable Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

January 17, 2024

Re: Endorsement of RAISE Grant Application for Safety Improvements along Seminary Road

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council:

At its January 17 meeting, the Transportation Commission voted unanimously to endorse the City's application for the RAISE grant program to fund safety improvements along Seminary Road between Library Lane and North Beauregard Street. This is a dangerous and confusing section of road for all road users, but critical to our transit infrastructure, walk and bike connectivity, and to the support of residents on the west end.

We enthusiastically support funding for these safety and multi-modal transportation projects which have many benefits, including helping us achieve Vision Zero by 2028.

Should you have any questions about this endorsement, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Melissa McMahon
Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
City Manager James F. Parajon
Adriana Castañeda, Director, T&ES
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES



Alexandria Transportation Commission
301 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 703.746.4025

Honorable Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
January 17, 2024

Re: Endorsement of the FY 2025 DRPT Operating and Capital Assistance State Aid Applications, the Commuter Assistance Program Operations Grant Applications, and the Transit Rider Incentive Program, and Approval of Required Matching Funds.

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council:

At its January 17 meeting, the Transportation Commission voted to endorse the staff recommended funded requests through six DRPT grant programs:

DRPT Operating Assistance

- Up to \$37 million to offset the City's operating expenses for FY 2024 and provide greater support for DASH

DRPT Capital Assistance

- Up to \$400,000 to submit for reimbursement for the purchase and replacement of batteries and powertrain Components for hybrid and electric buses. Reimbursements are typically funded between 60% and 68%.

Commuter Assistance Program

- Up to \$350,000 to fund two staff and programming.
 - This requires a \$70,000 local match

Demonstration Project Assistance Program

- Up to \$200,000 for a DASH Onboard Passenger Information Screen Pilot
 - This requires a \$40,000 local match
- Up to \$100,000 for a DASH Thru Vision Blindspot Camera Pilot

- This requires a \$20,000 local match

Public Transportation Workforce Development Program

- Up to \$110,000 to fund DASH professional development program.
 - This requires a \$22,000 local match

Transit Rider Incentive Program

- Up to \$500,000 for bus stop amenities
 - This requires a \$160,000 local match

These requests support goals in the Alexandria Mobility Plan including supporting multimodal transportation and reducing single occupancy vehicle trips. The Transportation Commission appreciates the opportunity to review staff recommendations for the FY 2025 DRPT Grant requests.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M McMahon', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Melissa McMahon

Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
City Manager James Parajon
Adriana Castañeda, Director, T&ES
Josh Baker, General Manager, DASH
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director of Transportation, T&ES



Alexandria Transportation Commission
301 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 703.746.4025

Honorable Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

January 17, 2024

Re: Endorsement of the FY 2025 Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) Grant Applications

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council:

At its January 17, 2024 meeting, the Transportation Commission voted to endorse the following staff-recommended technical assistance grant applications to the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Transportation and Land Use Connections Program and Regional Roadway Safety Program:

Transportation and Land Use Connections Program:

- Up to \$80,000 to perform planning, community engagement, and preliminary design for corridor improvements on Edsall Road between South Pickett Street and the City line

Regional Roadway Safety Program:

- Up to \$80,000 to study safety improvements on Seminary Road between North Beauregard Street and the City line

The requests support the goals of the Alexandria Mobility Plan, the Vision Zero Action Plan, and community concerns brought forth during the AlexWest planning efforts. The Transportation Commission appreciates the opportunity to review staff recommendations for the FY 2025 Transportation and Land Use Connections and Regional Roadway Safety Programs and heartily supports these grant applications.

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Melissa McMahon
Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

**cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
James Parajon, City Manager
Adriana Castañeda, Director, T&ES
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES**



Alexandria Transportation Commission
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22414

www.alexandriava.gov

Phone: 703.746.4025

Honorable Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22414

March 20, 2024

Re: **Endorsement of the FY25-FY34 Alexandria Transit Strategic Plan (ATSP)**

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council:

At its March 20 meeting, the Transportation Commission received an update from DASH on the FY25 – FY34 Alexandria Transit Strategic Plan (ATSP). The presentation outlined potential service changes to DASH routes, including the potential reduction to Line 104 service.

The Commission recognizes that there are many competing budgetary priorities and is grateful that draft City Manager's budget for FY 2025 includes an increase in the DASH subsidy to cover additional costs related to a new collective bargaining agreement (CBA) and the DASH Free Fares program; however, the proposed reduction to Line 104 would have a severe negative impact on DASH riders traveling between Alexandria and the Pentagon and runs counter to the goals and objectives of the Alexandria Transit Vision (ATV) Plan and the Alexandria Mobility Plan.

To this end, the Commission encourages City Council to reconsider the Line 104 reduction to determine if additional funding can be identified to offset the \$180,000 annual operating cost. With its continued historic ridership growth, DASH has become a viable travel option for more and more of the city's residents, workers and visitors. Based on these trends, Alexandria should be investing more in transit service improvements like those proposed for Lines 32, 34 and 31, and not less, with the proposed reduction to Line 104. On a broader scale, the Commission considers the minimum acceptable level of service as having half-hour headways, and urges the Council to move forward with implementing the Transit Vision Plan's service expansion.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Melissa McMahon
Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Jim Parajon, City Manager
Emily Baker, Deputy City Manager
Tarrence Moorer, Interim Director, T&ES
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES
Christopher Ziemann, Division Chief, Transportation Planning



Alexandria Transportation Commission
301 King Street Alexandria, VA 22314

alexandriava.gov

703.746.4025

Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation
1725 Duke Street, Suite 675
Alexandria, VA 22314

April 17, 2024

Re: Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2030 Six Year Improvement Program (SYIP)

Dear Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation,

At its April 2024 meeting, the Transportation Commission voted to approve this letter of support for the following project applications from the City of Alexandria:

- \$37,000,000 in eligible expenses for State Aid Transit Operating Assistance
- \$400,000 for State Aid Capital Assistance
- \$350,000 for the Commuter Assistance Program (CAP)
- \$110,000 for the Public Transportation Workforce Development Program
- \$315,000 for the Demonstration Project Assistance Program
- \$500,000 for the Transit Ridership Incentive Program (TRIP)

The Commission considers these projects high priorities for the City to promote transit ridership, service innovation, and public safety by building more convenient and accessible bus stops, supporting workforce development, and encouraging multimodal travel benefiting the entire region. We thank you for your consideration of these priority areas to help the City advance its strategic goals.

Sincerely,

Melissa McMahon
Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
Adriana Castañeda, Director, T&ES
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES
Christopher Ziemann, Chief of Transportation Planning Division, T&ES
Philippe Simon, Grants Coordinator, T&ES



Alexandria Transportation Commission
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Phone: 703.746.4025

www.alexandriava.gov

Honorable Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

June 20, 2024

Re: Transportation Elements of Alexandria West Small Area Plan Update

Dear Mayor Wilson, Members of City Council, and Members of the Planning Commission:

At its June 20, 2024, meeting, the Alexandria Transportation Commission reviewed the Alexandria West Small Area Plan's draft transportation recommendations. The Commission moved to **endorse the recommendations in the plan as consistent with the Alexandria Mobility Plan (AMP).**

The Transportation Commission:

- Supports the enhanced, interconnected, and gridded multimodal street and path network depicted in the Plan, but also
 - suggests that some refinement to drawings would ensure consistency in the networks depicted across the plan area, helping to avoid confusion or misunderstanding during implementation.
- Supports the Plan's commitment to safety studies at critical intersections and corridors in the Plan area, but also
 - suggests that the Plan be more explicit about how street and transit access design will improve the lived experience of residents, making their options safer and more convenient. Comparison between current access conditions and the future proposed condition could be helpful in this regard.
- Applauds how the Plan builds upon the West End Transitway by promoting density along the alignment of the route, but also
 - suggests the final document should unequivocally describe an effective West End Transitway as critical to the Plan's success.

The Transportation Commission was created by Council to advocate and promote the development of balanced transportation systems in the City through oversight of the implementation of the Transportation Chapter of the City's adopted Master Plan. Our endorsement action is conducted in fulfillment of this oversight obligation.

The Commission appreciates your consideration of its input on this project, and we look forward to the implementation of the Alexandria West Small Area Plan Update.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Melissa McMahon', with a long, sweeping underline.

Melissa McMahon
Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
City Manager James Parajon
Adriana Castañeda, Director, T&ES
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES
Christopher Ziemann, Division Chief, T&ES



Alexandria Transportation Commission
301 King Street
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Phone: 703.746.4025

Honorable Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

June 20, 2024

Re: **Endorsement of Grant Application for Round 2 of the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program**

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council:

At its June 20 meeting, the Transportation Commission voted to endorse a grant application for Round 2 of the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Program from the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT). The proposed application will bring critical charging infrastructure to support the growing adoption of electric vehicles.

The City is a leader in advancing transportation electrification in the region. The City has developed an Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Readiness Strategy (EVRs) to act as a roadmap to meet the electric vehicle charging infrastructure and technical needs of City residents, workforce members, and visitors as electric vehicle adoption increases. The EVRS includes 31 recommendations that will build an effective, innovative, and sustainable electric vehicle ecosystem. The EVRS includes recommendations around meeting the charging demand of the community, workforce development, and equity, which can be accelerated by the CFI Program.

The Transportation Commission supports staff's proposal to request funding to implement the EVRS recommendations through the installation of publicly accessible electric vehicle chargers at multiple sites across the City, such as public parks, libraries, and recreation centers. The chargers will be located in areas that will benefit disadvantaged communities and serve areas with a high concentration of multi-unit dwellings and limited off-street parking. The City of Alexandria residents are adopting electric vehicles at a rate faster than the national average, and this project will help meet the needs of the community.

The Transportation Commission understands the CFI requires a 20% local match, and that if the City's grant request is awarded, the match would be up to \$3 million. The grant terms indicate that private project partners can be required to provide the local match. If the City cannot secure

private project partner funding, the match will be funded through the Citywide Electric Vehicle Charging Station CIP project, which has over \$3 million in funds from FY 2024 through FY 2027.

The Transportation Commission appreciates the opportunity to review staff's proposal and to provide its endorsement to Council.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melissa McMahon', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Melissa McMahon
Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

CC: Alexandria Transportation Commission
Jim Parajon, City Manager
Emily Baker, Deputy City Manager
Julian Gonsalves, Assistant City Manager
Adriana Castañeda, Director, Transportation and Environmental Services
Ryan Freed, Climate Action Officer, Office of Climate Action
Amy Posner, Electric Vehicle Planner, Office of Climate Action
Samantha Heitsch, Sustainability Coordinator, Office of Climate Action
Christopher Ziemann, Division Chief, Transportation Planning, Transportation and Environmental Services
Philippe Simon, Grants Coordinator, Transportation and Environmental Services



Alexandria Transportation Commission
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

www.alexandriava.gov

Phone: 703.746.4025

Honorable Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

June 20, 2024

Re: **Endorsement of Consideration of FY 2030 SMART SCALE Funding Requests**

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council:

At its June 20 meeting, the Transportation Commission voted to endorse the staff-recommended list of four projects for pre-application for grant funding for the FY 2030 SMART SCALE program. The proposed application for the three City projects and one DASH project would include up to \$50 million for the following requests:

1. King Street-Bradlee Safety and Mobility Enhancements: Up to \$20 Million
2. Eisenhower Avenue and Van Dorn Street Improvements: Up to \$25 Million
3. Duke Street and Route 1 Intersection Improvements: Up to \$5 Million

Additionally, the Commission voted to endorse the joint application from NVTA and Arlington County to improve the Shirlington Rotary, which would have a positive effect on Alexandria.

Transportation Commission is aware that because the timeline for submissions of pre-applications is significantly sooner than the application deadline, staff will develop more detailed cost estimates over the next several months, and that the amounts above are maximum funding requests.

The Transportation Commission appreciates the opportunity to review staff recommendations for SMART SCALE funding, as well as to provide its endorsement to Council.

May you have any questions; do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melissa McMahon', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Melissa McMahon
Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
Jim Parajon, City Manager
Emily Baker, Deputy City Manager
Adriana Castañeda, Director, T&ES
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES
Christopher Ziemann, Division Chief, Transportation Planning



Alexandria Transportation Commission
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

www.alexandriava.gov

Phone: 703.746.4025

Honorable Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

June 20, 2024

Re: Endorsement of Grant Application for the FY 2024 Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council:

At its June meeting, the Transportation Commission voted to endorse the City's application for the Safe Streets & Roads for All (SS4A) program of the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) for a Planning and Demonstration grant to support Vision Zero Safety Initiatives. The City's goal of this project is to enhance safety and accessibility for all modes of transportation, aligning with the goals outlined in the Eisenhower West Small Area Plan. The Eisenhower Avenue Transportation Study, conducted jointly by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the City, identified critical safety concerns raised by the community. To implement interim improvements along the corridor the City is seeking funding from the SS4A program with a proposed budget of up to \$750,000.

The Transportation Commission understands the SS4A grant program requires a 20% local match, and that if the City's grant request is awarded, the match would be approximately \$150,000. The match would be funded through the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) 30% fund balance.

The Transportation Commission enthusiastically supports staff proposal to request funding for this planning project which supports many of the City's goals within the Vision Zero Action Plan by targeting high-injury corridors and intersections. The project will advance the goals of the Alexandria Mobility Plan while aligning with the grants objectives to promote safety on public roadways and prevent crashes resulting in death or serious injury.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melissa McMahon', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Melissa McMahon
Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
City Manager James F. Parajon
Adriana Castañeda, Director, T&ES
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, Transportation, T&ES
Christopher Ziemann, Division Chief, Transportation Planning, T&ES



Alexandria Transportation Commission
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

www.alexandriava.gov

Phone: 703.746.4025

Honorable Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

June 20, 2024

Re: Endorsement of SMART Grant Application for Detection Technology

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council:

At its June meeting, the Transportation Commission voted to endorse the City's application for the SMART grant program for the Stage 1 Planning funds for technology upgrades to assist with asset management. The City's goal of this project is to build a dynamic and real inventory of three asset areas: pavement conditions, painted roadway lines, and traffic signs. This funding will enable a more equitable process for triaging road repaving and digitizing the City's roadway lines and signs for preventative maintenance and clear communication of policies. It will also lay the groundwork for the safe future deployment of autonomous vehicles, which are dependent on well-maintained roadways, pavement markings, and traffic signs.

We enthusiastically support funding for this planning project which supports many of the City's Smart Mobility Framework goals, including helping the City address current needs for better road conditions and traffic sign maintenance, but also positions the City at the forefront of technological advancements for a more livable and efficient tomorrow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa McMahon", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Melissa McMahon
Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
City Manager James F. Parajon

Adriana Castañeda, Director, T&ES

Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, Transportation, T&ES

Christopher Ziemann, Division Chief, Transportation Planning, T&ES



Alexandria Transportation Commission
301 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 703.746.4025

Paul Smedberg, Chair
WMATA Board of Directors
300 7th Street SW
Washington, DC 20024

February 21, 2024

Re: WMATA FY25 Budget: Consistent, Reliable, Frequent Bus and Rail Service is the Priority

Dear Chair Smedberg:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed FY2025 budget on behalf of the City of Alexandria's Transportation Commission. We applaud the proposed budget's delicate balance of aggressive cost saving proposals, targeted service reduction techniques, and reasonable fare increases.

The Commission appreciates that the revised FY2025 proposed operating budget avoids many of the draconian cuts to Metrorail and Metrobus service and frequencies called for in the General Manager's proposed budget, including that the revisions sustain critical bus services such as the 8W to parts of Alexandria which do not have access to Metrorail. It is of the utmost importance that the WMATA budget maintain **reliable service** and **convenient frequencies** that continue to serve all riders, especially at a time when transit ridership is increasing across the region. **This must remain a top priority regionwide.**

The Commission also understands the need to increase fares to keep pace with inflation, and the importance of installing new faregates system-wide to reduce fare evasion. Please remember that these measures to ensure all riders fairly pay their way must be in lockstep with increased use of Metro Lift and Senior reduced-fare programs to help our riders most in need.

WMATA's request for more subsidy funding from jurisdictional partners at the local level would normally cause concern, especially while accepting existing or reduced service levels. However, the Commission understands that the FY2025 operating budget shortfall is a regional issue which

requires a regional solution from all partners, and we have consistently championed local investment in the Metrorail and Metrobus systems during local budget deliberations.

Looking ahead, the Commission urges WMATA to pay special attention to future budgets because of the absence of dedicated funding and to continue to work closely with compact partners and jurisdictions to look at alternative funding approaches. The objective: increase budget stability and certainty to ensure that transit continues to serve the region's transportation needs. Only with that certainty can regional residents and workers truly build their lives around alternatives to driving alone, thereby realizing congestion reduction, greenhouse gas emissions reduction, and equity for all well into the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Melissa McMahon', with a long, sweeping underline.

Melissa McMahon
Transportation Commission Chair

Cc: City Manager James F. Parajon
Adriana Castañeda, Director, T&ES
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES
Christopher Ziemann, Division Chief, T&ES
Silas Sullivan, Urban Planner II, T&ES



Alexandria Transportation Commission
301 King Street Alexandria, VA 22314

alexandriava.gov

703.746.4025

Ms. Phyllis Randall, Chair
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
3040 Williams Drive, Suite 200
Fairfax, VA 2203

April 17, 2024

Re: FY2024-2029 Six Year Program (SYP)

Dear Chair Randall:

At its April 2024 meeting, the Transportation Commission voted to approve this letter of support for the project scoring of the FY2024-2029 SYP. The Commission believes that the scoring accurately reflects the Authority's and the Region's priorities. In particular, the Commission wishes to reiterate support for the following project applications from the City of Alexandria:

- Smart and Connected Vehicle Infrastructure (\$5 million, ranked #2)
- South Van Dorn Street Bridge Enhancements (\$10 million, ranked #7)
- Alexandria Metroway Enhancements (\$7 million, ranked #8)
- Safety Improvements at High Crash Intersections (\$3 million, ranked #11)

In addition, the Commission would also like to express its support for Arlington's application for the Shirlington Bus Station Expansion. This regional bus station serves not only Arlington residents, but also many Alexandria residents to access jobs and services throughout the region. It also is a major transfer point for the upcoming West End Transitway. This will lead to the implementation of NVTA's goals of expanded Bus Rapid Transit throughout the region.

The Commission considers these projects high priorities for the City to regionally reduce congestion, increase multimodal access, improve safety, and prepare for future mobility. We thank you for your consideration and your help as Alexandria works to advance its strategic goals.

Sincerely,



Melissa McMahon
Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

cc: Alexandria Transportation Commission
Justin Wilson, Mayor
Adriana Castañeda, Director, T&ES
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES
Christopher Ziemann, Chief of Transportation Planning Division, T&ES

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: AUGUST 15, 2024

TO: GLORIA SITTON
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK AND CLERK OF COUNCIL

THRU: KARL W. MORITZ, DIRECTOR *Karl W. Moritz*
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & ZONING

FROM: GUS ARDURA, CHAIR
BEAUREGARD URBAN DESIGN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BDAC)

SUBJECT: FISCAL YEAR 2024 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BEAUREGARD URBAN
DESIGN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BDAC)

I am pleased to present this Annual Report for the Beauregard Urban Design Advisory Committee (commonly called "BDAC") for Fiscal Year 2024, as required by City Code Section 2-4-7(i)(l).

The nine-member Committee is comprised of four citizen appointees (one "at-large"), one citizen business community appointee, and four professional member appointees. Erick Adams, Chair Gus Ardura, Abed Benzina and Christine Hoeffner are Professional Members; John Goebel, Neil Snyder and Jim Wilmot are citizen appointees; and Vice-Chair Bud Jackson is the appointee representing the business community. One Committee seat is currently vacant for a member-at-large appointee.

BDAC is charged with reviewing Development Special Use Permit (DSUP) applications submitted within the Beauregard Small Area Plan (BSAP) to ensure compliance with the City's Beauregard Design Standards and Guidelines. BDAC provides guidance to staff and applicants and makes recommendations to the Planning Commission and City Council through the Director of Planning & Zoning. BDAC meetings are scheduled as needed to review projects.

The Committee met two times in FY 2024, on March 11, 2024, and June 10, 2024, primarily to review and discuss the AlexWest Small Area Plan process. The Committee voted to appoint Gus Ardura as the new Chair and Bud Jackson as the new Vice-Chair at the March meeting.

Board attendance for FY 2024 is summarized in the attached table.

Attachment: FY 2024 Attendance Form

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
MEETINGS ATTENDANCE REPORT**

July 1, 2023 THROUGH June 30, 2024

COMMISSION: Beauregard Urban Design Advisory Committee (BDAC)

CHAIRPERSON: Gus Ardura


MEMBER'S NAME	2023						2024					
	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar 11 th	Apr	May	Jun 10 th
Gus Ardura, Chair	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	X	--	--	X
Bud Jackson	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	X	--	--	X
Abed Benzina	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	X	--	--	E
Christine Hoeffner	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	E	--	--	E
John Goebel	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	X	--	--	X
Jim Wilmot	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	X	--	--	X
Erick Adams (appointed May 15, 2024)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	NA	--	--	X
Neil Snyder (appointed June 11, 2024)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	NA	--	--	NA
<i>Member-at-Large- Vacant</i>												

INDICATE: X - FOR PRESENT | E - FOR EXCUSED | U - FOR UNEXCUSED

LIST OF THOSE WHO DID NOT ATTEND 75% OF MEETINGS:

Abed Benzina and Christine Hoeffner (NOTE: there were only two meetings in FY 2024)

APPROVED:



 Gus Ardura, Chair

Alexandria Beautification Commission (ABC)
Annual Report
July 2023 – June 2024

Summary of Accomplishments

The mission of the Beautification Commission is to promote beautification and environmental sustainability practices in Alexandria through advocacy, education and an awards program celebrating our community. Within these guidelines, during the 2023/24 year, the Beautification Commission is broken up into 3 subcommittees noted in the membership activities section on page 2-4:

Beautification Commission Policy and Membership Accomplishments

- Membership met its maximum of 16 members, but we lost a couple members and recently pro-actively recruited 4 new applicants with the expertise required in our bylaws. We have a dedicated, collegial group of volunteers with good attendance overall; we always meet quorum. Our Commissions live across the City, including 3 members from the West End, with at least one more expected soon.

- List participation/Coordination with other advisory groups as relevant:
 - Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS)
 - Board of Architectural Review
 - Alexandria Chamber of Commerce
 - Eco-City
 - Environmental Policy Commission
 - General Services Department
 - Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia
 - Office of the Arts – including the poet laureate
 - Office of Historic Alexandria
 - Parks, Recreation & Cultural Activities – including the Urban Forestry Department/Manager
 - Transportation & Environmental Services (T&ES)
 - Tree Stewards of Alexandria & Arlington
 - Visit Alexandria
 - West End Chamber of Commerce

- List any policy changes
 - Added a City Councilmember advisor to attend quarterly meetings within a one-year term.
 - Designated a former Commission member to be an advisor on a key project, thereby expanding our network of stewards dedicated to the City's beautification. Adding other past members to our network.

Beautification Commission Member Activities

1. Inspire beautification through the Awards program

- **Award nomination & selection process**
 - Worked with Oscar Mendoza, Deputy Division Chief of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Activities and his team to update an online submission form and awards criteria on our website.
 - Created a comprehensive marketing campaign with 2 videos from the awards subcommittee chair announcing the nominations, flyers, social posts, newspaper articles, emails and event outreach to engage the local community.
 - Received over 70 nominees across four categories: architectural, commercial, community and residential: 29 from the public and the rest from the ABC members who canvassed all public roads in Alexandria.
 - Commissioners reviewed and assessed all the nominees during an ABC van tour across the City. We used our updated criteria to select the 18 winners, including 9 residential awardees and 3 awardees each for community, commercial & architecture.
 - Created checklists, templates and planning documentation for all awards-related activities.

- **Award promotion**
 - Interviewed all winners and took photos of each winning property and their owners, as available. Our marketing campaign to recognize winners included extensive social media, award sign displays, a press release distributed by the City, the City's eNews, the ABC website and articles in the Zebra press.
 - To educate and inspire the public about environmental sustainability and beauty in our community, we highlighted awardee best practices, photos and videos through all the channels above.
 - Comprehensively planned and hosted an awards ceremony at the Lyceum in October 2023, with speeches from the Mayor, Vice Mayor and Eco-City Climate Action Officer. Awardees from 2019 – 2023 attended the lively celebration with over 80 attendees; we heard positive feedback from many of the winners and City officials.

We also live-streamed the event on Facebook and Instagram and completed

several video interviews with officials and guests at the ceremony; these videos were featured on our social media channels.

2. Promote environmental sustainability through collaboration and engagement with City Council, City staff, and private organizations

- Attended the February 29, 2024 FY 2025 Proposed Budget public meeting with Jim Paragon and raised the issue of a zero budget for tree & shrub capital maintenance. After discussions with City staff and local tree advocates, we were assured that tree plantings were included in the budget. For public clarification, we sent a letter to the City Manager requesting an explanatory note in the FY 2025 and future budgets.
- The Commission held a successful and engaging retreat in January 2024 to discuss our goals and initiatives for the year. Each subcommittee brainstormed ideas and developed plans.
- Surveyed the arborist memorial in Fort Ward Park and recommended updates to enhance the area and add oversight of it under the Commission's ongoing responsibility. (Work will start in the Fall 2024.)
- Completed measurements of the 13 City gateways (entrances to City of Alexandria) and began planning landscape design for each site.
- Created an email list of past Commission members and updated them about the gateway progress (that started 10 years ago) and asked them to spread the word about award nominations and sustainability practices.
- Documented in writing sustainability expectations for a vigorous watering and maintenance program for new plantings that will accompany the new gateway signs and provided it to Division Chief Mendoza.
- Identified tree planting as the most appropriate way to celebrate the City's 275th birthday. Chose three dates in September - November 2024 and three park locations (Four Mile Run, Mount Jefferson & Cameron Run) for planting a total of 100 trees. To leverage community expertise, we collaborated closely with the Urban Forestry Manager, Tree Stewards of Alexandria & Arlington and other area park community advocates.
- Partnered with Eco-City's Ryan Freed and Urban Forestry Manager Phil Jubert to provide 275 free tree seedlings at the first Alexandria Eco-City Festival on May 11, 2024.
- Invited Councilmember Sarah Bagley to join our Commission as an advisor; we met with her to brainstorm ideas and SMART goals related to our overall mission and objectives.
- Worked with Ms. Bagley and the City Manager to develop and approve a donation resolution for all City boards and commissions.

3. Educate local community on beautification and sustainability best practices

- Initiated enhancements for ABC's website and now ~80% of updates have been completed by City staff. Website traffic has more than doubled from last fiscal year to FY2023-2024.
- Exhibited at the following local events that focused on environmental sustainability; we distributed these flyers that included practical sustainability tips and our awards announcement.
 - Delray Gardenfest – April 21, 2024
 - ALX Dog Walk – April 20, 2024
 - Eco-City Festival – May 22, 2024
- Distributed sustainability tips and awards announcement flyers to all local libraries, park bulletin boards, Greenstreet Gardens, City Hall, etc.
- Created several educational videos featuring:
 - Award winners (including garden tours)
 - City staff (e.g. City of Alexandria Stormwater Management Chief, Jesse Maines)
 - Environmental sustainability experts
 - ABC Commissioners explaining best green practices for beauty
- Developed more original ABC content on topics including:
 - What makes Alexandria beautiful
 - How to identify and mitigate invasive plants/trees
 - Planting natives
 - Notable trees in our area
- Amplified external content (including area influencers) related to our mission, including sustainability webinars, native plant sales and other local events from community environmental partners – e.g. Mt. Vernon Trail, Trash Trekkers, Potomac Conservancy, Eco-City and more.
- Key social media accomplishments:
 - 2023: Initiated with 2 posts per week
 - 2024: Increased to a steady 5-6 posts per week
 - Instagram: Grew followers by 58%
 - Facebook: Boosted followers by 23%
- Published over 40 articles of ABC original content in monthly articles in The Zebra. Topics included award nominations, winner descriptions/photos, sustainability how-tos and more.

- In conjunction with Barrett Library, planned a native plant in-person educational seminar and follow-up webinar that launched in July-August 2024. Recruited an expert master gardener to deliver the seminars.

Goals for 2024-2025

- Inspire beautification through an awards program.
- Promote environmental sustainability through collaboration and engagement with City Council, City staff, and private organizations.
- Educate the local community on beautification and sustainability best practices.

Leadership

- Officers for the January 2024 – December 2024 term were elected at the November 2023 meeting: Eleanor Trice is Chair, Elizabeth Gelfer is Vice-Chair. Daniya Tamendarova is Secretary. New elections will take place in November.
- List term expirations and new members, with month they were appointed
 - Alexander Mcelya - term ended May 2024
 - Kelly Yates – new member, December 2023 & needed to resign for personal reasons in March 2024
 - Daniya Tamendarova - new member, September 2023
 - Emily Swaim - new member, September 2023
 - Felicia Hackett - new member, September 2023
- During the course of the year, membership included the following individuals:
 1. Alexander Mcelya
 2. Daniya Tamendarova
 3. Eleanor Quigley
 4. Eleanor Trice
 5. Elizabeth Gelfer
 6. Emily Swain
 7. Felicia Hackett
 8. Kelly Yates
 9. Ken Krupa
 10. Laura Norfolk
 11. Leah Bancheri
 12. Maralyn O'Brien
 13. Monica Murphy
 14. Sara Rhoades

15. Steve Cohen
16. Yanique Revers

- Oscar Mendoza and the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Activities Department acted as the staff liaison to the Beautification Commission during the 2023/2024 year.

Attachments

1. Letter inviting Sarah Bagley to join ABC as a City Council Advisor on March 22, 2024
2. Budget letter to City Council on April 11, 2024
3. Fort Ward arborist memorial recommendations
4. Sustainability best practices flyer

ADVISORY GROUP ANNUAL ATTENDANCE REPORT

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
Alexandria Beautification Commission
MEETING ATTENDANCE REPORT**

JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024

CHAIRPERSON: Eleanor Trice

No meetings were held in July and December 2023.

The following members rotated off the Commission: Mike Budinski (October 2023), Julie Chapman (January 2024), Alexander McElya (May 2024), Denise Tennant (August 2023).

Emily Swaim and Daniya Tamendarova joined the Commission in October 2023.

Kelly Yates joined the Commission in March 2024 and resigned in April 2024 for unforeseen personal reasons.

MEMBER'S NAME	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Leah Bancheri		X	E	X	E		X	X	X	X	E	E
Mike Budinski		X	X									
Julie Chapman		X	X	X	X							
Steven Cohen		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Elizabeth Gelfer		X	X	E	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Felicia Hackett		X	X	E	X		X	X	E	X	X	X
Kenneth Krupa		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Alexander McElya		E	X	X	X		X	X	E	X		
Monica Murphy		E	X	X	X		X	E	E	X	X	E
Laura Norfolk		X	X	X	E		X	E	E	X	X	X
Yanique Revers		U	E	X	X		X	E	E	X	X	X
Maralyn O'Brien		X	X	X	E		E	X	X	X	E	E
Eleanor Quigley		E	E	X	X		X	E	X	X	X	X
Sara E. Rhoades		X	X	E	X		X	X	X	E	X	X
Emily Swaim				X	E		X	U	E	X	X	X
Daniya Tamendarova				X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Denise Tennant		X										
Eleanor Trice		X	X	E	X		X	X	X	X	X	E
Kelly Yates									X			

INDICATE: X - FOR PRESENT

E - FOR EXCUSED

U - FOR UNEXCUSED

LIST OF THOSE WHO DID NOT ATTEND 75% OF MEETINGS:

- None

FORM MUST BE SIGNED BY CHAIRPERSON

(APPROVED) _____ Eleanor Trice _____ (Chairperson)

SCOPE OF WORK

May 22, 2024

Project name: Alexandria Beautification Commission: Fort Ward arborist memorial initiative

Project manager: Eleanor Trice & Monica Murphy

Ongoing project objective:

An arborist memorial was created in Fort Ward by the past Alexandria Beautification Committee to commemorate the city’s first arborist, Charles W. Hendryx. The current Alexandria Beautification Commission (ABC) would like to continue to enhance this memorial space and preside over its maintenance & possible future expansion by suggesting and helping to implement annual updates.

ABC would coordinate updates with its staff liaison (currently Oscar Mendoza), Urban Forestry Department, and the Fort Ward Supervisory Group.

2024 project objective: Simple revitalization of the arborist memorial in honor of:

- Alexandria’s 275th birthday
- Fort Ward Historic Park & Museum 60th anniversary (opened to the general public in May 1964)
- Recognition of hire of the city’s **Xth** arborist, working with the Alexandria Beautification Commission

Following are our specific recommendations to be implemented by the fall of 2024:

Project	Description	Responsibility	Resources
Flowering dogwood tree planting	Plant new dogwood, replacing a dead plant within the existing memorial* See attached photo of dead stump. Will future work (e.g. replacing path) impact the tree?	City’s Urban Forestry Department, with ABC support ?	Shovel, hoe, mulch & any other hand tools & materials required to remove small dead stump & plant new dogwood Funded by Parks & Rec budget, under Oscar Mendoza’s supervision
Commemorative plaque	Proposed text: In commemoration of Alexandria’s 275 th birthday & Fort Ward’s 60 th anniversary: Recognizing the city’s 8th arborist -- Phil	Oscar Mendoza, in collaboration with XXX contractor/city department/group?? and ABC ?	Request the city create a proof for ABC’s review and plan for either updating the existing plaque or adding a new plaque A plaque mounted on a post or plaque inset into the stone paver?

	<p>Jubert, Urban Forestry Manager</p> <p>Alexandria Beautification Commission Fall 2024</p> <p><list ABC member names, as space allows></p>		
Remove weeds & trim/prune bushes	Memorial is overgrown & requires some simple maintenance to help restore its original beauty	City's Urban Forestry Department, with ABC support ? Contractor?	Urban Forestry Dept to provide weeding & pruning tools
Tree watering & maintenance	Water the tree daily for first 1-2 weeks, then every 2-3 days for 3-12 weeks & weekly until the roots established (up to 12 weeks)	City's Urban Forestry Department, with ABC support ? Contractor?	Any equipment needed? Likely use Fort Ward's water spouts & carry bucket to site?

*Since we suggest ONLY minor updates within the designated memorial space in 2024, we assume this will not require additional historical or archeological review. We do NOT plan to use heavy equipment that would disrupt the property.

Timeline:

We request approval for the 2024 work by the **first week in July** so we have sufficient time to complete the planning and work by the fall of 2024.

Potential future projects:

- Prune & weed at least annually.
- Replace cracked asphalt with stone pavers.
- Fix uneven steps leading up to the memorial.
- Install a flagpole to help visitors find the site.
- To help visitors navigate to the site, possibly create a native plant trail leading to the memorial.
- 2025 is the 60th anniversary of the Alexandria Beautification Commission – so we'd like to hold a small event at the memorial for city leaders, ABC & other dignitaries.

Eleanor Trice
Chair, Alexandria Beautification Commission
4648 Latrobe Pl
Alexandria, VA 22311
703-966-9109
alxbeautification@gmail.com

March 22, 2024

City Council
City Hall
301 King St
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Members of City Council:

The Alexandria Beautification Commission was very concerned to learn that the original FY 2025 Capital Investment Plan Budget eliminated all funding for tree and shrub maintenance. **Thank you** for the quick actions taken by the City Manager to leverage unspent FY 2024 balances totaling \$400,000 from several City departments to cover these important efforts in FY 2025.

We understand that the Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities has received monies and is allocating \$150,000 to tree maintenance and plantings, primarily in response to resident requests. We support additional tree plantings in FY2024-2025 and always want to ensure there is an adequate budget for invasive removal and tree wells. As the budget is finalized, it would help to have a clearer breakout for these tree-related initiatives.

Given the importance of trees to our climate and quality of life in the City of Alexandria, we are confident future budgets will always include sufficient funding for expanded tree planting and maintenance.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Eleanor Trice
Chair, Alexandria Beautification Commission (ABC)

Elizabeth Gelfer
Vice Chair, ABC

Cc: City Manager James Paragon

Oscar Mendoza, Deputy Director, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities



Apply for the 2024 Alexandria Beautification Awards

Nominations open April 5 - May 24

Awards will be given for excellence in 4 different categories:



- including front yards & balconies



Winning properties/projects will be chosen from around the city based on the extended criteria provided on our website. Some notable factors include:

- Utilization of sustainable practices
- Use of native, non-invasive plants & materials
- Dedicated maintenance
- Novel or creative architectural design
- Improvements to public spaces

Learn more & apply now at alexandriava.gov/beautification



@beautifulALX

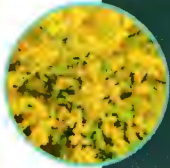


AlexandriaBeautification



Maintaining a Beautiful & Sustainable Yard or Balcony at Home

Take advantage of the following practices that promote environmental health, conserve resources, and support biodiversity.



Plant Natives

Choose native plants for your yard. They are adapted to the local climate and require less water and maintenance once established. They also provide habitat and food for local wildlife.



Beware Invasives

Avoid planting non-native invasives, which often outcompete native plants for resources like sunlight and water and lead to altering ecosystems and reducing biodiversity. Invasive species can be expensive to control and eradicate.



Conserve Water

Install a rain barrel to collect rainwater for watering plants. Use a drip irrigation system or soaker hoses to minimize water waste. Water your lawn and plants in the early morning or late afternoon to reduce evaporation.



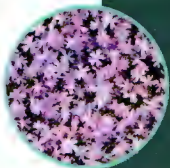
Compost

Start a compost pile or bin to recycle yard waste, such as grass clippings, leaves, and kitchen scraps. Compost adds nutrients to the soil, reduces the need for chemical fertilizers, and minimizes waste sent to landfills.



Mulch

Apply a layer of organic mulch, such as wood chips, shredded leaves, or grass clippings around plants and trees to retain moisture, suppress weeds, and improve soil health. Mulch also helps regulate soil temperature and reduce erosion.



Choose Lawn Alternatives

Consider reducing the size of your lawn or replacing it with low-maintenance alternatives such as native groundcovers (e.g., phlox), meadows, or permeable hardscapes like gravel or permeable pavers that allow rainwater to infiltrate the soil and help reduce stormwater erosion.



Promote Energy Efficiency

Plant native trees (e.g., serviceberry, black gum, dogwood, oaks) strategically to provide shade and reduce cooling costs in the summer. Use manual or electric-powered tools instead of gas-powered equipment for yard maintenance to minimize air and noise pollution.



Visit alexandriava.gov/beautification for more tips & links to native plant lists!



City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: AUGUST 31, 2024

TO: GLORIA SITTON, CITY CLERK
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK AND CLERK OF COUNCIL

THRU: KARL W. MORITZ, DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & ZONING

FROM: MR. JAMES SPENCER, CHAIR
BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW (BAR)

SUBJECT: FISCAL YEAR 2023 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF
ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW (BAR)

I am pleased to present this Annual Report for the Board of Architectural Review (BAR) for Fiscal Year 2024, extending from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, as required by City Code Section 2-4-7(i)(1). The attached record of membership and attendance shows all members attended more than 75% of the meetings, or had an excused absence in advance, as required.

BAR MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE

The membership of the Board of Architectural Review (BAR) saw changes in FY 2024. James Spencer was elected Chair and Andrew Scott was elected Vice Chair at the December 6, 2023 Public Hearing.

BAR held 23 Public Hearings in FY 2024. All Fiscal Year 2024 BAR Public Hearings were held in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Membership and attendance report for the BAR is included in Attachment 1.

REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

FY 2023 - Approvals		FY 2024 - Approvals	
BAR	109	BAR	112
<i>OHAD</i>	<i>92</i>	<i>OHAD</i>	<i>104</i>
<i>Parker-Gray</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>Parker-Gray</i>	<i>7</i>

<i>100-Year-Old Building</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>100-Year-Old Building</i>	<i>1</i>
Administrative	294	Administrative	287
<i>OHAD</i>	<i>252</i>	<i>OHAD</i>	<i>245</i>
<i>Parker-Gray</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>Parker-Gray</i>	<i>42</i>
Total Cases	403	Total Cases	399

FY 2023 provided for comparison

From 2023 to 2024, the number of BAR approvals increased slightly by from 109 to 112 BAR approvals. BAR Old and Historic Alexandria District (OHAD) approvals increased by 13%, while BAR Parker Gray Historic district (Parker-Gray) approvals decreased significantly from 15 to 7 cases, a 54% decrease. 100-Year-Old-Building approvals went down from two cases in FY 2023 to one case in FY 2024. Administrative approvals for OHAD decreased in FY 2024 from 252 to 245 cases, a 2.8% decrease. The administrative approvals for Parker-Gray remained the same in FY 2024, at 42. The majority of applications occurred in OHAD, with fewer applications in Parker-Gray. The total BAR approvals remained similar, with 403 BAR approvals in FY2023 and 399 BAR approvals in FY2024. The total administrative cases went down slightly from 294 to 287, a 2.4% decrease. Cumulatively, the total cases changed from 403 to 399, a 1% decrease.

Examples of Public Hearing cases are highlighted below:

(1) EXAMPLES OF CONCEPT REVIEWS:

In FY 24, the Board considered a total of six concept reviews for four properties, all in OHAD:

- The Board heard a proposal to convert the existing commercial office building into a multi-family residential building and build an addition to the existing building at 1201 East Abingdon Drive (BAR2023-00245) on July 6, 2023.
- The Board heard a proposal to redevelop the property at 301 North Fairfax Street to include the construction of a new multi-family building in place of the existing office building (BAR2023-00278). This proposal came to the Board for the first time in FY23, on May 17, 2023. It came to the BAR two more times in FY24, on July 19, 2023 and September 6, 2023.
- The Board heard a proposal to construct an eight-story multi-family structure behind the townhouses at 1604-1615 King Street (BAR2023-00376) on October 4, 2023 and December 20, 2023.
- The Board heard a proposal to redevelop the properties at 500-501 North Union Street for the construction of a mixed-use project (BAR2024-00015) on February 21, 2024 and July 16, 2024. This project is not located within the historic district; it is adjacent to and entirely to the north and outside of the boundaries of the local historic district. The Board reviewed the project following Development Guideline #8 of the Alexandria Waterfront Small Area Plan.

(2) EXAMPLES OF CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS/PERMITS TO DEMOLISH:

A selection of projects approved by the BAR in FY 24 includes: alterations to the primary elevation of 104 Pommander Walk (BAR2023-00216 & BAR2013-00217); the installation of a garage door at 810 Prince Street (BAR2023-00433); the reconfiguration of windows and doors and the construction of a pergola at 318 North Alfred Street (BAR2023-00242 & BAR2023-00243); the replacement of a fence at 415 North Patrick Street (BAR2023-00277); the replacement of the hatch on the cupola at 3610 Bishop Walker Circle (BAR2023-00361); the enclosure of a rear deck at 923 South Alfred Street (BAR2023-00532 & BAR2023-00533); an awning and signage at 215 North Payne Street (BAR2023-00534); exterior alterations to 720 North Saint Asaph Street to convert the building from office to residential (BAR2024-00093 & BAR2024-00094); new lighting and signage at 605 Franklin Street (BAR2024-00128); the installation of a cooling tower at 551 Bashford Lane (BAR2024-00141).

(3) APPEALS TO CITY COUNCIL:

- The BAR denied a Certificate of Appropriateness for 720 King Street (BAR2023-00235) on July 6, 2023. The appellant, Glynn Jones Salon, appealed to City Council. City Council overturned the BAR decision on September 23, 2023.
- The BAR denied a Certificate of Appropriateness for 1025 King Street (BAR2023-00112) on January 23, 2024. The appellant, Karlen Murray with Renewal by Andersen, appealed to City Council. City Council upheld the BAR decision on March 16, 2024.
- The BAR denied a Certificate of Appropriateness for 613 South Royal Street (BAR2024-00017) on February 21, 2024. The applicant appealed to City Council. City Council upheld the BAR decision on April 13, 2024.
- The BAR approved a Certificate of Appropriateness for 301 North Fairfax Street (BAR2024-00160) on May 15, 2024. A group of community members appealed the decision to City Council. City Council upheld the BAR decision on July 2, 2024.

WORK SESSIONS/TRAINING:

- Staff provided a presentation on EV car charging on July 19, 2023.
- The Board approved updates to the Design Guidelines at the following hearings: September 20, 2023; November 2, 2023; January 3, 2024; February 21, 2024; April 3, 2024; May 2, 2024.
- Staff presented a painted masonry workshop on November 15, 2023.
- The City Attorney's Office provided legal training for BAR members on January 17, 2024.
- The Board approved updates to the BAR Administrative Approval policies.
- Staff presented an informational session on the proposed updates to the City-wide Sign Ordinance at the April 17, 2024 hearing.
- Staff provided a Historic District/BAR informational session to a local real estate agency on May 21, 2024.
- Staff discussed potential upcoming changes to the Design Guidelines at the June 20, 2024 hearing.

OUTREACH: The BAR Design Guidelines Committee held eight public meetings in fiscal year 2024 regarding updates to the Design Guidelines: August 3, 2023; September 28, 2023; October 26, 2023; December 14, 2023; February 1, 2024; March 26, 2024; April 23, 2024; June 11, 2024.

REVIEW OF NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATIONS AND SECTION 106

REVIEWS: The BAR did not review any National Register Nominations in FY2024 but BAR staff reviewed and supported the National Register nomination for the Bank of Potomac/Restored Government of Virginia building at 413, 415, and 415 ½ Prince Street. BAR staff performed two Section 106 reviews for cell antennas in FY24. Staff continues to work with the Office of Historic Alexandria and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources for the Section 106 review and easement of the Freedom House Museum at 1315 Duke Street.

GOALS FOR THE COMING YEAR:

- Finalize updates to the Design Guidelines.
- Continue to make progress on the OHAD digital survey.

ATTACHMENT 1

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
BOARDS AND
COMMISSIONS
MEETING ATTENDANCE**

REPORT

JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024

BOARD: Board of Architectural Review (BAR)

CHAIRPERSON: James Spencer

FY2024	2023												2024											
	Jul			Aug	Sept		Oct		Nov		Dec		Jan		Feb		Mar		Apr		May		Jun	
Board Member	6	19	26	Recessed	6	20	4	18	2	15	6	20	3	17	7	21	6	20	3	17	2	15	5	20
James Spencer, Chair	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Andrew Scott, Vice Chair	E	X	X		X	X	X	E	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	E	X	X	E	X	X	X	X
Robert Adams	X	X	E		X	X	X	X	E	X	X	E	X	X	X	E	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Margaret Miller	U	X	X		X	E	X	U	U	X	X	X	U	E	X	X	E	U	E	X	X	X	E	X
Theresa del Ninno	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	E	X	X	X	X	X	E	E	X	X	X	E	X	X	X	X
Michael Lyons	X	E	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	E	X	X	X	X
Nastaran Zandian	X	X	X		E	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	E	X	X	X	X	E	X	X	X	X	X	E

INDICATE: X - FOR PRESENT, E - FOR EXCUSED, U – FOR UNEXCUSED, / - FOR NOT ON BOARD, V – FOR VIRTUAL

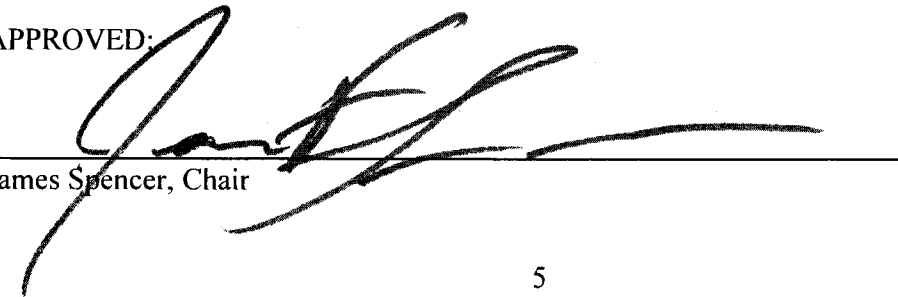
NOTES:

- The BAR was in recess during August.

LIST OF THOSE WHO ATTENDED VIRTUALLY TO 25% OF MEETINGS: N/A

LIST OF THOSE WHO DID NOT ATTEND 75% OF MEETINGS: 1

APPROVED:


James Spencer, Chair

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 9, 2024

TO: GLORIA SITTON, CITY CLERK
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK AND CLERK OF COUNCIL

THRU: KARL W. MORITZ, DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & ZONING

FROM: TIM FOLEY, CHAIR
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

SUBJECT: FISCAL YEAR 2024 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF
ZONING APPEALS (BZA)

I. BACKGROUND

I am pleased to present this Annual Report for the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) for Fiscal Year 2024, as required by City Code section 2-4-7(i)(1). An attendance form is also attached.

The BZA is appointed by City Council and performs duties as specified under Title 15 of the Virginia Code and Chapter 9 of the City Charter and Article 11 of the City's Zoning Ordinance. The BZA is charged with hearing and deciding Variances, Special Exceptions, and Appeals of Determinations by the Director of the Department of Planning & Zoning.

II. SUMMARY OF BOARD ACTIVITIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023 (JULY 1, 2023 – JUNE 30, 2024)

FISCAL YEAR	2024	2023	2022
Variance Cases	1	3	6
Special Exception Cases	1	9	8
Appeal Cases	0	1	0
Total Case	2	13	14

III. FISCAL YEAR 2024 CASE STUDIES

The two cases heard by the BZA were straightforward, and the Board concurred with the staff recommendations for approval. Consequently, there will be no case studies for Fiscal Year 2024.

IV. FISCAL YEAR 2023 MEMBERSHIP, PUBLIC HEARINGS FORMAT AND ATTENDANCE

Membership:

The Membership changed throughout the year due to term expirations. Quynn Nguyen's term expired on October 31, 2023 and Jon Waclawski's term expired on June 30, 2024. Ryan Belmore was appointed to the Board on December 12, 2023 and attended his first meeting on June 10, 2024. Tim Foley, Dawn Bauman, Paul Liu, Kimberlee Eveland, and Raj Patel continued to serve on the Board. The Officers changed several months late due to the lack of meetings and the Chair's preference to only hold meetings when cases need to be heard. Elections were held at the June 10, 2024 meeting, where the BZA unanimously elected Tim Foley as Chair, Dawn Bauman as Vice Chair, and Raj Patel as Secretary.

Number and Format of Public Hearings:

The BZA met in two (2) of the twelve (12) months during Fiscal Year 2024, extending from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. August is the normal month in which the BZA is recessed: therefore, no Public Hearing was held. The other nine (9) months in which a Public Hearing was not held was due to a lack of cases submitted.

In terms of the format of the Fiscal Year 2024 Public Hearings, the two (2) Public Hearings were held in person, and in Council Chambers, City Hall.

Attendance: See Attachment I on page 3 for Attendance Report and Chair signature.

ATTACHMENT
1

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
MEETING ATTENDANCE REPORT
JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024**

COMMISSION: Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA)

CHAIRPERSON: Tim Foley, Chair

Board Member (With listed Officers as of 6.10.2024)	Jul 10	Aug	Sep 11	Oct 16	Nov 13	Dec 11	Jan 8	Feb 12	Mar 11	Apr 8	May 13	Jun 10
Tim Foley, Chair	Canceled	Recessed	Canceled	Canceled	Canceled	X	Canceled	Canceled	Canceled	Canceled	Canceled	X
Dawn Bauman, Vice Chair						A						X
Raj Patel, Secretary						X						V
Paul Liu						V						X
Quynn Nguyen						N/A						N/A
Jon Waclawski						X						X
Kimberlee Eveland						X						X
Ryan Belmore						N/A						X

INDICATE:

X – PRESENT; **A** – ABSENT; **N/A** – Not Yet Appointed or Former Member;
V – Attended virtually with permission from Chair as outlined in the Electronic Participation Policy.

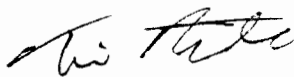
Notes:

1. The BZA was in recess during August 2024.
2. Nine (9) Public Hearings were canceled due to a lack of cases submitted.
3. Ms. Nguyen’s term on the Board ended on October 31, 2023.
4. Mr. Waclawski’s term on the Board ended on June 30, 2024.
5. Elections occurred at the June 10, 2024 Public Hearing and Mr. Foley was elected Chair; Ms. Bauman was elected Vice Chair, and Mr. Patel was elected Secretary.
6. City Council appointed Ryan Belmore (December 12, 2023) to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a four-year term.

PLEASE NOTE: BZA WAS ONLY REQUIRED TO MEET TWICE IN FY 2024 SO THE FOLLOWING DATA WOULD BE HARD TO CALCULATE FAIRLY.

LIST OF THOSE WHO ATTENDED VIRTUALLY TO 25% OF MEETINGS: **0**

LIST OF THOSE WHO DID NOT ATTEND 75% OF MEETINGS: **0**



Tim Foley, Chair

**Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee
Annual Report
July 2023 – June 2024**

Summary of Accomplishments

The mission of the BUDGET AND FISCAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE includes:

- examining the City's budget procedures and processes and recommending ways of improving those processes, including participation by the public;
- forecasting future revenue and expenditure requirements and the effect on the several taxes and fees levied by the City and burden of taxation imposed on Alexandria citizens and business organizations; and
- evaluating the comparative tax, revenue and expenditure levels in Alexandria with those in neighboring jurisdictions and the effect of such differences on the ability of Alexandria to attract new residents and economic development.

Within these guidelines, the BUDGET AND FISCAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE membership completed the following activities during its 2023/24 year.

**BUDGET AND FISCAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE Policy and Membership
Accomplishments**

- During the July 2023 – June 2024 session, BFAAC met **eleven** times. Quorum was met at each of these meetings.¹
- During the July 2023 – June 2024 session, BFAAC produced the following reports for City Council:
 - Memo #01 - BFAAC Fiscal Year 2025 Work Plan
 - Memo #02 - Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Guidance Recommendations
 - Memo #03 - Recommendations and Observations Related To The City Manager's Proposed FY 2025 Budget

Additionally, BFAAC publicly presented to City Council at the Fall City Council Retreat (November 4, 2023) and during a spring budget worksession (April 3, 2024).

Membership

The committee members as of **June 30, 2024** are:

Committee Member	Representative Of	Office Held
Michelle Millben	Mayor Wilson	Vice Chair
Christopher Ferrara	Vice Mayor Jackson	
Antonio Tamariz	Councilman Aguirre	
Randall Williams	Councilmember Bagley	
Robert Rapanut	Councilman Chapman	Secretary
John Ruthinoski	Councilwoman Gaskins	
Laurie MacNamara	Councilman McPike	
Nancy Drane	School Board	
Amy Friedlander	Chamber of Commerce	Chair
David Millard	Chamber of Commerce	
Julio Ramirez	Member-at-Large	
Brant Snyder	Member-at-Large	
Mark Tonsetic	Member-at-Large	

Arthur Wicks (Office of Management & Budget) acted as the staff liaison to **BUDGET AND FISCAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE** during the course of the 2023/2024 year.

Leadership

Officers for the year were elected at the September 2023 meeting: Amy Friedlander served as Chair, Karen Graf as Vice Chair, and John Ruthinoski as Secretary. On December, 16, 2023, Karen Graf resigned from the committee. At the committee's January 2024 meeting, Michelle Millben was elected as Vice Chair.

Attachments

- o Memo #01 - BFAAC Fiscal Year 2025 Work Plan
- o Memo #02 - Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Guidance Recommendations
- o Memo #03 - Recommendations and Observations Related To The City Manager's Proposed FY 2025 Budget

Notes:

1. A full list of reports, meeting agendas, minutes, and additional handouts for BFAAC meetings occurring between July 2023 and June 2024 can be found here:
<https://www.alexandriava.gov/BFAAC>

ADVISORY GROUP ANNUAL ATTENDANCE REPORT

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee
MEETING ATTENDANCE REPORT**

JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024

CHAIRPERSON: Amy Friedlander

MEMBER'S NAME	9/9/2023	10/17/2023	10/30/2023	12/19/2023	1/30/2024	3/4/2024	3/19/2024	3/26/2024	4/16/2024	5/14/2024	6/10/2024
Nancy Drane						X	X	X	X	E	X
Christopher Ferrara	X	E	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Amy Friedlander	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Karen Graf	X	X	X								
Laurie MacNamara	X	X	E	X	X	X	X	X	X	E	X
David Millard		X	X	X	X	E	X	X	E	X	X
Michelle Millben	X	X	X	X	X	E	X	X	X	E	X
Julio Ramirez	X	X	X	E	X	E	X	X	X	X	E
Robert Rapanut	X	V	X	X	X	X	E	E	X	X	X
John Ruthinoski	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Brant Snyder						X	E	X	X	X	X
Kathy Stenzel	X	X	E								
Antonio Tamariz	X	V	E	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	E
Mark Tonsetic	X	X	X	E	E	X	X	E	X	X	X
Randall Williams	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	E	X	E	X

**INDICATE: X - FOR PRESENT E - FOR EXCUSED
U - FOR UNEXCUSED V - VIRTUAL**

LIST OF THOSE WHO DID NOT ATTEND 75% OF MEETINGS:

- N/A

FORM MUST BE SIGNED BY CHAIRPERSON

(APPROVED) Amy Friedlander _____ **(Chairperson)**

**Building and Fire Code Local Board of Appeals
Annual Report
July 2023– June 2024**

Summary of Accomplishments

The mission of the Building and Fire Code Local Board of Appeals includes hearing appeals from enforcement actions under the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building and Fire Codes. Within these guidelines, The Building and Fire Code Local Board of Appeals, is a quasi-judicial board that meets only when appeals are made relating to the Virginia building and Fire Codes.

Building and Fire Code Local Board of Appeals Policy and Membership Accomplishments

- The board members are required to be knowledgeable in areas relating to building construction and/or building design. In accordance with the Virginia Building and Fire Codes, the board must meet within thirty calendar days from when an appeal is filed. The board responds to requests to meet after an appeal has been filed and does not have regularly scheduled meetings.
- In accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code, the board must meet annually for training and the selection of officers as needed. Training and Chairman selection is scheduled for July 16, 2024.

Building and Fire Code Local Board of Appeals Member Activities

- During FY 2024, the board was not convened to hear an appeal.

Program and/or Legislative Accomplishments

- Unlike other city boards and commissions, the Local Appeals Board does not set policy or actively contribute to the Council Goals and Initiatives.

Leadership

<u>Board Members</u>	<u>Date Appointed</u>	<u>Term Expiration</u>
Michael Wheeler*	December 2022	December 2027
Anila Angjeli	May 2023	May 2028
Aaron West	October 2019	October 2024
James Jordan	October 2020	October 2025
Mary Shea	January 2019	January 2024
Dane Lauritzen	September 2021	September 2026
Melissa Hodge	January 2024	January 2029
Kelli Kordich**	April 2024	April 2029
Austin Burrow**	February 2021	February 2026

***Chairman**

**** Alternate Member**

- **Penny Gausman, Department of Code Administration acted as the staff liaison to Building and Fire Code Local Board of Appeals during the 2023/2024 year.**

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: AUGUST 20, 2024

TO: GLORIA SITTON
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK AND CLERK OF COUNCIL

THRU: KARL W. MORITZ, DIRECTOR *Karl W. Moritz*
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & ZONING

FROM: LEON VIGNES AND NATHAN RANDALL, STAFF LIAISONS TO
CARLYLE/EISENHOWER EAST DESIGN REVIEW BOARD (DRB)

SUBJECT: FISCAL YEAR 2024 CARLYLE/EISENHOWER EAST DESIGN REVIEW
BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

It is my pleasure to provide this annual report for the Carlyle/Eisenhower East Design Review Board ("DRB") for fiscal year 2024 ("FY 2024"), as required by City Code Section 2-4-7(i)(1). The DRB is comprised of two design professionals (architects Siti Abdul-Rahman and Eric Colbert), a City Manager designee (City Architect, Tom Canfield), a City Council Representative (Councilman R. Kirk McPike), and a citizen member (Charles Paul).

The primary role of the DRB is to review development applications within the Carlyle and Eisenhower East neighborhoods of the City of Alexandria. The DRB also provides design guidance to staff and makes formal recommendations to the Alexandria Planning Commission and City Council. The DRB is scheduled to meet every other month, but only if there is a project to review. Extra meetings may be scheduled on a case-by-case basis.

The DRB met on two occasions during FY 2024 and rendered feedback on three separate projects in various phases of the planning process. The meetings held and projects discussed during FY2024 are detailed as follows:

I. Hearing Date: January 18, 2024

A. Re-appointment of Design Professionals

In accordance with its bylaws, the DRB re-appointed Siti Abdul-Rahman and Eric Colbert as the two design professional members of the Board for a one-year term from February 22, 2024 to February 22, 2025.

B. Hoffman/Eisenhower East Coordinated Development District (CDD) Conceptual Design Plan

The applicant and their design team presented a Coordinated Development District (CDD) Conceptual Design Plan request for a total of eleven development blocks zoned CDD#2. The request serves as a framework plan to “unlock” the density and building height recommendations of the 2020 Eisenhower East Small Area Plan for the nine blocks on which redevelopment is expected in the future: Blocks 2A & 2B, 3A & 3B, 9A & 9B, 11, 12, and the eastern portion of Block 20. Blocks 7 and 14 were also included for administrative purposes. Given that this land-use request is only a framework plan and development approval of specific individual buildings was not being requested, this item was presented to the DRB for informational purposes only. The DRB asked questions and provided positive feedback about the item.

II. Hearing Date: May 16, 2024

A. Eisenhower East Design Standards

Planning & Zoning staff presented a draft version of revised Eisenhower East Design Standards to the DRB. Staff has created the revised design standards, which are divided into eight parts, as a complete replacement of the current version approved in 2006 to fulfill Recommendation #42 of the 2020 Eisenhower East Small Area Plan. DRB and community members in attendance provided feedback to staff that will be incorporated into an updated draft and shared with the DRB one more time prior to being considered at public hearings in autumn 2024.

B. Eisenhower East Block 20 East – Conceptual Design Review

The applicants and their design team presented the project to the DRB for a DSUP Conceptual Review. The 110-unit, 13-story multi-unit residential project is proposed for the eastern portion of Block 20 and would partially connect to the now-complete Meridian 2250 @ Eisenhower Station, also known as Block 20 West. Staff also provided a brief overview of its memo to the DRB, in which it noted many successful design elements and seven areas for further refinement. Examples of areas for further study included the need for increased building height and improved above-grade garage screening that would be more consistent with the Eisenhower East Small Area Plan. The DRB agreed with staff’s recommendations and provided additional feedback to the applicant. The applicant intends to re-submit for a second design review in summer 2024.

ADVISORY GROUP ANNUAL ATTENDANCE REPORT
CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
CARLYLE/EISENHOWER EAST DESIGN REVIEW BOARD ("DRB")
MEETING ATTENDANCE REPORT
JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024

CHAIRPERSON: Eric Colbert

MEMBER'S NAME	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan 18	Feb	Mar	Apr	May 16	Jun
Councilman R. Kirk McPike							X				U	
Tom Canfield							X				X	
Eric Colbert							X				X	
Siti Abdul Rahman							X				X	
Charles Paul							X				X	

LEGEND: X = PRESENT E = EXCUSED U = UNEXCUSED

LIST OF THOSE WHO DID NOT ATTEND 75% OF MEETINGS:

R. Kirk McPike

FORM MUST BE SIGNED BY CHAIRPERSON

Eric Colbert, Carlyle/Eisenhower East Design Review Board Chair

**Children Youth and Families Collaborative Commission
Annual Report
July 2023 – June 2024**

Summary of Accomplishments

The mission of the Children Youth and Families Collaborative Commission (CYFCC) includes providing advice, advocacy, and pertinent information to Alexandria City staff, City Council, School Board, and other relevant entities in order to influence policy and decisions that result in better outcomes for children, youth, and families in Alexandria. Within these guidelines, the Children Youth and Families Collaborative Commission membership completed the following activities during its 2023/24 year.

1. Significantly increased advocacy efforts this year through the following:
 - State Level: Advocated on statewide issues affecting children and youth by
 - researching issues of critical importance to children and youth throughout Virginia
 - inviting Alexandria’s Legislative Director Sarah Taylor to speak to our Commission
 - submitting recommendations for the City of Alexandria’s legislative package (sent to our Commonwealth representatives)
 - corresponding with Commonwealth representatives on budget issues
 - City Council level: Met in person with City Council members, including Mayor Justin Wilson and Councilmembers Sarah Bagley, John Chapman, Alyia Gaskins, and Kirk McPike
 - ACPS level: Met in person with School Board members, including Chair Michelle Rief, Megan Alderton, Jacinta Greene, Ashley Simpson Baird, and Abdel-Rahman Elnoubi
 - Appeared at multiple School Board meetings and City Council meetings (at least seven members testifying) to advocate for the following legislative priorities, many of which were included in the final FY City budget:
 - Pay increase for ACPS teachers and staff
 - Additional funding for mental health resources
 - Continued funding of the Youth Ambassadors program
 - Expansion of out of school time opportunities through adoption of Athletic Director James Parker’s proposal for middle school sports
 - Initiated funding included in the FY25 City Budget (for stipends for youth members of boards and commissions)
 - Reached out to other groups to coordinate advocacy efforts (the Alexandria City Community for Public Education) and compare resources, projects and strategies (the Arlington Partnership for Children, Youth and Families)

2. Established a coordinated system and calendar to oversee the activities and accomplishments of groups responsible for implementing the Children and Youth Community Plan

- Heard from the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria, the Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy, the Gang Prevention Task Force, ACPS, Casa Chirilagua, Tenants and Workers Union, the ACT Youth Support Network, Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria, Kids' First Years and the Alexandria Library System
- Incorporated information gleaned from these presentations into our advocacy efforts
- Delegated responsibility to our subcommittees (Goal Groups) to take the lead on coordinating these presentations and communicating with stakeholders

3. Revived the Champions of Children Awards Ceremony (last held prior to the pandemic) which honors individuals who have made a significant positive impact on Alexandria's children and youth

Goals for 2024-2025

- 1) The Commission will make better use of the data that is collected and provided to us: specifically, CYFCC will engage with the strengths and shortcomings that are highlighted in the 2023 Annual Report as well as the periodic Progress Reports provided by the Children and Youth Community Plan Coordinator
- 2) The Commission will attend to racial and ethnic disparities by centering on core values related to diversity, equity, and inclusion; by targeting the most troubling 'gaps' in access, resources, and outcomes across racial and ethnic groups; and by engaging a more diverse membership on the Commission itself.
- 3) The Commission will provide to the City Council a clear set of prioritized recommendations, including budget implications, based on our work as outlined above.
- 4) The Commission will actively partner with the Alexandria Health Department and Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria to support the Community Health Assessment process and subsequent Community Health Improvement Plan and to assist the Department of Community and Human Services' efforts to create the next Five-Year Children and Youth Community Plan for 2025-2030.

Leadership

- Officers for the upcoming year were elected at the May meeting: Dan Edwards will serve as Chair and Trinady Maddock as Chair-Elect.
- List term expirations and new members, with month they were appointed

- Teliyah Hillary – appointed 3.12.24
 - Nicole Davi – appointed 4.11.23
 - Meredith Forbes – appointed 4.11.23
 - Dan Edwards – appointed 9.12.23
 - Ursula Rocha – appointed 10.10.23
 - Trinady Maddock – appointed 12.12.23
 - Carrie Phillips – appointed 2.13.24
 - Tim Beaty – 4.12.24
 - Christina Sherlock - resigned
 - Marwa Naqshbandi – resigned
 - Marwa Sarwari – resigned
 - Zahra Rahimi – resigned
 - Ingrid Bynum – resigned
 - Sara Wascowicz - resigned
-
- During the course of the year, membership included the following individuals:
 - Councilwoman Sarah Bagley
 - Amanda Ruff
 - Angela Green
 - Carrie Phillips
 - Catherine Clinger
 - Christina Sherlock
 - Christine Raino
 - Councilwoman Alyia Gaskins
 - Dan Edwards
 - Ingrid Bynum
 - Jacinta Greene
 - Jlynn Vanpelt
 - Julie Murphy
 - Kate Garvey
 - Katie Greenway
 - Laura Durham
 - Marcia Jackson
 - Marwa Naqshbandi
 - Meredith Forbes
 - Mike Mackey
 - Nicole Davi
 - Rose Dawson
 - Sara Wascowicz
 - Teliyah Hillary
 - Tim Beaty
 - Trinady Maddock

- Ursula Rocha
- Noraine Buttar and the Department of Community and Human Services acted as the staff liaison to CYFCC during the course of the 2023/2024 year.

Attachments

1. [Link to CYCP Report Cards](#)
2. Letter to Council re Compensation for Youth Representatives

October 3, 2019

The Honorable Justin Wilson
And Members of City Council
City of Alexandria
301 King Street Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council,

The Children Youth and Families Collaborative Commission (CYFCC) is concerned about the issue of vaping and its impact on the City of Alexandria's children, youth, and families. This issue has become an ongoing topic of discussion both locally and nationally, particularly after multiple vaping-related deaths across the country and at least 1,080 cases of lung injuries related to e-cigarettes as of October 4, 2019, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Our commission is aware that Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) and the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria (SAPCA) are working on several initiatives and activities to reduce and eliminate vaping among our city's students. We believe it would be beneficial for City Council to receive a briefing from CYFCC, SAPCA, ACPS and the Alexandria Health Department on this topic as soon as possible.

The CYFCC looks forward to partnering with the City Council, ACPS, and SAPCA to address this pressing issue. Please contact Noraine Buttar via email (noraine.buttar@alexandriava.gov) or by phone (703-746-3436) to schedule a convenient date and time for the discussion.

Sincerely,



Jamica M. Littles
Budget and Finance Committee Co-Chair
Chair, Children, Youth, and Families Collaborative Commission

January 8, 2024

The Honorable Justin Wilson
And Members of the City Council
City of Alexandria
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council,

The Children, Youth and Families Collaborative Commission recommends that the city of Alexandria compensate the youth members of its Boards and Commissions.

Background

In 2014, The Children, Youth, and Families Collaborative Commission (CYFCC) provided the City Council and the Alexandria School Board with a comprehensive Children and Youth Community Plan for improving outcomes for Alexandria's youth.¹ The plan was updated every five years and is now in its 2025 phase.

Goal 3 of the 2025 CYCP includes recommended strategies 1) to build developmental assets² among Alexandria youth by providing them with the training and support to lead and make decisions, 2) to disseminate widely information about youth engagement opportunities and, 3) to provide leadership opportunities to the young people of our city.

It has been shown that participating in civic life and being a part of groups working together on an issue have clear and multiple benefits for young people. "Youth engagement can lead to increased academic performance and improved social-emotional well-being. It helps young people build skills and networks that are valued in the workplace and can thus be a source of economic mobility;"³.

Issue

Yet, participating in the civic life of our city can be challenging for many of our youth. Finding transportation, forgoing work commitments to attend sessions, and juggling academic and extracurricular activities mean that many teens simply cannot engage in the work of these civic bodies.

The opportunity to engage in the policy work of the city of Alexandria is particularly important for young Alexandrians in marginalized communities. Furthermore, integrating the voices of youth across the spectrum of gender, race, socioeconomic status, etc. will better inform the city's policies and priorities.

Proposal

One obvious solution to this challenge is to offer stipends to youth members of Alexandria's boards and commissions.

According to the After School Matters non-profit organization, providing stipends to youth participants reduces financial barriers for youth to participate, promotes youth financial literacy and economic mobility, and helps older youth support their families and meet their basic needs. "While stipends are not wages, offering stipends allows youth from low-income families the opportunity to help support their families while continuing to learn and develop in an environment that is dedicated to their educational and social-emotional needs. Programs that offer youth stipends see higher demand rates and incentivize youth participation and engagement – correlating to youth receiving the intended skill development and social-emotional learning – and have been connected to better outcomes data."⁴ While the After School Matters recommendations centered on youth development programs, the CYFCC believes this same logic applies to municipal boards and commissions. The CYFCC therefore recommends that the city of Alexandria offer stipends on a pilot basis to current youth members of the city's various Boards and Commissions.

Cost Estimate

In terms of the potential cost of this proposal, currently, Alexandria has over 15 boards and commissions with either filled or open youth positions, totaling approximately 25 slots. If each young person were granted a yearly stipend of \$500, the total cost would be \$12,500. Alternatively, an hourly wage of \$12 (assuming each youth works 3 hours per month for 9 months), would result in an annual expense for the city of approximately \$8100.

Summary

The CYFCC believes this modest cost would reap valuable benefits for the city and its youth. A community where young people are heard and empowered and where policies and programs are reflective of their voices is the kind of community we want in Alexandria.

Sincerely,

Catherine Clinger | she/her

Chair

Children, Youth and Families Collaborative Commission

¹*Children and Youth Community Plan 2025*, page 1

²Developmental Assets are traits, values, and experiences that all young people need to be healthy, successful and reach their full potential.

³Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement, Tufts University

⁴ "Stipends As A Tool To Advance Economic And Educational Equity In Youth Development Programs," After School Matters

Alexandria, Virginia - Code of Ordinances

PART II - THE CODE OF GENERAL ORDINANCES

TITLE 12 - Education, Social Services and Welfare

Sec. 12-10-1 Creation of commission.

There is hereby established a commission to be known as The Children, Youth and Families Collaborative Commission (hereinafter referred to in this chapter as the commission). (Ord. No. 4727, 6/25/11, Sec. 2)

Sec. 12-10-2 Composition; appointment; terms; chairperson and officers; committees.

(a)

The commission shall consist of 29 members, 25 of whom shall be voting members and four non-voting members. Seventeen of the voting members shall be citizens, four shall be city staff members, and four shall be staff members from the Alexandria City Public Schools. Two of the non-voting members shall be liaisons from the city council, and two shall be liaisons from the Alexandria School Board.

(1)

Citizen members.

a.

Eight of the seventeen members shall be approved by city council and shall be city residents. They shall consist of: six community members with expertise in children, youth and family issues, public safety, medical/health related profession or non-profit experience and two young adults, age 18—~~25~~4.

b.

Six of the seventeen members shall be approved by the Alexandria School Board and shall be city residents. They shall consist of community members with experiences as parents, guardians, teachers and/or expertise in early childhood, youth or general education policy.

c.

Three of the seventeen members ~~shall be approved by the youth council and~~ shall be high school students.

d.

The terms of the citizen members shall be three years and shall be staggered, except the terms of the citizen members who are high school students shall be one year.

(2)

City staff. Four of the 29 members shall be city staff identified by the city manager. The terms of the City staff shall be three years and shall be staggered.

(3)

Alexandria City Public School members. Four of the 29 members shall be identified by the superintendent. The terms of the ACPS members shall be three years and shall be staggered.

(4)

Ex-officio members. Two of the four non-voting members shall be liaisons from the city council. Two of the four non-voting members shall be liaisons from the school board. The terms of the ex-officio members shall be three years and shall be staggered.

(b)

The commission shall elect from among its voting members a chairman and chairman-elect, alternating between city and school representatives each term and such other officers as it deems necessary. The chairman-elect is intended to succeed the chairman for the following term, supported by the past year's chairman, and a new chairman-elect. These three officers shall determine the commission committees' membership and leadership. The terms of the chairman and chairman-elect shall be for one year.

(c)

The commission shall have ~~seven~~ committees, that mirror the Children and Youth Master Plan structure, comprised of commission members who serve as leaders and officers of each group and members of the community at large with a demonstrated interest in issues involving children, youth and families.

(1)

Executive committee. The executive committee shall consist of the elected commission officers, and ~~they may include~~ leaders of each commission committee. The executive committee shall be led by the commission chairman and chairman-elect. The functions and duties of the executive committee shall be as follows:

a.

oversee and coordinate organizational activities;

b.

set the commission meeting agenda;

c.

make decisions consistent with those adopted by the commission;

d.

oversee implementation of the city council's work plan as developed by the commission;

- e. conduct periodic reviews of the purpose and membership of the other commission committees and make recommendations to the commission for any changes; and
- f. address any issues requiring immediate attention of the commission.

(2)

~~Advocacy and policy committee. The functions and duties of the advocacy and policy committee shall be as follows:~~

- a. ~~review legislative issues, recommend policy and operational or procedural changes as appropriate;~~
- b. ~~responsible for preparing briefing materials and position statements for distribution throughout the community; and~~
- c. ~~prepare the annual report to city council and the school board based on commission activities and meeting minutes.~~

(3)

~~Finance and grants committee. The functions and duties of the finance and grants committee shall be as follows:~~

- a. ~~review city and school budgets and provide recommendations during the budget cycle as appropriate;~~
- b. ~~develop grant guidelines, identify potential efficiencies in funding practices between the schools and the city regarding youth issues, and determine financial impact of suggested youth program changes; and~~
- c. ~~audit grant reports to determine cost benefit and measure effectiveness, recommending metric adjustments as appropriate.~~

(4)

~~Outreach and membership committee. The functions and duties of the outreach and membership committee shall be as follows:~~

- a. ~~train commission members annually;~~
- b. ~~recruit new members;~~
- c.

identify potential new community partners for children, youth and family programs and assist with developing a memorandum of understanding as appropriate;

d.

provide periodic briefings and presentations throughout the community on commission activities;

e.

review applications for committee memberships; and

f.

make recommendations to city council and the school board on appointments to the commission.

(5)

~~Research and data committee. The functions and duties of the research and data committee shall be as follows:~~

a.

~~collect and distribute outcome data on initiatives in a youth master plan;~~

b.

~~review research literature on successful youth studies and monitor efforts by youth commissions, partnerships and collaborations throughout the nation and youth programs in the City of Alexandria;~~

c.

~~participate in regional, state and national forums and meetings as appropriate; and~~

d.

~~recommend procedures and processes for the sharing of data across the city and between programs.~~

(6)

~~Implementation and monitoring committee. The functions and duties of the implementation and monitoring committee shall be as follows:~~

a.

~~review, evaluate and discuss the quality and effectiveness of key programs as identified in a youth master plan.~~

(7)

~~Youth council. The youth council shall consist of up to 25 members, who shall be citizens. Four of the members must receive city services and/or participate in city programs and represent private and public high schools and city recreation centers. The term of these members shall be two years.~~

a.

~~The council shall elect three members of the council as their officers and voting members of the commission. The term of the officers and~~

voting members shall be for one year. Three adult members of the commission shall be assigned to the youth council, serving as advisors to youth and co-facilitators with the officers for conducting and convening the meetings.

b.

The functions and duties of the youth council shall be as follows:

i.

build the foundation that supports youth engagement in the activities of the commission;

ii.

provide a forum for youth input regarding the effectiveness of programs;

iii.

represent youth across the city through regular communication with various youth groups; and

iv.

create opportunities for youth to make a difference in Alexandria policy and decision-making processes. (Ord. No. 4727, 6/25/11, Sec. 2)

Sec. 12-10-3 Meetings; quorum; rules of procedure; annual report.

(a)

The commission shall meet nine to ten times annually. Working committees shall meet no fewer than six times per year may meet as needed. Appointed voting commission members must attend 75 percent of all meetings, including their assigned committees. The terms of the commission's members shall not exceed a total of ten consecutive years of membership on the commission.

(b)

All voting members of the commission present at a meeting shall be entitled to vote, and the decisions of the commission shall be determined by a majority vote of such members present and voting. A quorum, which shall consist of at least 50 percent of the non-vacant seats on the commission, shall be required in order for the commission to transact business. A member eligible to vote who is present but does not vote shall be considered in counting a quorum. In matters concerning the procedure for meetings not covered by this chapter, the commission may establish its own rules, provided such rules are not contrary to law or the mandate or spirit of this chapter. Otherwise, the rules of procedure set out in Robert's Rules of Order shall apply.

(c)

The commission shall submit to the city council each year a written report of its activities. The report shall also address the matters described in section 12-13-4(b),

and may address other matters relating to the city's youth that the commission may choose to make. (Ord. No. 4727, 6/25/11, Sec. 2)

Sec. 12-10-4 Functions and duties.

The functions and duties of the commission shall be as follows:

- (a) to submit to city council a vision for the well-being of children, youth and families in the city;
- (b) to submit to city council an annual report which shall include, but not be limited, to
 - (1) a plan of action to carry out the commission's vision for children, youth and families, which shall include priorities;
 - (2) an analysis of the outcome of children, youth and family programs and services; and
 - (3) recommendations regarding city funding for children, youth and family programs and services.
- (c) to review progress toward meeting the commission's vision and plan of action by:
 - (1) monitoring the programs and services that are available to the city's children, youth and families to determine their effectiveness in meeting the established priorities;
 - (2) holding public hearings, when deemed necessary, to obtain input regarding children, youth and family issues from the general public; and
 - (3) to coordinate responses from and among appropriate city and non-city organizations to emerging and existing issues affecting the city's children, youth and families. (Ord. No. 4727, 6/25/11, Sec. 2)

Sec. 12-10-5 Staff assistance.

The director of community and human services shall be responsible for providing staff support to the commission to assist it in carrying out its functions and duties. (Ord. No. 4727, 6/25/11, Sec. 2)

Sec. 12-10-6 Relationship to other youth related boards, commissions, task forces and community groups.

It is the intent of the city council and school board that any entity that receives city funding or uses other city resources, including staff support or in-kind city space, will collaborate and coordinate with the commission in developing and implementing a comprehensive, citywide youth development agenda. (Ord. No. 4727, 6/25/11, Sec. 2)

FOOTNOTE(S):

--- (1) ---

Editorial Note: Ord. No. 4727, §§ 1 and 2, adopted June 25, 2011, repealed Ch. 10 and enacted a new chapter as set out herein. The former Ch. 10, §§ 12-10-1—12-10-5, pertained to the Alexandria Early Childhood Commission and derived from Ord. No. 3399, § 1, adopted Sept. 16, 1989; Ord. No. 3533, § 1, adopted Sept. 14, 1991; and Ord. No. 3725, §§ 1 and 2, adopted May 14, 1994.

**APPENDIX F.
ADVISORY GROUP ANNUAL ATTENDANCE REPORT TEMPLATE**

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
CYFCC
MEETING ATTENDANCE REPORT**

JULY 1, 2019 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2020

CHAIRPERSON: Kelley Organek, Chair and Jamica Littles, Past-Chair

MEMBER'S NAME	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Councilman Canek Aguirre		X	E						E	X	X	X
Councilwoman Amy Jackson		E	E						X	E	E	X
Julie Crawford		X	E						E	E	E	X
Rose Dawson		X	X						E	X	X	X
Laura Durham		X	X						X	E	X	X
Kate Garvey		X	E						X	E	X	X
Jacinta Greene		E	X						X	E	X	E
Amanda Hazelwood		X	X						X	E	X	X
J. Glenn Hopkins		E	X						X	U	X	X
Kurt Huffman		X	X						X	E	X	X
Jamica Littles		X	X						X	X	X	X
Mike Mackey		X	X						X	E	X	X
Tammy Mann		X	E						X	E	E	X
Kelley Organek		X	X						X	X	X	X
Maile Organek		X	X									
Brian Orrenmaa		E	E						E	X	E	X
Javan Owens		E	X						U	E	X	X
Dianara Saget		X	X						X	X	E	X
Ashely Sanchez-Viafara		E	X									
Christina Sherlock		X	X						X	X	X	E
Heather Thornton		E	E						E	E	E	E
Lou Whiting		X	X									

INDICATE: X - FOR PRESENT

E - FOR EXCUSED

U - FOR UNEXCUSED

****Meetings were suspended after March because of the COVID-19 pandemic.****

LIST OF THOSE WHO DID NOT ATTEND 75% OF MEETINGS:

(APPROVED) Kelley Organek and Jamica Littles_ (Chairperson)



**ALEXANDRIA
COMMISSION
FOR THE ARTS**

**City of Alexandria
Alexandria Commission for the Arts
Annual Report
July 2023 – June 2024**

The Alexandria Commission for the Arts (the Arts Commission) is pleased to present its Annual Report for the fiscal year (FY) 2024.

The Arts Commission provides leadership in developing a vibrant and sustainable arts community that engages audiences. It also encourages support and appreciation for the arts as a cornerstone of Alexandria's identity and cultural, social, and economic vitality.

The mission of the Arts Commission is established by City ordinance (Article K, Sec. 2-4-91) and is as follows:

Advise Alexandria City Council with regard to policies that will strengthen the arts and further public access to the arts and cultural matters identified by the City Council;

Establish and periodically review criteria and standards for arts grant applications for city funds and accountability for the use of such funds;

Allocate from such funds to eligible organizations and activities as may be appropriated by the City Council for such purpose;

Review the public art annual work plan as developed by the office of the arts and a work plan task force and make recommendations to the city council as part of the budget process;

Review and approve public art project plans for specific public art projects, and to review and approve artist selection and concept development;

Create committees and task forces, as necessary, to focus on public art project development and artist selection;

Review proposals for donations of public art and commemorative art and make recommendations to the City Council;

Collaborate with the Alexandria Office of the Arts on public art project evaluations;

Support public communication and outreach as related to the arts; and,

Serve as citizen liaisons to City planning initiatives when public art is involved.

For FY 2024, the Arts Commission included the following members:

Scott Abeles, Public at Large/Arts Consumer
Christina Calloway Baucom, Public at Large/Arts Consumer*
Alvah Beander, Expertise in Visual Arts
Stacey Becker, Professional in Arts/Cultural Development
Gayle Converse, Public at Large/Arts Consumer*
Marcee Craighill, Professional in Field/Arts Disciplines
Catherine Dehoney, Professional in Field/Arts Disciplines
Allison Heck, professional in Cityscape/Architecture*
Robin Jordan, Expertise in Visual Arts
Brian Kelley, Chair, Expertise in Visual Arts
Chris (William) Kurowski, Professional in Arts/Cultural Development
Jason Longfellow, Professional in Field/Arts Disciplines
Paul Painter, 1st Vice Chair, Public at Large/Arts Consumer
David Pritzker, Professional in Field/Arts Disciplines
Trena Raines, Professional in Cityscape/Architecture
Hosai Rasuli, Student Member*
Dawn Rogala, Professional in Field/Arts Disciplines
Ashley Smith, Public at Large/Arts Consumer
Tiffany Williams, Expert in Visual Arts*

The Executive Committee of the Arts Commission consisted of:

Brian Kelley, Chair
Paul Painter, 1st Vice Chair
Allison Heck, 2nd Vice Chair
Gayle Converse, Secretary

The Arts Commission also received support and assistance from Diane Ruggiero, Meika Daus, Cheryl Anne Colton and Matthew Harwood of the Alexandria Office of the Arts.

Summary Of Accomplishments

In furtherance of its mission, the Arts Commission completed the following activities during FY 2024:

* Denotes a Commissioner whose term ended, or otherwise left the Arts Commission, during FY 2024.

- Maintained a quorum for all meetings from September 2023 to June 2024.
- Held regular meetings of the Executive Committee to set meeting agendas and priorities.
- Planned and attended a commission retreat on May 18, 2024 that focused on goal setting and strategic planning.
- Reviewed 29 applications for the City’s Annual Arts Program Grants for FY 2025 and approved a funding scenario that awarded a total of \$242,082—an increase of 40% in funding compared to FY 2024. Twenty-seven applicants received funding, which represents a 23% increase in the number of grantees compared to FY 2024.
- Hosted the following informative speakers at regular Arts Commission meetings and retreats:
 - Assistant City Attorney David Lanier spoke about rules and guidelines for Commissioners; and
 - Deputy City Clerk & Clerk of Council Keia Waters spoke about how the City can support Boards and Commission in Alexandria.
- Attended and took part in arts and cultural activities and events throughout the city, such as opening of Site See: Interstellar Influencer (Make an Impact) at Waterfront Park, the Scottish Walk Parade, the Ballyshaners St. Patrick’s Day Parade, and multiple arts events put on by arts organizations supported by city grants.
- Coordinated, with the assistance of the Executive Committee, a City Council coffee meeting between Arts Commissioners Brian Kelley and Dawn Rogala and City Councilmember Canek Aguirre to discuss arts-related issues in the City.
- Executive Committee members Brian Kelley and Paul Painter attended an information session given by the City Clerk’s Office and the City Attorney’s Office related to FOIA and other rules for Boards and Commissions.

Alexandria Commission for the Arts Committees

The Arts Commission oversaw the activities of two committees that are under the guidance of the Arts Commission.

City Council Committee

The City Council Committee helps members of the Arts Commission maintain regular communication with City Council on important arts topics in the City of Alexandria. Arts Commissioner Dawn Rogala currently chairs the Committee. The City Council Committee keeps commissioners updated on the Alexandria City Council meeting calendar, assists commissioners with questions about City Council meeting attendance and individual letter writing, and communicates with commissioners regarding advocacy opportunities that align with the city’s annual budget, grant, and small plan development schedule. The City Council Committee Chair and Arts Commissioners attended and delivered remarks related to arts grant funding at the October 14, 2023 City Council public hearing meeting.

During Alexandria’s FY 2025 budget planning cycle, the City Council Committee worked with Commission members to draft letters of support for increased arts grant funding. We believe that this activity contributed to an increase to the FY 2025 Arts Program Grant budget of \$71,000. This is the *first increase to the Arts Program Grant in over ten years* and demonstrates the Arts Commission’s ongoing support of the arts organizations and artists who provide programs for the residents of Alexandria.

Nominating Committee

Arts Commissioners Marcee Craighill and Jason Longfellow served on the Nominating Committee. This committee contacted commissioners regarding serving on the Executive Committee and presented a slate of candidates for the Executive Committee during the May regular meeting. The election for the Executive Committee was held in the June regular meeting. Upon announcing the slate, the Nominating Committee was disbanded and will be reformed next year.

Alexandria Commission for the Arts Task Forces

The Arts Commission appointed members to and oversaw the activities of one task force that is under the guidance of the Arts Commission.

Grants Task Force

Arts Commissioners Catherine Dehoney and Robin Jordan served on the FY 2025 Annual Arts Program Grants Task force along with two other task force members from outside the Arts Commission. The Grants Task Force reviewed and provided detailed commentary for 29 applications for FY 2025 grants and held a public meeting where each application was reviewed. The Program awarded a total of \$242,082—an increase of 40% in funding compared to FY 2024, which enabled the highest award to be increased from \$10,000 in FY 2024 to \$12,500 in FY 2025. Twenty-seven applicants received funding, which represents a 23% increase in the number of grantees compared to FY 2024. Catherine and Robin met (or will meet) with eight applicants who requested individual feedback sessions.

The Alexandria Office of the Arts provided the data below regarding the FY 2024 Annual Arts Program Grants that shows the impact of the Program Grants in our community in FY 2024:

Number of grantees:	22
Amount Funded:	\$172,600 (includes the Virginia Commission for the Arts Creative Communities Partnership grant of \$4,500)
Number of Artists Engaged/Hired:	942
Number of Engagements/Occurrences	1,042
Number of Programming Hours	11,311
Number of Audience Served/Reached	27,228

City of Alexandria Public Art Task Forces

To support public art in Alexandria, Arts Commissioners served on numerous public arts task forces along with community members and stakeholders. The purpose of the public art task forces is to help set goals for the project, support community engagement, recommend an artist, and review and approve concept designs. In FY 2024, Arts Commissioners served on the following task forces:

Del Pepper Community Resource Center Task Force

Arts Commission Members: Brian Kelley, Chris Kurowski

Project Scope: Commission an original work of public art for the main lobby and adjoining wings of the Center.

Current Status: Setting Project Goals & Parameters

Site/See (Public Art at the Waterfront) Task Force

Arts Commission Members: Tiffany Williams and Christina Baucom

Project Scope: Commission new, temporary, site-specific public art for Waterfront Park at the foot of King Street for 2025.

Current Status: Artist Nekisha Durrett has had a tour of the site and met with key staff and community members and will present a concept proposal by September 2024.

South Circle Park/Block 32, Eisenhower Avenue Public Art Task Force

Arts Commission Members: Dawn Rogala

Project Scope: Commission an artist to join the park design team and design public art for South Circle Park.

Current Status: Artist DeWitt Godfrey will continue to work with the design team to complete the final drawings for the park.

Time & Place 275th

Arts Commission Members: Jason Longfellow and Gayle Converse

Project Scope: Commission public art projects that foster exploration and dialogue about our region's history and its continued reverberations within our community today specifically tied to Alexandria's 27th anniversary in 2024.

Current Status: Artist Dee Dwyer's concept was approved by the Task Force in July.

Torpedo Factory Art Center Loading Dock Door Task Force

Arts Commission Members: Marcee Craighill and Paul Painter

Project Scope: Commission a mural on the new garage door on Union Street at the Torpedo Factory Art Center.

Current Status: The mural was installed in June 2024.

Vision Zero Task Force

Arts Commission Members: Stacey Becker and Hosai Rasuli

Project Scope: Commission a project in the Warwick Village neighborhood that supports the Vision Zero belief that traffic deaths and severe injuries are unacceptable.

Current Status: The Task Force has reviewed and scored applications and a final selection of artist was approved by the Arts Commission at their July 2024 regular meeting.

West End Transitway Public Art Task Force

Arts Commission Members: Brian Kelley and Trena Raines

Project Scope: Work with Alexandria Transportation & Environmental Services to integrate new public art into the West End Transitway stations.

Current Status: The Task Force reviewed applications and selected finalists for the project. The Arts Commission approved the selection of artists Matthew Geller, Cara Lynch, Nany Oneill, Shahin Talishkhan and Robert Tully for the project.

Wilkes Street Park Public Art Task Force

Arts Commission Members: Chris Kurowski and Marcee Craighill

Project Scope: Commission permanent public art for the redesigned park

Current Status: The park will experience further design development which will require additional community engagement and a redesign of the artwork. Staff will work to identify community members to serve on the Task Force.

Alexandria Commission for the Arts Liaisons to Other Commissions and Organizations

Arts Commissioners served as liaisons to two other organizations.

Alexandria Waterfront Commission

Arts Commissioner Marcee Craighill served as the Arts Commission's liaison to the Alexandria Waterfront Commission. She regularly attended the Waterfront Commission's meetings and advocated for arts-related issues and provided detailed reports of the Waterfront Commission's meetings to the Arts Commission.

Alexandria Arts Alliance

Arts Commissioners Gayle Converse and Stacey Becker served as liaisons to the Alexandria Arts Alliance, a nonprofit coalition of arts organizations that works to advance the Arts in Alexandria. The Arts Commission and the Alliance joined forces to march in the 2023 Scottish Walk Parade and the Ballyshaners St. Patrick's Parade. The event showcased the magnitude and important role the arts play in the city, as Alliance member organizations partnered with current and former Arts Commissioners – all wearing holiday themed garb and displaying arts organization banners.

Conclusion

The Arts Commission looks forward to continuing its work to support a vibrant arts community in Alexandria in FY 2025.

Attachments

1. Commission and grantees events/projects photographs FY 2024
2. Notable Letters to City Council

3. Arts Commission Meeting Attendance for FY 2024

Attachment 1
Commission and Grantees Photographs FY 2024



Arts Commissioners Brian Kelley, Christina Calloway, and Gayle Converse attend the Old Town North Stormwater Cover Installation Celebration with artists Dana Ann Scheurer, Yoshiko Ratliff, and Matt Long.



Arts Commission Chair Brian Kelley at the ALX Film Festival reception with festival directors.



The Alexandria Commission for the Arts joined forces with the Alexandria Arts Alliance to march in the 2023 Scottish Walk.



Arts Commissioners attended their annual holiday gathering at O'Connell's restaurant.



Arts Commission First Vice Chair Paul Painter attended the opening of “Interstellar Influencer (Make an Impact)” by Studio KCA at Waterfront Park.



Arts Commissioners during their Spring 2024 Commission Retreat.



Arts Commissioner Ashley Smith attended the 2024 Festival of Speed and Style in Old Town.



A new mural, "Efflorescence," by Silas Baker was unveiled at the Torpedo Factory Arts Center loading door, the result of work by an Alexandria public art task force that included members of the Arts Commission.

Attachment 2

Notable Letters to City Council from the Arts Commission for the Arts for FY 2024

Alexandria Commission for the Arts
Brian Kelley, Chair
Alexandria, Virginia

October 22, 2023

RE: FY 2024 Budget Recommendations

Dear City Manager James F. Parajon,

Thank you for reaching out to the Commission for the Arts regarding budget recommendations for FY 2024. Of the key areas you mentioned in the budget, I might best comment on Multi-Lingual Community Engagement and Our Youth and Families. It is my hope that I can show how these relate to consideration of increasing the budget of the Office of the Arts, the budget item for Program Grants, as well as affordable performance and rehearsal venues.

For Multi-Lingual Community Engagement, such as community engagement opportunities, we should think of past and present program grants recipients in Alexandria, such as QuinTango (which does multi-lingual programming, with members speaking Spanish, English, French, Mandarin, and German), Ethiopian Community Support and Advocacy Center (Amharic, English), foreign film screenings through the Alexandria Film Festival and Ethiopian Film & Art Festival. The arts are a popular and natural way to bring communities together, including those of multiple languages. An increase in funding to the Office of the Arts, particularly to the Program Grants, would allow for further investment in such community engagement.

For Our Youth and Families, we can consider recreational classes and childhood programs. Our Program Grants to recipients like Momentum Collective, Inc., Sound Impact, Young Playwrights Theater, and UpCycle Creative Reuse Center (to name only a few) all include funding for such childhood classes and workshops; programming that can contribute to the health, wellness, and academic success of the child in a way that is proactive and positive. Again, an increase to funding, particularly Program Grants, allows for further growth in this area. Additionally, the Office of the Arts' Mobile Art Lab is another opportunity to hold similar programming in all parts of the city.

Program Grants funding has been flat at around \$170,000 for over a decade. Adjusted for inflation, this funding would be around \$240,000, had it been raised every year. Alexandria has many more qualified arts nonprofits that apply for Program Grants than the city can currently fund, even when the maximum grant is not to exceed \$10,000. On average, many of these arts nonprofits usually budget around \$50,000 for their total program. While our Program Grants are intended to cover as much as half of a total program budget, it is now more common to only cover a fifth. In future years, inflation and flat budgets will make it harder and harder to continue the arts programming Alexandria currently enjoys and benefits from.

Harder to address but worth noting is the lack not just of affordable housing in the city, but also affordable performance and rehearsal spaces for our arts organizations. Venues such as the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, a major private venue that is accessible to mass transit, have been significantly raising their rates. City recreation centers, parks, libraries, and public schools will only become more important venues in future years. Alexandria should consider the inclusion or expansion of performance spaces whenever considering capital improvements to a facility.

The Commission for the Arts greatly appreciates your request for input on the budget and hopes that this letter will be of use. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have future questions or comments.
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Kelley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brian Kelley
Chair, Commission for the Arts

Attachment 3

ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS ATTENDANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

COMMISSIONERS:	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV*	DEC*	JAN*	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	
Scott Abeles			New Member							A	X	X	
Christina Calloway Baucom			X	AA	AA	X	X	X	X	Turns Expired			
Alvah Beander			New Member									X	
Stacey Becker			New Member	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Marcee Craighill			X	X	X	AA	X	X	AA	X	X	AA	
Gayle Converse			X	X	AA	X	X	X	X	Turns Expired			
Catherine Dehoney			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	V	
Allison Heck			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Turns Expired			
Robin Jordan	Did Not Meet	Did Not Meet	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	AA	
Brian Kelley			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Chris Kurowski			X	AA	X	X	X	X	X	AA	AA	X	
Jason Longfellow			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Paul Painter			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Trena Raines			New Member						X	X	X	X	X
David Pritzker			X	X	X	X	X	AA	X	X	X	X	
Dawn Rogala			X	X	AA	X	X	X	X	V	X	AA	
Hosai Rasuli			New Member			X	X	X	AA	A	V	A	
Ashley Smith			New Member							X	V	X	
Tiffany Williams					X	X	Resigned						

*Special Meeting

X indicates Commissioner is in attendance.

AA indicates an approved absence.

V indicates virtual attendance.

**Commission for Women
Annual Report
July 2023 – June 2024**

Summary of Accomplishments

The mission of the Commission for Women includes “The Alexandria Commission for Women provides guidance and advice to the Mayor and City Council to help eliminate discrimination because of sex; encourages and promotes policies supporting equal opportunity for women in employment, recreational opportunities and facilities, health services, housing, education, government, community services, and credit; recommends legislation and policy changes; receives complaints of discrimination; conducts educational programs and other activities to support issues of importance to women in Alexandria.”. **Within these guidelines, the Commission for Women membership completed the following activities during its 2023/24 year.**

Commission for Women Policy and Membership Accomplishments

- Membership remained steady throughout the year. A couple of meetings were rescheduled to ensure a quorum. Members are revising procedures to ensure more consistent attendance. A sustained effort was made to recruit community representatives that reflect racial and socioeconomic diversity.
- Three of the subcommittees last year hosted outreach and educational events that included issue advocacy and local solutions and resources to help eliminate gender and sex discrimination and improve gender equity and the lives of women and their families living in Alexandria.

- List participation/Coordination with other advisory groups as relevant
 - Commissioner Jennifer Stowe- Liaison with the Commission on Aging
 - Commissioner Dr. Elizabeth Palmer Johnson- Liaison with the Human Rights Commission
 - Commissioner Nicole Hutchinson- Liaison with the HIV Commission

- No policy changes

Commission for Women Member Activities

- Commissioner Yvette Jiang is on the DASH Advisory Committee
- Commissioner Dr. Elizabeth Palmer Johnson serves on the Rotary Club's Executive Board.
- Commissioner Lexi White also serves on the Board of Directors of Meadow Reproductive Health and Wellness and on Q Street's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Advisory Committee for LGBTQ+ lobbyists and public policy advocates.

- Commissioner Kafi Joseph serves on the Board of the Emily J.T. Perez Foundation supporting women veterans and young girls.

Program and/or Legislative Accomplishments

- Affordable Housing and Transportation Committee:
 - On October 18, 2023, the subcommittee hosted a webinar “Can I afford to live in Alexandria”. Joining the conversation were Kim Cadena, Housing Analyst with the city of Alexandria, Steve Greksouk, Mortgage Loan Officer with Burke & Herbert Bank, Gwen Lassiter, Landlord Tenant Investigator with the City of Alexandria, and Sosseh Prom, Esq, National Housing Justice Director with African Communities Together. It was moderated by Jean Kelleher, JD, CPM, the Interim Deputy City Manager at the time.
 - Helen McIlvaine, the Director of the Office of Housing joined the May 2024 Commission for Women meeting and shared the evolving context of affordable housing in the city and information about Zoning for Housing.
 - The subcommittee read through the DASH Advisory Committee’s letter to the City Manager in November 2023 related to FY25 budget priorities. The subcommittee acknowledged the importance of the proposed DASH service improvement to the women in the city and committee members advocated for the budget approval as individual citizens
- Survivor Subcommittee
 - Distributed bookmarks at the metros with information on Northern Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Task force, and local Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Support Services and hotline numbers- This information was not just for women but for men and gender expansive people too. Impacts all.
 - Commissioners participated in the Sexual Assault Center and Domestic Violence Program’s Annual Children’s Holiday Party.
- Reproductive Health Subcommittee:
 - Hosted April Virtual Roundtable/Advocacy Panel during Black Maternal Health Month with community experts entitled, A Crisis for Moms: Black Maternal Health in Virginia. Conversation explored the current landscape for addressing the Black Maternal Health crisis in Virginia, including key policy solutions. About 50 people joined.
 - Dr. Jamila Taylor, Institute for Women's Policy Research
 - Dr. Vanessa Walker Harris and Felicia Bendolph-Simmons-VDH
 - Kenda Sutton-El and Hannah Teklu, Birth In Color
 - Councilmember Alyia Gaskins, Alexandria City Council
 - Lexi White and Rev. Dr. Shelley Brown, Alexandria Commission for Women

- In May, the Commission hosted an in-person event and discussion with author, podcast host and human-centered leadership coach, Dimple Dhabalia whose work centers the intersections of leadership, mindfulness, storytelling and advocacy with a goal of healing oppressive narratives and trauma and building meaningful connectedness with people working in mission-driven spaces. This event explored what it takes to support and empower the leadership of women in the service sector. Jennifer Wetmore, from Survivor Support committee, led on planning this panel and discussion. Commissioners Jennifer Wetmore and former Chair Crystal Kramer participated on the panel discussion alongside Dimple Dhabalia.
- In June, following the anniversary of the Dobbs decision, which overturned federal protections of Roe v. Wade, the Reproductive Health, Rights and Justice subcommittee worked with Councilmembers Kirk McPike and Council Member Alyia Gaskins to conduct a local status report update at June city council meeting pertaining to actions outlined in the City's post-Dobbs decision resolution to protect and expand access to critical reproductive healthcare in Alexandria.
- Local support from ACFW in opposition for the Grayson County anti-abortion ordinances-ACFW wrote a letter of opposition for the record and Commissioner Lexi White testified.
- A lot of activity after the Dobbs decision.
- Various webinars- collaboration with other Commissions (Fairfax, Arlington)
- Relaunching of the social media accounts on Facebook and Instagram

Goals for 2024-2025

- List goals of the Advisory Group
 - Survivors Support
 - Reproductive Rights
 - Affordable Housing & Transportation

Leadership

- Officers for the upcoming year were elected at the May meeting: Lexi White will serve as Chair, Nicole Hutchinson as Vice-Chair. Yvette Jiang was elected as Second Vice Chair
- Members who resigned:
 - Sarah Holley
 - Jessica Barloga
 - Le'Ann Fredericks
 - Crystal Kramer (resigned August 2024)
 - Nia Miller (resigned August 2024)
- New Members:
 - Rachel Brill-Meckler (June 2023)

- C. Elizabeth “PJ” Palmer Johnson- re-elected (June 2023)
 - Nia Miller- (September 2023)
 - Kendra Green (January 2024)
 - Anuja Minor- re-elected (January 2024)
 - Kafi Joseph (March 2024)
 - Jennifer Stowe- re-elected (March 2024)
 - Tamika Nicole Hutchinson- re-elected (May 2024)
- During the course of the year, membership included the following individuals:
 - Lexi White
 - Yvette Jiang
 - Nicole Hutchinson
 - Anuja Minor
 - Jenn Stowe
 - Jennifer Wetmore
 - Matthew Worner
 - Emily Eckert
 - Dr. Elizabeth Palmer Johnson
 - Shelley Brown
 - Rachel Brill- Meckler
 - Maxanne (Maxie) Witkin
 - Nia Miller
 - Kendra Green
 - Kafi Joseph
 - Crystal Kramer
- Debra Evans and LaTanya Chinagorom from the Department of Community and Human Services acted as the staff liaison to the Commission for Women during the 2023/2024 year.

Attachments

1. Letter to Grayson County- October 2023



COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
123 N. Pitt Street, Suite 225
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

www.alexwomen.com

Phone (703) 746-3122
Fax (703) 838-4976

October 17, 2023

Stephen Boyer, Grayson County Administrator
129 Davis Street Independence, VA 24348

Steve Durbin, Esq.
Sands Anderson
150 Peppers Ferry Road NE Christiansburg, VA 24073

Dear Stephen Boyer, Steve Durbin, and Grayson County Board of Supervisors,

The Alexandria Commission for Women (ACFW) was founded in 1974 to eliminate gender discrimination and to encourage equal opportunity for women in all aspects of their lives. This includes protecting the ability of all women to make the reproductive health care decisions that are best for them, without targeted interference of any kind. ACFW believes it is the responsibility of local elected officials to protect access to the full range of reproductive health care, and we write to express opposition to Grayson County's proposed ordinance that declares the county an "Unborn Sanctuary," criminalizes the receipt of abortion medication through the mail and punishes anyone who assists in this care. The proposed ordinance disregards the reproductive and overall health and well-being of county residents including patients and their families seeking critical care.

In the wake of the harmful United States Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health Organization*, it is especially important that local elected officials do everything in their power to protect abortion access, especially in places like Grayson County, where access to care is already limited. In passing an extremist "life at conception" resolution in September and in not removing the "Unborn Sanctuary" ordinance from consideration, the Grayson County Board of Supervisors has demonstrated a harmful lack of understanding of the dangerous impact that anti-abortion policies have for patients and communities who need access to care.

Grayson County is 81.8 miles away from the nearest abortion clinic.ⁱ Restrictions like the one proposed push abortion access further out of reach for those who already face medically unnecessary barriers to care. Reducing abortion access even further for Grayson County residents will not reduce the need for abortion care, rather, it will jeopardize the health and safety of patients for whom care is already difficult to access.



COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
123 N. Pitt Street, Suite 225
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

www.alexwomen.com

Phone (703) 746-3122
Fax (703) 838-4976

Bans like the proposed ordinance in Grayson County fall hardest on residents that already face disproportionate health inequities on multiple fronts, including but not limited to: Black, Indigenous and immigrant communities; individuals struggling to make ends meet; survivors of child abuse, sexual assault, domestic and intimate partner violence; and those experiencing personal crises. Studies also show that attacks on abortion such as these have been found to contribute to higher maternal mortality and morbidity rates,ⁱⁱ mental health harm,ⁱⁱⁱ and increased poverty rates.^{iv} Limiting access to abortion care also increases the risk of domestic abuse by hindering a pregnant person's ability to leave an unsafe situation and forcing them to stay in contact with violent partners.^v

Unlawful bans like the proposed ordinance in Grayson County also cause increased contact with the judicial system, subjecting both pregnant individuals, their families, and medical providers to criminal penalties instead of networks of support. Harmful policies like this one also open the door to criminalization of pregnancy status, a reality that disproportionately jeopardizes the health and well-being of Black women, Women of Color, and their families, who already face disparate risks of maternal mortality, morbidity and adverse maternal health outcomes when embarking on the journey of carrying a pregnancy to term — a crisis that stems from structural and environmental racism.

ACFW urges the Grayson County Board of Supervisors to reject the proposed anti-abortion ordinance and instead publicly affirm its unwavering support of abortion access and the full spectrum of comprehensive reproductive healthcare for all women and people in Grayson County. Further, we strongly encourage the Grayson County Board of Supervisors to work with members of the community and the General Assembly to protect access to reproductive health care in Southwest Virginia and across the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

Crystal Kramer
Chair, Alexandria Commission for Women

ⁱ How Grayson County, VA Access to Abortion Clinics Compares to the Rest of the Country | Stacker

ⁱⁱ Stevenson, AJ. The Pregnancy-Related Mortality Impact of a Total Abortion Ban in the United States: A Research Note on Increased Deaths Due to Remaining Pregnant. *Demography* (2021). 58 (6): 2019–2028. Available at: <https://read.dukeupress.edu/demography/article/58/6/2019/265968/The-Pregnancy-Related-Mortality-Impact-of-a-Total>



COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
123 N. Pitt Street, Suite 225
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

www.alexwomen.com

Phone (703) 746-3122
Fax (703) 838-4976

ⁱⁱⁱ American Psychological Association. May 3, 2022. Available at:

<https://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/2022/05/restricting-abortion-mental-health-harms>

^{iv} Foster DG, Biggs MA, Ralph L, Gerds C, Roberts S, Glymour MM. Socioeconomic Outcomes of Women Who Receive and Women Who Are Denied Wanted Abortions in the United States. *AJPH* (2018). 108 (3): 407-413.

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October 17, 2023

Stephen Boyer, Grayson County Administrator
129 Davis Street Independence, VA 24348

Steve Durbin, Esq.
Sands Anderson
150 Peppers Ferry Road NE Christiansburg, VA 24073

Dear Stephen Boyer, Steve Durbin, and Grayson County Board of Supervisors,

The Alexandria Commission for Women (ACFW) was founded in 1974 to eliminate gender discrimination and to encourage equal opportunity for women in all aspects of their lives. This includes protecting the ability of all women to make the reproductive health care decisions that are best for them, without targeted interference of any kind. ACFW believes it is the responsibility of local elected officials to protect access to the full range of reproductive health care, and we write to express opposition to Grayson County's proposed ordinance that declares the county an "Unborn Sanctuary," criminalizes the receipt of abortion medication through the mail and punishes anyone who assists in this care. The proposed ordinance disregards the reproductive and overall health and well-being of county residents including patients and their families seeking critical care.

In the wake of the harmful United States Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health Organization*, it is especially important that local elected officials do everything in their power to protect abortion access, especially in places like Grayson County, where access to care is already limited. In passing an extremist "life at conception" resolution in September and in not removing the "Unborn Sanctuary" ordinance from consideration, the Grayson County Board of Supervisors has demonstrated a harmful lack of understanding of the dangerous impact that anti-abortion policies have for patients and communities who need access to care.

Grayson County is 81.8 miles away from the nearest abortion clinic.¹ Restrictions like the one proposed push abortion access further out of reach for those who already face medically unnecessary barriers to care. Reducing abortion access even further for Grayson County residents will not reduce the need for abortion care, rather, it will jeopardize the health and safety of patients for whom care is already difficult to access.



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ADVISORY GROUP ANNUAL ATTENDANCE REPORT

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
MEETING ATTENDANCE REPORT**

JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024

CHAIRPERSON: Lexi White

MEMBER'S NAME	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Anuja Miner			E	X	X	X	X	X	X	E	X	X
Elisabeth "PJ" Palmer Johnson			X	X	X	X	E	X	X	X	X	E
Crystal Kramer			E	X	X	X	E	X	X	X	X	E
Emily Eckert			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Jennifer "Jenn" Stowe			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Jennifer Wetmore			X	E	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Kafi Joseph										X	X	X
Lexi White			X	X	X	X	E	X	X	X	X	X
Matthew Worner			X	E	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Maxanne "Maxi" Witkin			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Nia Miller			X	X	E	X	X	X	E	X	X	X
Rachel Brill-Meckler			X	E	X	X	E	E	X	X	X	X
Shelley Brown			X	X	X	X	E	X	X	E	X	X
Tamika Nicole Hutchinson			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	E
Yvette Jiang			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	E	X	X
Jessica Barloga				U	U							

INDICATE: X - FOR PRESENT E - FOR EXCUSED U - FOR UNEXCUSED

LIST OF THOSE WHO DID NOT ATTEND 75% OF MEETINGS:

- Crystal Kramer (resigned)
- Rachel Brill-Meckler

FORM MUST BE SIGNED BY CHAIRPERSON(APPROVED)

_____ (Chairperson)

“To identify the needs of older adults, develop overall planning to meet those needs, evaluate service delivery plans as implemented, and advocate on behalf of older persons.”—Mission of the Commission on Aging

2023-2024 Annual Report

Commission on Aging



Submitted by Chair Michael Schuster

**Alexandria City Commission on Aging
Annual Report
July 2023 – June 2024**

Summary of Accomplishments

The mission of the Commission on Aging (COA) is “To identify the needs of older adults, develop overall planning to meet those needs, evaluate service delivery plans as implemented, and advocate on behalf of older persons.”

Within these guidelines, the Commission on Aging membership completed the following activities during its 2023/24 year.

Commission on Aging Policy and Membership Accomplishments

What an exciting year it has been for the Alexandria Commission on Aging (COA), culminating on June 25, 2024 in receiving both the inaugural City Council Award for the most Impactful Commission in the past year, and the City Council approval of its Final Report on the Aging Friendly Plan – 2019-2023. Each committee worked assiduously to achieve the ambitious goals established in the Age Friendly Plan, the Commission’s three-year strategic plan, and began evaluating and planning for the next three-year strategic plan that will begin in the 2024 fiscal year.

There were numerous opportunities for commissioners to participate in weekly webinars hosted by Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA), as well as monthly, bimonthly, or quarterly seminars hosted by other organizations. The Commission heard dynamic speakers from the Cherry Blossom PACE Medicaid Waiver Program, the Alexandria VICAP Medicare Counseling program, and the Alexandria Department of Health. Commission members also attended webinars and programs to enrich their understanding of complex topics in affordable housing for older adults, social isolation of older adults, transportation issues pertaining to safety for older pedestrians, bicyclists, and automobile drivers as more electronic bikes and scooters became a greater part of the mix of road users in the City. The Commission succeeded in securing additional funding for the Division on Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) and Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA) outreach to non-English speaking communities.

Three of COA’s state legislative priorities met success in the General Assembly. The General Assembly approved and the Governor signed legislation expanding virtual meetings up to 50% of an advisory commission’s meetings, and allowing commissioners with disabilities and those caring for a person with a disability the opportunity to attend meetings through electronic means. In addition, the General Assembly passed and the Governor signed legislation mandating guardianship training. The General Assembly also approved legislation expanding the grace period

for tenants to pay back rent before their landlords could file for eviction, but it was vetoed by the Governor.

This year the Commission celebrated Older Americans Month and honored members of the Alexandria community for their dedicated work that enhanced the lives of older members of the community. This year's Excellence in Aging award ceremony was at City Hall on May 14th, presided over by Mayor Justin Wilson. (See below for details.)

Membership remained steady throughout the year. The COA always had a quorum for its monthly meetings. This achievement was one major factor for the Commission's receipt of the inaugural City Council Impact Award for the most impactful commission during the past year.

- **Participation/Coordination with other advisory groups as relevant**

Two of the Commission's members are liaisons with two other commissions: The **Human Rights Commission** and the **Commission on Women**. In addition, the COA has appointed a non-commission member to be its liaison to the **Alexandria Housing Affordability Advisory Committee (AHAAC)**. Consequently, the COA is able to coordinate its work with these three advisory groups. In addition, the COA collaborates with the other following commissions and organizations.

COA Liaison Commissions and Organizations

1. Alexandria Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS)
2. Alexandria Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS)
3. Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria
4. Alexandria Adult Day Services Center
5. Alexandria City Police Department (ACPD)
6. Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities
7. Alexandria Transportation & Environmental Services
8. Northern Virginia Falls Prevention Alliance
9. AARP
10. Arlington County Commission on Aging
11. At Home in Alexandria (AHA)
12. Alexandria Redevelopment & Housing Authority (ARHA)
13. Goodwin Living
14. INOVA Alexandria Hospital
15. Northern Virginia Aging Network (NVAN)
16. Public Health Advisory Committee
17. Senior Center at Charles Houston
18. Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA)
19. St. Martin de Porres Senior Center
20. Successful Aging
21. VHC Health (formerly Virginia Hospital Center)

- **Policy Changes**

At its June meeting, the COA adopted a new Electronic Meeting Policy to reflect changes in the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, allowing an advisory body to meet virtually for up to 50 percent of its meetings, and for persons with disabilities and their caregivers to meet remotely. However, on June 25th, the City Council approved an identical policy for all advisory boards and commissions, effective July 1, 2024, superseding the COA's action.

COA Member Activities

- **List any member activities, if relevant, pertaining to members**

1. The **Outreach Committee** developed and implemented a Mindfulness Project throughout the City; in coordination with Senior Services of Alexandria; it provided information to the 120 Senior Ambassadors who represent faith communities, condominium communities, non-profits, businesses and Alexandrian adult residences; and it assisted with the SSA-Alexandria Bar Association Senior Law Day.
2. The **Housing Committee** reviewed and offered suggestions on the relocation plan for residents of the Ladrey Senior Facility during its demolition and rebuilding; it invited staff from the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA), the Winn Development Company and the Housing to Home Relocation Company to COA meetings to discuss relocation issues; and it had several meetings with City officials and The View-Alexandria Executive Director to discuss the use of two Auxiliary Grant units at the recently acquired Goodwin Living facility.
3. The **Transportation Committee** held several telephonic conferences with DASH management staff to discuss the collection of data on older resident ridership; it attended Zoom meetings of the Northern Virginia Families for Safe Streets concerning the monitoring patterns of pedestrian related car crashes; and it monitored transportation issues related to the now abandoned Monumental Sports Development Project at Potomac Yard.
4. The **Health Committee** focused its meetings on health gaps facing older adults, including oral, eye and hearing care; and participated in Dementia Friendly training in collaboration with Goodwin Living and other nonprofits.
5. The **Civic Engagement and Economic Security Committee** worked to expand the **Silver Service Card Program** which offers discounts to Alexandria residents 60 and over; it collaborated with the Alexandria City Work Force Development Center to initiate a "Senior Shark Tank" program to encourage and support business development by older Alexandrians; and it assisted the Alexandria Division of Aging and Adult Services to institutionalize a program of regular "Pop-Up" Farmers' Markets in locations accessible to low-income older persons who are eligible for SNAP (formerly called "Food Stamp") benefits.

Program and/or Legislative Accomplishments

- List any accomplishments of the Advisory Group or notable accomplishments

1. Legislative Accomplishments

The Chair of the COA testified on March 16th in support of the City Manager's proposed city budget. The COA advocated for an increase in the income and asset thresholds for the City Real Estate Tax Relief program, the reinstatement of the funds for DASH's Route 104, funding for the DAAS-SSA GrandPad program, and \$42,000 for the DAAS outreach program to Hispanic and Amharic communities. The City Council approved all of these requests, except for funds to continue the GrandPad program.

2. Annual Commission on Aging Awards

The Alexandria Commission on Aging (COA) held its annual Excellence in Aging Awards Program on May 14, 2024 at City Hall.

The COA uses the awards to honor individuals — regardless of age — as well as an organization, who have provided service to older Alexandrians or demonstrated superior contributions in advancing issues and projects that favorably affect older Alexandrians. Mayor Justin Wilson recognized the 2024 winners in four award categories:

Annie B. Rose Lifetime Award – Presented to an individual who has served older adults for at least 10 years. – **Bennie Blackley**. Bennie has been known by her colleagues as a font of wisdom, a dedicated advocate for older adults and a model for those supporting them. She has served in Adult Protective Services in Alexandria's Division of Aging and Adult Services as an investigator for 22 years. Her work occurred in sometimes stressful situations, to which she responded with calm and a strong sense of purpose.

Lois Van Valkenburgh Excellence in Aging Award – Presented to an individual citizen with at least one year of service to older adults. – **W. Thomas Reeder**. Tom embodies the spirit of volunteerism that makes Alexandria a caring community and a great place to live. Much of Tom's volunteer work focuses on educating and assisting older adults and lower income community members in filing their taxes and enrolling in and understanding their Medicare benefits. Under Tom's leadership, last year, with logistical support from the Department of Community and Human Services, the Community Tax Aid Program's 23 volunteers served 375 individuals and families and completed 339 returns, yielding just under \$3 million in net federal refunds. At an average cost of \$268 for preparing tax returns, their clients saved over \$90,000 in tax preparation fees. This year their 25 volunteers served 389 clients and completed 363 returns.

Excellence in Aging Award for an Organization – Presented to an organization that has made an outstanding contribution to older Alexandrians. – **Southern Belle Cleaners**. Older adults in the City of Alexandria are an important segment of our population.

Organizations and businesses that focus on their needs are critical in maintaining a community that is livable and age friendly. Southern Belle Cleaners has recognized this need and created services that address and assist Alexandria's aging population. Southern Belle Cleaners has taken a proactive approach in addressing the housing challenges faced by many older adults. They have intervened to prevent evictions and housing displacements.

Public Service Award – Presented to a City employee who has advanced, improved or otherwise contributed to making Alexandria a more livable community for all ages during the course of their job. - **Barbara Ravenell**. Barbara has worked for the City of Alexandria in the Division of Aging and Adult Services since 1988 - 36 years of service! She is a nutritionist who works within the city to help ensure good food quality to Alexandria's older adults. She works beside Jeffrey's Catering to insure all the food is delivered at the right temperature, the right quality, and the right nutritional value. Barbara works with Alexandria's older adults to make sure they can get fresh food from local farmers at the farmer's market.

Goals for 2024-2025

- List goals of the Advisory Group – if any

Although the COA is currently involved in revising the Age Friendly Plan for 2025-2028, we anticipate working on these goals in 2025:

1. Increase the number of Senior Ambassadors
2. Continue to create LGBTQ+ inclusive adult events
3. Develop public and private mechanisms to enhance the availability of affordable assisted living
4. Expand rental relief programs and tenant eviction protections
5. Continue to work on attaining Alexandria's Vision Zero of eliminating all traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2028
6. Assist DASH and WMATA to provide free, safe, reliable, and frequent transit services for older residents who live, work and play in Alexandria
7. Focus on health care gaps facing older adults, including oral, eye and hearing care, which contribute to healthy brains
8. Support programs for caregivers of those with dementia and help disseminate the information of available resources.
9. Participate in dementia and Age Friendly expos and community events
10. Formalize and expand the Senior Shark Tank and Pop-Up Farmers Market programs
11. Increase employer awareness and incentives to employ older adults
12. Develop a demographic data set identifying key parameters of economic security and challenges for older Alexandrians, including employment and cost of living issues

Leadership

- Officers for the upcoming year were elected at the May meeting: Michael Schuster will serve as Chair, Barbara Agostino as Vice-Chair. Ana Rivas Beck was elected as Secretary.

- List term expirations and new members, with month they were appointed

Expirations

William Campbell - June 2023

Lois Steele – December 2023

New Members

Marshall Hespe – September 2023

Ana Rivas Beck – October 2023

Victoria Rutson – January 2024

Daniel Thomas Oliver – May 2024

- During the course of the year, membership included the following individuals:
 - Caneck Aguirre
 - Ray Beigun
 - James Bruen
 - Enid Borden
 - Barbara D'Agostino
 - Kathleen Demik
 - Alan Dinsmore
 - Marshall Hespe
 - Barbara Heulat
 - David Kaplin
 - Jane King
 - Joy Kone
 - Jessica Lefevre
 - James Lindsay
 - Daniel Thomas Oliver
 - William Tom Reeder
 - Ana Rivas Beck
 - Victoria Rutson
 - Michael Schuster
 - Lois Steele
 - Jennifer Stowe
 - Geraldine Wallace

- **Staff Liaisons to COA 2023-2024**

Christopher C. Moore, Director, Division of Aging and Adult Services

Ashley Johnson, Long-Term Coordinator and Deputy Director, Division of Aging and Adult Services

Pamela Austin – Aging and Disability Resources Coordinator, Division of Aging and Adult Services

Attachments

1. Testimony Before the Alexandria City Council on March 16, 2024, in Support of the City Manager’s Proposed FY 2024 Budget
2. Testimony Before the Alexandria City Council on March 11, 2024 in Support of the City Manager’s Proposed FY 2024 Budget
3. Testimony Before the Alexandria City Council on December 16, 2023 in Support of the City’s Legislative Package
4. Age Friendly Final Report, approved by the City Council on June 25, 2024

Age-Friendly Report



Report submitted by The
Commission on Aging

2019-2023



Welcome

When this Age-Friendly Plan was written to take effect by 2021, no one could have expected the enormous upheaval that loomed in the form of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. The effects of COVID-19 were devastating, killing millions and affecting billions worldwide.

It laid bare many needs of the community and exacerbated the isolation that many older adults were already experiencing. It also served as an incubator for innovation, showing that many things we assumed weren't possible are now best practices.

Older Alexandrians rose to the occasion, volunteering at record clips, maintaining one of the highest vaccination rates in the Commonwealth, and adopting technology at an increased rate. The efforts of COVID-19 allowed us to implement the Age-Friendly Plan in ways that we never anticipated, but implemented nonetheless. It showcased the importance of partnerships and the value of cooperation. The Commission on Aging members did a wonderful job of writing and implementing the plan, coordinating various stakeholders with diligence and equity in mind to ensure that Older Alexandrians were considered in all the ways that make our City a community.

As we approach the next Age-Friendly Plan, we trust that the spirit of the previous plan will remain and be enhanced with the lessons learned over the past four years. The Division of Aging & Adult Services stands in partnership with the Commission on Aging and looks forward to enhancing Alexandria as an Age-Friendly City.

Yours in Service,

Christopher Moore, Sr.
Director
Division of Aging & Adult Services

Michael Schuster
Chair, Commission on Aging

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Executive Summary

To enhance its efforts, in June 2017, the City of Alexandria applied to and was accepted into the World Health Organization/AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities. Alexandria was the first community in Virginia to be accepted into the Network, and the City thereby gained access to a national forum for the exchange of information and an abundance of ideas and programs. Alexandria then had two years to develop an Age-Friendly Plan. In 2012, the City adopted a “Strategic Plan on Aging 2013 – 2017, The Alexandria of Our Future: A Livable Community for All Ages”.

Planning for older residents encompasses the needs of the entire community. What is good for older adults also benefits the young and everyone. Although its attention is directed to aging, the Age-Friendly Plan focuses on a livable community for all ages.

The Age-Friendly Plan for a Livable Community: Alexandria, Virginia (2019-2021) (“Age-Friendly Plan”) was approved unanimously by the Alexandria City Council in 2019. An advisory committee of forty members was formed, including the mayor, a city council member, agency representatives, and community leaders, to guide the plan's development. In preparation for developing the Age-Friendly Plan, the Commission on Aging conducted various activities over two years to assess the needs of older adults and adults with disabilities.

The Commission and Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA) conducted listening sessions with the community, older adults participating in various programs, and Department of Community and Human Services staff serving older adults and adults with disabilities. In addition, AARP conducted a 500-person phone survey of Alexandrians aged 50 and over, focusing on the domains of livability. In November 2017, the Commission secured the assistance of AARP Virginia and Just Partners, Inc. to host a day-long workshop to elicit participants' assessment of needs and priorities in housing, transportation, health, and civic engagement. Based on these various assessments, the Commission selected goals and objectives within the six domains of livability: Social Participation and Respect and Social Inclusion; Housing; Transportation; Communications; Health and Community Services; and Civic Participation and Employment.

Highlights

The Commission exceeded most of the Age-Friendly goals. It assisted in the passage of an ordinance allowing accessory dwelling units (ADUs) by right; Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA) recruited and trained more than 130 Senior Ambassadors; and the Commission successfully advocated for a full-time employee in the Workforce Development Center (WDC) focusing on helping older adults find employment.

Through Senior Ambassadors, Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA) created over 20 Senior Information Corners in libraries, recreation centers, and faith organizations. SSA also sponsors an annual Senior Academy, offering older Alexandrians a comprehensive view of Alexandria's agencies and interaction with the City's leadership; and SSA co-sponsors, with the Alexandria Bar Association, Senior Law Day, covering a range of legal topics from wills, trusts, and housing options to Medicare and Medicaid eligibility.

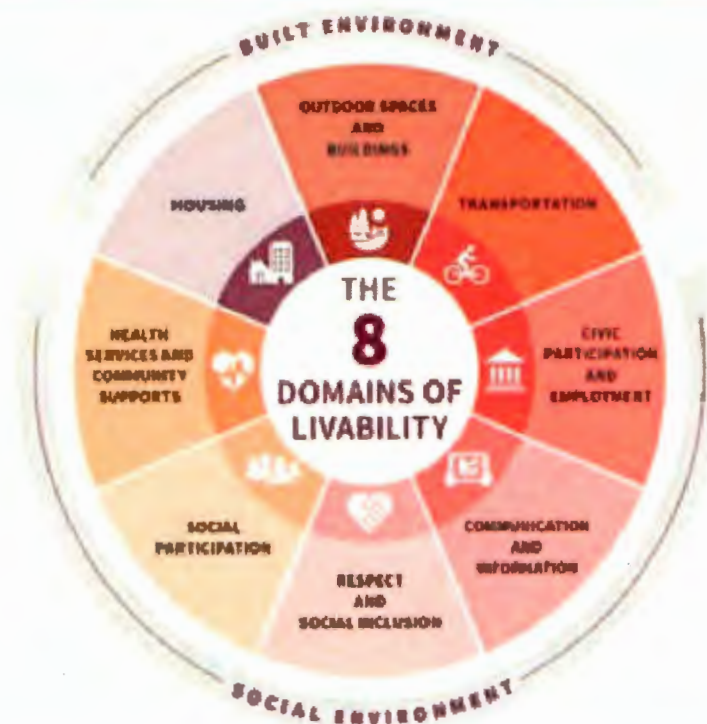
During the pandemic, the Senior Ambassadors, in collaboration with the Department of Health, distributed information about COVID-19 and other city programs to keep older Alexandrians safe and engaged while staying at home.

The Office of Housing convened a developer contribution work group, which met in the early Spring and summer of 2019. The Commission had a representative in the workgroup. The Alexandria Housing Affordability Advisory Committee (AHAAC) adopted the recommendations for developer contributions in September 2019, which the Commission on Aging (COA) supported. The city revised the recommendations, which the CoA also supported.

The Commission completed walkability audits with AARP; the City also reported it completed 13 walk audits in the period 2016-2021.



Program Description



The Alexandria Age-Friendly Plan focused on seven of the eight AARP/WHO Domains of Livability: Social Participation, Respect and Social Inclusion, Housing, Transportation, Communications and Information, Health Services and Community Supports, and Civic Participation and Employment. **The COA created five committees to develop and implement the goals and objectives under each of the seven domains:**

- **Outreach**
- **Housing**
- **Transportation**
- **Health and Dementia Friendly**
- **Economic Development & Employment**

The committees regularly reported their activities under their domains to the full Commission at monthly meetings. At the end of the year, the COA submits an annual report to the Alexandria City Council of its progress under the Age Friendly Plan.

Program Implementation

Similar to other commissions on aging and Age Friendly communities, Alexandria's commissions and boards had to adapt to the COVID-19 restrictions and meet virtually through the pandemic. The COA did not meet from March through June 2020. Nonetheless, these restrictions did not limit community participation in the Commission on Aging meetings, as well as Senior Services of Alexandria's programs. The Senior Ambassador virtual trainings and briefings continued non-stop. The annual Senior Law Day also continued virtually. Moreover, the Commission's liaison agency representatives were more likely to attend full Commission meetings, since they did not have to travel to in-person meetings. The COA's committees met virtually, often with city officials, to discuss the implementation of Age Friendly goals. The committee chairs gave virtual monthly updates to the full COA.

Nor did the COVID restrictions impede the COA's advocacy efforts. For example, the COA Housing Committee held virtual meetings with City officials to discuss enacting an ordinance on accessory dwelling units; the committee chair provided virtual testimony before the City Council in support of the ordinance. The COA Chair testified at the City Council's Budget Public Hearing on March 9, 2020, requesting that the employment training specialist dedicated to older workers be upgraded from half to full-time, that DASH bus fares not be increased, and that there be an increase in the Rent Relief program budget allocation to address the waiting list.

Senior Services of Alexandria and the COA strengthened their partnership with the Alexandria Department of Health during the pandemic. They conducted outreach to older Alexandrians on COVID-19 vaccines, assisted with over 600 vaccine appointments, and coordinated free transportation. At each COA meeting, commissioners received updates on COVID-19 outreach and statistics.



Program Implementation (cont)

The COA Transportation Committee was instrumental in implementing free rides on DASH buses. The committee chair was also the Chair of DASH's Board of Directors.

DAAS successfully implemented the Grandpad program, in which forty-plus older Alexandrians received a pre-programmed iPad to enable them to stay in touch with family members, schedule medical appointments, and enjoy social interaction with others. COA assisted in the marketing and outreach of this program. SSA continues to assist in managing this program.

The COA was active in promoting social inclusion. Commission members organized and attended workshops at the City of Alexandria's Annual Pride Fair. In 2020 and 2021, they organized successful workshops for Pride Month, entitled "Older LGBTQ Adults – We're in This Together!" at which they and the DAAS director served on related panels.



Program Evaluation

The evaluation and assessment of the Age Friendly Plan has been a continuous and thoughtful process. Each committee chair reported monthly to the Executive Committee, on which they all served, and to the COA their progress on their domain goals and emerging issues. In addition, the COA received monthly reports from its liaison agencies concerning their Age Friendly activities. Annually, the COA submits a report to the Alexandria City Council detailing its progress on age-friendly activities and emerging issues affecting older Alexandrians.

General inputs throughout the Plan implementation included:

- COA committee and Commission programs and activities, with regular meetings featuring subject matter experts relating to the Age-Friendly Plan Domains
- Information on available aging programs through the Senior Ambassadors, Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA) and the Alexandria Division of Aging and Adult Services
- Surveys and listening sessions conducted by SSA, COA committees, and individual COA members
- Extrinsic data collection (e.g., the 2020 U.S. Census, the Alexandria Office of Housing, AARP's multiple portal digests, the Princeton Eviction Lab, and the Virginia Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Service (DARS) surveys).

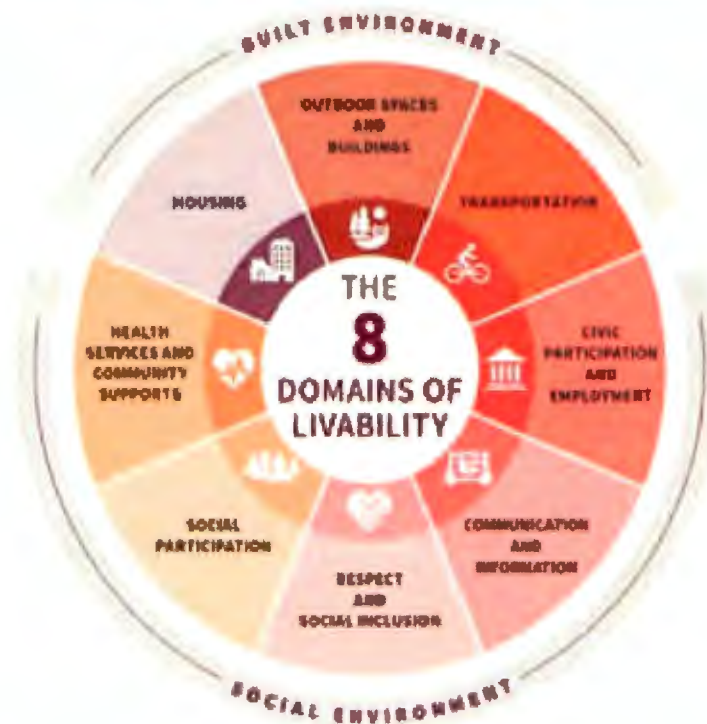
Program Evaluation

(cont)

Outputs included:

- Reporting and information disseminated to the COA and City Council, including annual reports to the Council.
- Policy development, for example, membership in the Developer Affordable Housing Contribution Workgroup and the Alexandria Housing Affordability Advisory Committee (AHAAC).
- Events and activities with other organizations, such as SSA and the Alexandria Commission on Human Rights.
- Direct participation in community discussion, advocacy and written comments on Age Friendly issues (e.g., oral testimony before the City Council of the impact of the city's budget on older Alexandrians).
- Participation in regional-age friendly collaborations, such as the Age Friendly Ecosystem Summits hosted by the George Washington University Center for Aging, Health, and Humanities.
- Urgent service changes, such as the City's vaccination program, in collaboration with the Alexandria Department of Health.
- Increased participation on citywide committees as the main advocate for older Alexandrians, such as the Reform Committee of the Alexandria Fund for Human Services
- Increased engagement with community partners such as the Senior Services of Alexandria and At Home In Alexandria

The Domains of Livability



This first cycle of Age Friendly planning and implementation has exceeded COA's expectations as demonstrated in the following tables. One unexpected benefit of the pandemic has been the extensive use of technology such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams. This technology has permitted the COA and its community partners to include a larger number of older Alexandrians in their meetings and programs.

The Age-Friendly goals, desired outcomes, and actual outputs and outcomes are described in the tables on the following pages.

Social Participation and Respect & Social Inclusion

Goal:

People of diverse cultures, races, colors, nationalities, genders, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities, and persons with disabilities in Alexandria have information about and access to the range of services available in the City and are engaged in civic life.

Responsible Parties

- **Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS), Department of Community and Human Services**
- **Commission on Persons with Disabilities**
- **Non-profit organizations serving minority communities**
- **Senior Services of Alexandria**
- **Faith-based communities**

Outcome Desired

- **Minority communities are aware of and have access to services available in the City and are engaged in civic life.**

Results Anticipated

- **Significantly increased outreach to diverse communities demonstrated by attendance at listening sessions, reports of Senior Ambassadors, and accounts of information distribution by various media.**
- **Information translated to multiple languages**
- **Increased use of City services by diverse communities and additional needs identified and resources identified.**



Social Participation and Respect & Social Inclusion

Outputs and Outcomes

- Created information-sharing articles of special interest to older Muslims in Alexandria and Arlington County
- Attended a virtual panel on racial disparity in health services for older persons sponsored by the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW).
- Collaborated continuously with the Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA) Senior Ambassador program
- Engaged in outreach with various faith-based community leaders and their representatives to devise means of assisting older adults within their congregations
- Attended a virtual workshop sponsored by the Mayor's Anti-Bullying Taskforce
- Continued listening sessions in senior centers, residential senior, and condominium buildings throughout Alexandria



Social Participation and Respect & Social Inclusion

Goal:

Create services inclusive of LGBTQ adults.

Responsible Parties

- COA Diversity Committee
- DAAS

Outcome Desired

- DAAS is assisting other agencies in reinforcing their commitment to diversity and welcoming clients regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Results Anticipated

- The DAAS' non-discrimination policy is prominently posted on all websites and print materials.
- Partnerships with, or outreach to, the LGBTQ community are highlighted or displayed.
- Agencies co-sponsor LGBTQ events or programs with local LGBTQ groups.
- Current programs are modified for LGBTQ clients.



Social Participation and Respect & Social Inclusion

Goal:

Create services inclusive of LGBTQ adults.

Outputs and Outcomes

- Alexandria and Arlington County Commission on Aging members hosted a listening session entitled, “Do You Know What Services are Available for LGBTQ Adults” at the Fairlington Presbyterian Church, Alexandria
- COA members helped plan the Alexandria Pride Fair, and met with “Welcoming Congregations” to discuss joint outreach efforts
- Reviewed and commented on the new Alexandria LGBTQ training module for newly hired city employees
- Facilitated a connection between DAAS, and the national organization, Advocacy and Services for LGBTQ+ Elders (SAGE)
- Organized and attended workshops at the City of Alexandria’s Annual Pride Fair
- In 2020 and 2021, organized successful workshops for Pride Month, entitled, “Older LGBTQ Adults – We’re in This Together!” at which they and the DAAS director served on panels



Communication

Goal:

Communication about programs and services available to older Alexandrians and adults with disabilities is readily accessible to all in a variety of formats and languages and is presented in many diverse venues.

Responsible Parties

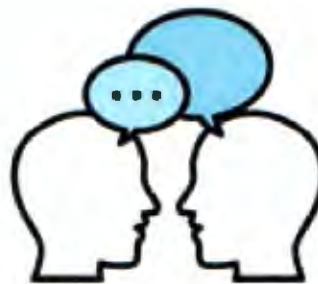
- Commission on Aging
- Division on Aging and Adult Services
- Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA)
- At Home in Alexandria (AHA)

Results Anticipated

- Increased participation by underserved communities in opportunities (educational meetings, listening sessions) to receive information about services and programs.
- Five community/civic groups recruited to help educate older residents and adults with disabilities in minority communities.
- Increased outreach and media attention to age-friendly activities and accomplishments that inform residents about ways to enhance their welfare.

Outcome Desired

- Alexandria's older adults and adults with disabilities know about the supportive programs and services available to them.



Communication

Outputs and Outcomes

- Media outreach plan developed.
- Enlisted support of various groups in communicating about programs and services available to older residents.
- COA members and DAAS staff participated in SSA's monthly cable program – "Senior Living in Alexandria" – on Comcast channels 69 and 70.
- Collaborated with the Office of Housing on identifying and distributing information on housing specifically for older adults.
- Conducted educational classes on Age-Friendly principles.
- Partnered with SSA and DAAS to develop monthly articles relating to issues relevant to older adults for distribution to over 60 Alexandria religious congregations.
- Used social media, radio, and news articles to bring attention to important activities and resources for older adults – including the Alexandria Times, Gazette Packet, and Zebra.
- SSA contributes a news article each month.
- SSA volunteers stocked over 20 Senior Information Corners at local libraries, and recreation and community centers with literature about programs and services for older adults offered by the City and non-profit agencies.
- The SSA's Senior Academy provided a four-week program to introduce older persons to city agencies and nonprofits, encouraging civic engagement.
- SSA sponsored a monthly speaker series, as well as Senior Law Day in partnership with the Alexandria Bar Association.



Communication

Goal:

The Senior Ambassador Program is implemented in communities throughout the City.

Responsible Parties

- Senior Services of Alexandria
- Division on Aging and Adult Services
- Commission on Aging
- Faith communities



Outcome Desired

Older adults and their families are aware of the services and programs available in the City.

Results Anticipated

- Increased capacity of persons served to understand the resources, programs, and services available to them.
- Increased number of Senior Ambassadors trained.

Outputs and Outcomes

- SSA conducts Senior Ambassador training quarterly.
- Based on weekly SSA updates, senior Ambassadors share information about programs and services with their respective communities.
- During the pandemic, the Ambassadors distributed information about COVID-19 and other city programs to keep older Alexandrians safe and engaged while staying at home.
- The COA and DAAS partnered with SSA to promote the Senior Ambassador program.
- The Senior Ambassador program is operated through SSA and was created to expand SSA's outreach to residents about services available to older adults and their caregivers.
- SSA recruited over 130 Senior Ambassadors by 2022, over twice as many as its target of 50 Senior Ambassadors.

Community and Health Services

Goal:

Older Alexandrians, and adults with disabilities, including those in minority communities, understand the health and community services available to them.

Responsible Parties

- Division of Aging and Adult Services
- Commission on Aging
- Senior Services of Alexandria
- At Home in Alexandria

Outcome Desired

- Alexandrians have an increased understanding of the resources available to them and make plans for their long-term care preferences.

Results Anticipated

Increased information available to minority communities about health and community services. Over three-year period, evidence shows increased use of services by individuals in minority communities. Attendance increases in events sponsored for minority communities, indicating increased engagement in the community..



Community and Health Services

Goal:

Older Alexandrians, and adults with disabilities, including those in minority communities, understand the health and community services available to them.

Outputs and Outcomes

- **Actively supported further dissemination of Grandpads until the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) created the Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB), which supports broadband to, among others, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients.**
- **To help thwart social isolation in seniors, discussions held with the City's Commission on Information Technology, explored Cyber-Seniors and socializing technology with older members of the community.**
- **Explored using funds from the Universal Services Fund (USF) for further Grandpad deployment, and is active with funds through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).**
- **Represented the COA in the City's Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plan (CHIP) working groups.**
- **Actively disseminated information about community vaccination and the form that needs to be completed prior to being vaccinated – SSA scheduled over 600 vaccination appointments with the Alexandria Department of Health. DAAS provided free transportation to those who needed it.**

Community and Health Services

Goal:

Alexandrians with dementia and their caregivers are accorded respect and comfort and are integrated into City life.

Responsible Parties

- Commission on Aging
- Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS)
- Senior Services of Alexandria
- At Home in Alexandria (AHA)
- AARP Virginia
- Leading Age Virginia
- Virginia Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services

Results Anticipated

- Development of a team.
- Consistent media attention.
- Increased participation in support groups.
- Increased activities for those with dementia and their caregivers: café time, arts, music, other activities.
- Memory café is launched in Alexandria.

Outcome Desired

- Those with dementia and their caregivers know Alexandria is an increasingly dementia-friendly city.



Outputs and Outcomes

- With Goodwin Living, developed Dementia Friendly Alexandria, a group whose mission is to enhance the lives of those with dementia and their families and to increase understanding of dementia by Alexandria residents.
- Continue collaborating with Goodwin Living on content for the Dementia Friendly website that was recently reactivated.

Community and Health Services

Goal:

Develop and execute a communication plan to reach older adults and adults with disabilities with information that enables them to prepare for emergencies.

Responsible Parties

- Office of Emergency Management
- Commission on Aging
- Division of Aging and Adult Services

Results Anticipated

- Increased numbers of older adults and adults with disabilities are enrolled in SMART 911.
- Increased participation by many organizations increases opportunity for older adults to learn about emergency preparedness.
- Engagement of RSVP volunteers increased.



Outcome Desired

- Older adults and adults with disabilities are prepared to manage emergencies.



Outputs and Outcomes

- Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA) conducted an information session on SMART 911.
- Information regarding the COVID emergency was widely distributed by the Health Department, with strong outreach support by SSA and the Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS).

Community and Health Services

Goal: Increase the availability of Mental Health [MH] Case Management Services for Older Adults with serious mental illness [SMI] and one or more co-occurring chronic medical conditions by 100% by adding a bilingual Family Services Worker II position (dedicated to MH Case Management with the Older Adult Clinical Services Team).

Responsible Parties

- Division of Aging & Adult Services
- Commission on Aging

Results Anticipated

- This position would increase Targeted Case Management Services for Older Adults with SMI and co-occurring chronic medical diagnosis by 100%. The program's current capacity is 22 persons. It will increase to 44 persons with SMI and co-occurring, complex medical diagnosis being served.

Outcome Desired

- Reduces the wait list for Persons with SMI and cooccurring medical diagnosis.
- Increases support to other DCHS programs in the CAC needing assistance with SMI.

Outputs and Outcomes

City Council approved this position in DAAS and staff has been hired with the support of the Commission on Aging and the Age-Friendly Plan.



Community and Health Services

Goal:

Enhance the availability of mental health case management services and emergency assessments, including capacity assessments, for older adults

Responsible Parties

- Division of Aging and Adult Services
- Commission on Aging

Results Anticipated

Increased ability to provide mental health therapy services to those requesting, and increased availability for emergency and capacity assessments as well as providing the support needed to address state hospital discharge planning requirements.

Outcome Desired

Mental health therapy services will be more available for older adults and the wait list will be reduced. Older adults needing semi urgent capacity assessments or therapy will be served in a timely manner.

Outputs and Outcomes

City Council approved this position in DAAS and staff has been hired with the support of the Commission on Aging and the Age-Friendly Plan.



Housing in Alexandria



Accessible Dwelling Unit



**Mixed Income Affordable
Assisted Living Facility**

HOUSING IN ALEXANDRIA

- **Average rent for one-bedroom apartment: \$2,186**
- **Income needed to rent a two-bedroom apartment: \$96,520**
- **Average single-family home value: near \$1 million**
- **No Moderate Income Assisted Living Facilities**
- **Housing Cost Burdened: (Households with incomes below \$50,000, paying 30% or more of their income on housing): 93% (of renters); 80% (of homeowners)**
- **New affordable units since 2014: 1,378**
- **Number of committed affordable units in development: 1,720**

Housing

Goal:

Determine prospective benefits and challenges regarding Accessory Dwelling Units

Responsible Parties

- Office of Housing
- Department of Planning and Zoning

Results Anticipated

Report shared with City Council and the community.

Outcome Desired

Recommendation made to City Council to allow for ADUs.

Outputs and Outcomes

- The Commission and its Housing Committee held several briefings on the proposed ADU ordinance with the City's Office of Housing and Department of Planning and Zoning. The Housing Committee chair testified in support of the proposed ordinance at the Council's public meeting on January 23, 2021.
- On January 23, 2021, the Alexandria City Council approved a new ordinance allowing for the creation of ADUs.



Housing

Goal:

Develop public and private mechanisms to enhance the availability of affordable assisted living in Alexandria.

Responsible Parties

- Office of Housing
- Department of Planning and Zoning

Results Anticipated

Meetings of study group completed enabling development of policy.

Outcome Desired

- Policy in effect for acquiring contributions for affordable assisted living development; concept plan for moderate and affordable assisted living facilities created and shared with city officials.



Housing

Goal:

Develop public and private mechanisms to enhance the availability of affordable assisted living in Alexandria.

Outputs and Outcomes

- The Office of Housing convened a **Developer Contribution Work Group**, which met in the early Spring and summer of 2019. The Alexandria Housing Affordability Advisory Committee (AHAAC) adopted recommendations for developer contributions in September 2019, which the Commission on Aging (COA) supported. The City revised the recommendations, which the COA also supported.
- On December 12, 2020, the Alexandria City Office of Housing approved this policy, allowing developers an increase in density in exchange for a commitment to include a certain amount of affordable housing (60% of Average Median Income (AMI) or lower) within the development.
- Although there has been a 62% decrease in affordable (households earning 60% of the AMI) housing units from 2000 to 2021, due to the pandemic, there was a substantial increase in the past year – a total of 6,977 affordable units.
- A concept plan for a mixed income, affordable assisted living facility (MIAALF) was completed in 2019. City officials are supportive of the concept.
- Two COA Housing Committee members met with the Alexandria Housing Development Corporation director and the directors of the City Departments of Housing and Planning and Zoning, all of whom are supportive of the MIAAF concept. COA members also met with City Councilors to explain the concept.

Housing

Goal:

Work with key organizations and individuals to incorporate “housing” for a lifetime” features in both new and redeveloped housing

Responsible Parties

- **Commission on Aging**
- **Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS).**

Results Anticipated

Guidelines drafted and approved by Department of Housing and the Department of Planning and Zoning; education sessions held with stakeholders.

Outcome Desired

Guidelines are approved and used as advisory for new construction of affordable multi-family housing that receives City funding.

Outputs and Outcomes

This goal was completed in 2019 when the Commission recommended, and the City ultimately adopted, the Universal Guidelines that the VA Housing Development Authority (VHDA) uses in its tax-credit application process for developers.

This solution provides consistency for developers who apply for city funds to develop new affordable housing in Alexandria.



Housing

Goal:

Prevent the unnecessary and/or unwanted institutionalization of those who could and would prefer to remain home for as long as possible.

Responsible Parties

- Commission on Aging
- Division of Aging and Adult Services
- At Home In Alexandria (AHA)

Results Anticipated

Inventory and publicize services that help individuals stay in their homes, list of NORCs (Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities) created, Senior Ambassadors recruited and trained in accessing support services, and community meetings held for NORC residents.

Outcome Desired

Information and resource persons are available to Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NOR)C residents, as well as to others working with older adults and adults with disabilities.

Outputs and Outcomes

Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA) recruited and trained over 130 Senior Ambassadors, exceeding the goal of 50 recruits. The Ambassadors provide information to their respective communities concerning programs and services available within Alexandria to assist older residents in remaining in their own homes for as long as possible.



Transportation

Goal:

Assist the City to attain its Vision Zero Goal of eliminating all traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2028 through attainment of interim benchmarks.

Responsible Parties

- **Vision Zero committed departments, including Transportation and Environmental Services (TE&S) and Police Department.**

Results Anticipated

- **Right-turn-on red restrictions were installed at ten intersections, and pedestrian countdown signals were installed at five intersections.**
- **Twenty crosswalks were enhanced with high visibility laddered markings.**
- **Lead pedestrian intervals were installed with heavy turning traffic**
- **Two major pedestrian intersections were improved, and improvements were made at ten high-crash sites.**

Outcome Desired

Initial steps taken to enhance traffic safety in Alexandria.



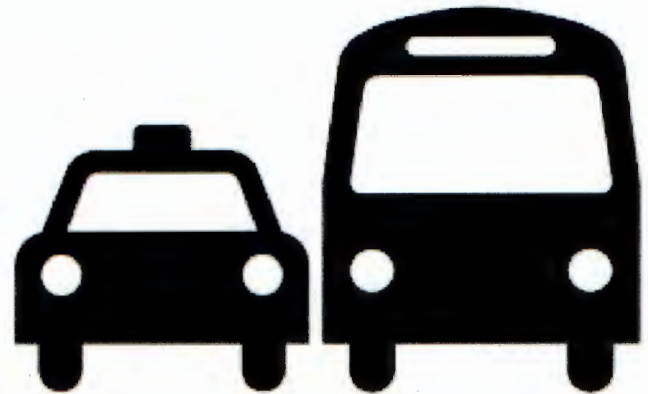
Transportation

Goal:

Assist the City to attain its Vision Zero Goal of eliminating all traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2028 through the attainment of interim benchmarks.

Outputs and Outcomes

- COA members participated in the activities of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) and Alexandria Families for Safe Streets (AFSS).
- DASH installed Mobile Eye (a camera that identifies pedestrian or bicycle obstacles within a blind spot) on some of its buses using grant funding.
- COA and BPAC successfully advocated for the addition of a third staff position in the FY 2023 budget to manage projects for the Complete Streets program.
- The City issued a progress report on Vision Zero in 2021, showing the implementation of improvements such as roadway marking upgrades, pedestrian refuge islands, curb extensions, Rectangle Rapid Flashing Beacons, Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons, and Leading Pedestrian Intervals citywide.



Transportation

Goal:

Assist the City to attain its Vision Zero Goal of eliminating all traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2028 through attainment of interim benchmarks.

Outputs and Outcomes

- **COA completed its own walkability audits with AARP; the City reported it completed 13 walk audits in the period 2016-2021.**
- **COA members participated in BPAC-sponsored bike rodeo to teach children bike safety skills.**
- **The Virginia General Assembly changed the yield to pedestrians in crosswalks to require a full stop.**
- **In 2018, the League of American Bicyclists awarded Alexandria a silver rating for being bike-friendly; in June 2022, Walk Friendly Communities recognized Alexandria with a silver rating for its Complete Streets program.**
- **A COA member served on the City Scooter Task Force, which made recommendations on a micro-mobility program allowing private companies to deploy rented electric scooters and bicycles in the City; advocated for reducing conflicts on sidewalks between scooters and pedestrians, providing for dedicated on-street parking for scooters, and ensuring the City dedicates appropriate enforcement resources.**



Transportation

Goal:

Assist the City to attain its Vision Zero Goal of eliminating all traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2028 through the attainment of interim benchmarks.

Outputs and Outcomes

- A COA member is the chair of the DASH Board of Directors.
- New DASH Network provides significant benefits for older adults, people of color and low-income communities, with more frequent all-day bus services in these communities.
- DASH eliminated fares, further improving equity and transit access; Alexandria received a state grant under the TRIP program, which provides state support for four years of free fares.
- DOT Paratransit is free within city limits.
- 95% of pre-pandemic ridership was attained on DASH in January 2022, with some individual routes exceeding pre-pandemic ridership.
- At COA's recommendation, a DASH Rider Advisory Council was established in 2020, and meets quarterly to provide input to DASH staff on improvements to the system.



Transportation

Goal:

Those who walk, drive, and ride a bicycle in Alexandria can do so safely.

Responsible Parties

- **Commission on Aging**
- **Division of Aging and Adult Services**
- **Alexandria Complete Streets Team**
- **AARP Virginia**
- **Alexandria Families for Safe Streets (AFSS)**
- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC).**

Outcome Desired

The goals of Vision Zero for pedestrian safety for 2021 are met.

Results Anticipated

- **Walkability audits made to Complete Streets Team.**
- **COA reports the outcome of audits to City Council if necessary to support Vision Zero.**
- **resident safety is enhanced where audits are completed, and City acts.**
- **areas of speeding as noted in audits are reported to the police.**
- **repeated safety messages regarding pedestrians and drivers enhance healthy behaviors.**



Transportation

Goal:

DASH and WMATA provide safe, reliable, and frequent transit services for people, live, work, and play in Alexandria.

Responsible Parties

- **Transportation and Environmental Services**
- **Department of Planning and Zoning**
- **Alexandria Transit Company (DASH)**

Results Anticipated

Development of a plan that accurately captures the transit needs of the community; approval of the plan by the City Council with a commitment to provide funding to begin implementation.

Outcome Desired

Improved transit network and service to meet the current and future needs of the city and region.



Civic Engagement & Employment

Goal:

Encourage volunteerism and recruit volunteers to support programs of older adults.

Responsible Parties

- Commission on Aging
- Senior Services of Alexandria

Results Anticipated

- Increased participation by volunteers in programs identified.
- Benefits include greater opportunities for socialization and community involvement and reduced isolation.
- Adequate support for volunteer-based programs serving older adults.
- Increased participation by youth volunteers.
- Non-profits that serve older adults can expand programming and improve support.



Outcome Desired

More active older adults who volunteer, intergenerational involvement in volunteering to serve older adults, and stronger support for volunteer programs and services

Outputs and Outcomes

- Senior Services of Alexandria and the Division of Aging and Adult Services have trained more than 130 Senior Ambassadors – they continue to receive weekly emails and updates to share with their communities and to provide feedback on issues and concerns relating to older adults.
- Senior Services of Alexandria annually sponsors the Senior Academy for Older Alexandrians and encourages interaction with the City's senior leadership.
- Senior Ambassadors shared information about the new Elderly Simplified Application Project (ESAP) for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as Food Stamps).

Civic Engagement & Employment

Goal:

Older job seekers in Alexandria have dedicated support.

Responsible Parties

- Commission on Aging
- Division of Aging and Adult Services
- Senior Services of Alexandria
- Equal Employment Opportunities Commission (EEOC),
- AARP
- National Council on Aging (NCOA).

Results Anticipated

- Older job seekers utilize services that remove language and cultural barriers.
- Media attention to benefits of employing older adults.
- Increased number of Alexandrians aware of services of the Work Development Center (WDC).
- Support from the Department of Community and Human Services and City Manager.
- Continued conversation and encouragement to reduce operating silos but coordinate efforts through a one-stop system.

Results Anticipated (cont)

- Number of job seekers identified cultural and language barriers and sought assistance.
- Increased number of annual events conducted.
- Increased number of businesses that attend.
- Increased number of businesses committed to be part of the initiatives.

Outcome Desired

- Full time employee position reinstated to support older job seekers in obtaining employment and mature workers accessing services through the one-stop system.
- Increase in business interest in employing older Alexandrians.

Civic Engagement and Employment

Goal:

Older job seekers in Alexandria have dedicated support.

Outputs and Outcomes

- The City Council approved a Full-Time Employee (FTE) to support older job seekers in obtaining employment
- The full-time Work Force Development Center (WDC) program administrator organizes various Career Readiness Workshops weekly.
- The WDC offered services to approximately 200 individuals
- Twenty older adults received intensive case management, job search support and or training and permanent job placement
- Nine older adults were enrolled in the ADC's Work-Based Learning Program (WBL), earning on average over \$18 per hour; six of the nine participants were placed in permanent jobs following their work experience, earning an average wage of \$25.56 an hour.



Conclusions

Program Strengths and Accomplishments

In most areas, the Age-Friendly Plan met or exceeded its goals. The aging community succeeded in developing acceptance of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and obtaining the City Council's approval of an ordinance allowing them. The COA also participated in the successful adoption of a developer policy on affordable housing contributions, leading to more affordable housing units for older adults. In transportation, DASH approved free fares for the foreseeable future and installed safety features, such as the Mobile Eye. Moreover, Virginia law now requires motor vehicles to stop at crosswalks when pedestrians are in them rather than merely yielding to them. Concerning civic engagement and employment, aging advocates succeeded in obtaining full-time positions to support older workers, and SSA recruited and trained over 100 Senior Ambassadors, twice the number the COA set as its target. In social inclusion and outreach, we made great strides in involving the LGBTQ community in aging issues and distributing information about services available to LGBTQ elders. Moreover, as reflected in the program description, the COA succeeded in involving city officials and non-profits in its activities.

Needs Not Yet Met

Although we had many successes, further attention to enhancing livability for all residents, especially older residents of the City is necessary, particularly in housing. While Alexandria is generally an affluent community, too many older, lower-income residents must struggle to cover the costs of their homes. There has been a 62% decline in market-affordable rental units in the City of Alexandria between 2000 and 2021. More than 80% of low-to-moderate-income Alexandrians (14,023 households) spend 30% or more of their income on rent or mortgage payments. According to the AARP Livability Index, housing costs (including taxes, rent, mortgage fees, and utilities) for existing Alexandrian residents is getting worse, well above the national average - \$1,846 (2015), \$2,156 (2023), \$1,052 (national average). New renters and home buyers may have to pay even more. Although the COA was able to advocate successfully for approximately 12 Auxiliary Grant assisted living units in new facilities, it has yet to make progress in obtaining firm commitments for a mixed-income affordable assisted living facility in Alexandria. Nonetheless, one is part of the city's master housing plan.

Glossary and Acronyms

AARP - Formerly the American Association of Retired Persons, which changed its official name to reflect that it does not focus only on retired persons. It is a 501(c)(4) social welfare organization that engages in various advocacy and educational programs. It is the joint sponsor of the Age-Friendly network with the World Health Organization.

AARP Virginia- AARP's state office in Richmond, Virginia, focuses on advocacy and educational programs in Virginia. AARP has state offices in each state, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

AARP Foundation - AARP's charitable affiliate sponsors free programs such as the Tax-Aide national IRS program and workforce programs under Title V of the Older Americans Act. It is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

ADUs – Accessory Dwelling Units are independent living arrangements, either attached to or detached from a single-family dwelling, such as one-family and two-family homes or townhouses. They are now permitted by right in Alexandria as long as they comply with the zoning ordinance for ADUs, Section 7-203.

AHA – At Home in Alexandria. It is a 501(c)(3) member-driven non-profit that builds and sustains a 55+ community to navigate aging successfully. Together, AHA members share activities, programs, and services, including access to needed assistance.

AHAAC - The Alexandria Housing Affordability Advisory Committee. The Alexandria Housing Affordability Advisory Committee advises the City Council on issues regarding the maintenance and promotion of affordable housing, makes recommendations for policies governing the City's Housing Trust Fund monies' expenditures, and oversees the Trust Fund's administration.

AFSS - Alexandria Families for Safe Streets focuses on bringing an end to pedestrian and cyclist fatalities and injuries caused by motor vehicle drivers. It is part of Northern Virginia Families for Safe Streets.

AMI - Average Median Income. This measurement determines eligibility for many housing programs within a geographic area.

Glossary and Acronyms

Assisted Living Facility - or ALF. Assisted living facilities, which care for four or more adults, are licensed by the Virginia Department of Social Services to provide a room, meals, laundry, and assistance with activities of daily living (bathing, eating, toileting, transferring, personal hygiene, dressing), medication management, and 24-hour supervision. Limited spaces exist for very low-income individuals who qualify for Auxiliary Grants.

ARPA- The American Rescue Plan Act provided state and local governments funds to address COVID-19 funding gaps caused by the pandemic.

AG - Auxillary Grants are Virginia's only public support for affordable assisted living. In 2024, the Auxiliary Grant benefit amount is \$2363 for Northern Virginia – far short of the amount needed for assisted living that exceeds \$6,000 a month in most assisted living facilities.

BPAC – Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. The Committee is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit organization that promotes walking and biking, and infrastructure and policy changes that create a safe, accessible, and livable city for all.

COA - Alexandria City Commission on Aging. The Commission is the advisory group for the Division on Aging and Adult Services (DAAS), which is the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) for the City of Alexandria. AAAs were created by the federal Older Americans Act to disburse funds and manage programs for older Americans within their locality.

DAAS - The Division on Aging and Adult Services within the Department of Community and Human Services.

DARS - The Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services. Its mission is to improve the employment, quality of life, security, and independence of older Virginians, Virginians with disabilities, and their families.

DASH – The Alexandria Transit Company which operates buses throughout the City of Alexandria. It is a non-profit corporation organized under Chapter 1, Title 13.1 of the Code of Virginia, for the purpose of providing mass transportation services as a public service corporation. The City of Alexandria owns the entire capital stock of the corporation.

Glossary and Acronyms

DCHS - The Department of Community and Human Services, which is responsible for administering the city programs for Alexandrians in the most social and economic need.

DOT -The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).

FCC - The Federal Communications Commission.

LGBTQ+ - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning acronym.

MIAALF - Mixed Income Affordable Assisted Living Facility. The City of Alexandria has incorporated MIAALFs into its current Master Housing Plan. The local model is Chesterbrook Residences in Mclean, Virginia.

NCNW - National Council of Negro Women. The Council's mission is to lead, empower, and advocate for women of African descent, their families, and communities. The Council is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

NORC- Naturally Occurring Retirement Community. A NORC is a community of older adults. They work to ensure older adults can age in place with the support of the local NORC members.

SAGE - Otherwise referred to as Advocacy and Services for LGBTQ+ Elders. SAGE is a national organization that provides advocacy and education on issues that impact the LGBTQ+ communities. <https://www.sageusa.org/>

SMART 911 - The Smart911 App provides 9-1-1 and first responders information in an emergency and receives targeted alerts from the National Weather Service. The free Smart911 service allows individuals and businesses to create online safety profiles with home, workplace, and mobile phone numbers, along with additional information that would be valuable to dispatchers and first responders during an emergency.

SNAP - the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly called "Food Stamps").

SSA - Senior Services of Alexandria, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that provides a variety of services to older Alexandrians, such as the essential Meals on Wheels program. It sponsors impactful programs such as Senior Ambassadors and Senior Law Day.

VHDA - Virginia Housing Development Authority or Virginia Housing.

WDC - the Alexandria Workforce Development Center. The Center administers work programs for all Alexandrians.

WHO - World Health Organization.

USF - the Universal Services Fund.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE ALEXANDRIA CITY COUNCIL ON MARCH 16, 2024, IN
SUPPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER'S PROPOSED FY 2024 BUDGET**

Good Evening Mayor Wilson and City Councilmembers.

My name is Michael Schuster. I am the Chair of the Alexandria City Commission on Aging. I am testifying on behalf of the Commission on Aging

First, we thank the city government for its generous support of older Alexandrians over the years. In particular, we appreciate the contributions of the City Manager and the Office of Management of the Budget, and in meeting with Commission members.

We wish to address four items: the real property tax relief program; the cuts in DASH funding and funding for the GrandPad program; and outreach to underserved older communities

An item not in the budget is a provision for updating the Household asset and income limits in the real property tax relief program. The most a taxpayer can have in assets, excluding their home, is \$430,000, far lower than Arlington County's current limit of \$656,232. It is important to note that Alexandria lowered its asset limit in 2013 to bring it line with the lower limits in both Arlington and Fairfax Counties in 2013. While Arlington County has progressively increased its asset limit since 2013, Alexandria has never increased its limit. This change will not require an appropriation of money, and in cases of tax deferral, the City would eventually receive the tax dollars with interest when the owner either sells the home or dies. At a time when "real" property taxes are rising, and when there has been talk about raising the tax rate, this is the time when the Council should follow Arlington County and increase the asset limit to ensure that long-term, moderate-income home owners are able to continue living in Alexandria.

The Commission appreciates the City Manager's increase in general fund support for DASH in the proposed budget which will enable DASH to remain fare free for FY 2025 and to meet compensation increases required under DASH's collective bargaining agreement.

The proposed budget does however include a \$180,000 cut to the DASH budget, cutting in half the service on Route 104 that connects Del Ray, Northridge, and the Parkfairfax neighborhoods to the Braddock Road Metro and the Pentagon during peak periods. This represents the first reduction in DASH service since the free fare program began, and sets a concerning precedent where the City could gradually pare back DASH service to offset the increasing costs of keeping the system free.

I want to mention the GrandPad program through the Division of Aging and Adult Services and Senior Services of Alexandria. The use of these specially programmed iPads ensure that older Alexandrians both remain socially engaged in their communities and have easy access to their health care providers. The United States Surgeon General last year sounded alarm about social isolation, which has been found to be as dangerous as smoking up to 15 cigarettes a day. The funding for the GrandPad programs will end this year. We hope the City Council will provide funding to continue this important public health program.

Finally, the Division of Aging and Adult Services has funded a community outreach program managed by Senior Services of Alexandria since April 2022. The goal of the program is to establish on-going programs for limited English-speaking older adults and persons with disabilities to ensure they have access to important City programs, including COVID and Flu vaccinations through the Health Department. This outreach effort has resulted in the establishment of regular programming in their native languages for older adults in the Hispanic and Amharic [AAM HAA RUHK] Communities, building on the work that contributed to

Alexandria's high vaccination rates - 80% of Alexandrians were vaccinated, comprising over 126,000 Alexandrians— saving countless lives. DCHS received ARPA funding for the program from the Virginia Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services which ends on September 30,2024. The Commission urges the City Council to continue funding the program, at an annual cost of only \$42,000.

This concludes my testimony. Thank you for your attention.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE ALEXANDRIA CITY COUNCIL ON MARCH 16, 2024, IN
SUPPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER'S PROPOSED FY 2024 BUDGET**

My name is Michael Schuster. I am the Chair of the Alexandria City Commission on Aging. I am testifying on behalf of the Commission on Aging

First, we thank the city government for its generous support of older Alexandrians over the years. In particular, we appreciate the contributions of the City Manager and the Office of Management of the Budget, in putting together this proposed budget. Morgan Rhutt, the director of the Office of the Management of the Budget, and budget analyst, Meghan McGrane, met with our Commission on March 1st to brief us on the proposed budget. We appreciated their time with us.

We wish to address three items: outreach to underserved older communities, the cuts in DASH funding and funding for the GrandPad program.

Another item not in the budget is a provision for updating the Household asset and income limits in the real property tax relief program. The most a taxpayer can have in assets, excluding their home, is \$430,000, far lower than Arlington County's current limit of \$656,232. It is important to note that Alexandria lowered its asset limit in 2013 to bring it line with the lower limits in both Arlington and Fairfax Counties in 2013. While Arlington County has progressively increased its asset limit since 2013, Alexandria has never increased its limit. This change will not require an appropriation of money, and in cases of tax deferral, the City would eventually receive the tax dollars with interest when the owner either sells the home or dies. At a time when "real" property taxes are rising, and when there has been talk about raising the tax rate, this is the time when the Council should follow Arlington County and increase the asset limit to ensure that long-term, moderate-income home owners are able to continue living in Alexandria.

The Division of Aging and Adult Services has funded a community outreach program managed they have access to important City programs, including COVID and Flu vaccinations through the Health Department, Division of Aging and Adult Services programs such as home-delivered meals and the Virginia Insurance and Counseling Assistance Program (VICAP), and the DOT Paratransit program for residents living with a disability. This outreach effort has resulted in the establishment of regular programming in their native languages for older adults in the Hispanic and Amharic Communities, building on the work that contributed to Alexandria's high vaccination rates - 80% of Alexandrians were vaccinated, comprising over 126,000 Alexandrians— saving countless lives. This outreach has been priceless. SSA shares information weekly at the ALIVE food hubs, manages a monthly program for seniors at Casa Chirilagua, coordinated glaucoma-screening events and regular exercise classes at Claridge House, and connected the Health Department to older adults at all of our monthly speaker series events. DCHS received ARPA funding for the program from the Virginia Department of Aging & Rehabilitative Services which ends on September 30, 2024. The Commission urges the City to continue funding the program, at an annual cost of only \$42,000.

The proposed budget includes a \$180,000 cut to the DASH budget, cutting in half the service on Route 104 that connects Del Ray, Northridge, and the Parkfairfax neighborhoods to the Pentagon during peak periods. This reduction is in addition to the \$200,000 in non-service related cuts that DASH will make to its budget for FY 25. This represents the first cut to DASH service since the free fare program began, and sets a concerning precedent where the City could pare back DASH service to offset the increasing costs of keeping the system free.

Finally, I want to mention the GrandPad program through the Division of Aging and Adult Services and Senior Services of Alexandria. The use of these specially programmed tablets

ensure that older Alexandrians both remain socially engaged in their communities and have easy access to their health care providers. The United States Surgeon General last year sounded alarm about social isolation, which has been found to be as dangerous as smoking up to 15 cigarettes a day. *What the Surgeon General Missed About America's Loneliness Epidemic*, Ian Corbin and Joe Waters, Newsweek, May 16, 2023; *Surgeon General: Loneliness Epidemic Requires Investments in Social Connection*, Essential Partners, September 18, 2023. The funding for the GrandPad program will end this year. We hope the City Council will provide funding to continue this important public health program.

This concludes my testimony. Thank you for your attention.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE ALEXANDRIA CITY COUNCIL ON DECEMBER 16, 2023
IN SUPPORT OF THE CITY'S LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE**

My name is Michael Schuster. I am the Chair of the Alexandria City Commission on Aging. I am testifying on behalf of the Commission on Aging.

I want to address three items: Affordable Assisted Living; Eviction Prevention; and Electronic Meetings.

AFFORDABLE ASSISTED LIVING

First, I want to acknowledge the diligent, ongoing work of the Office of Housing to address this issue through the City's multiple tools, including the City's Developer Affordable Housing Contributions Policy.

- There is a severe shortage of auxiliary grant units in Assisted Living Facilities available for low and moderate-income adults, because the grant rate is substantially lower than the cost of care, creating a strong disincentive for providers to accept the grant. The 2023 General Assembly's approved budget raised the rate to \$2,055 (\$2,363 in Northern Virginia). (Overview of SB6001/HB6001 Sept 2023)
The median Virginia assisted living monthly cost was \$5250 in 2021 (Genworth/Cost of Long-Term Care), and is estimated at \$5570 in 2023 (Senior Living/Assisted Living Costs by State). For the DC metro area, according to Genworth, the cost is \$6,886. Thus, even with the 2023 marked increase, the rate still falls far below the cost of care.

The Virginia Joint Committee on Health Care recommended an increase in the grant to \$2500, as well as an increase in the personal needs allowance. We hope that Alexandria will support these recommendations. The last two items are in the proposed legislative package, and the Commission on Aging support their inclusion.

EVICTION PREVENTION

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, Virginia amended the Virginia Residential Landlord Tenant Act (“VRLTA”) to require a landlord to give the tenant a 14-day notice instead of a 5-day notice for nonpayment.

- This provision expired on June 30, 2022.
According to Legal Services Corporation eviction data, Virginia eviction filings increased by over 600% from May 2020 to May 2023 (from 1,591 to 11,353).

<u>Virginia Eviction Data</u>		
Month	Filings	Defaults Against Tenant
June 2020	1,928	326
June 2021	3,822	1,143
June 2022	7,664	2,283
May 2023	11,353	3,822

- Since non-payment of rent is the leading cause of evictions – as many as 90% of all eviction filings – increasing the non-payment notice from 5 days to 14 days will significantly enhance tenants’ protections and reduce evictions and homelessness among older adults.

ELECTRONIC MEETINGS

- The Virginia Freedom of Information Act generally does not allow electronic meetings of public bodies, which include local advisory boards or commissions, such as the Commissions on Aging. The Act was amended in 2022 to allow for 25% of the meetings of public bodies held per year to be all-virtual, and to allow limited exceptions for electronic participation at a meeting for which there is an in-person quorum. *Virginia Code 2.2-3708.2*
- The in-person meeting requirement for board/commission members disproportionately excludes older adults with the greatest social (disadvantaged groups) and economic (lower income) needs under the Older Americans Act (42 U.S. Code, Chapter 35) from participating in civic leadership. By expanding virtual electronic attendance for board/commission members, as well as the public, we can ensure more opportunity to participate in civic leadership, regardless of the age, gender, income, education, race, religion, national origin, disability or location.
- The World Health Organization has noted that barriers to the participation of older adults in civic activities can be addressed by use of electronic meetings, making communities more “age-friendly.” (WHO, Age-Friendly Cities)

This concludes my testimony. Thank you for your attention.

COMMISSION ON AGING LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET PROPOSALS

Legislative Priorities

To reduce evictions, increase from 5 days to 14 days the grace period before any landlord or property manager may issue a written notice of non-payment of rent, before seeking judicial proceedings.

Expand public access and transparency by allowing electronic (all-virtual) meetings for advisory boards and commissions, with no restrictions on the number of meetings per year.

Require all new assisted living facilities to set aside 2% of total units for Auxiliary Grant recipients to expand access for low-income individuals.

Budget Priorities

Increase the Auxiliary Grant rate for assisted living facilities to \$2,500.

Require employers to provide at least ten days of paid sick leave for all workers, including direct care workers in nursing homes, assisted living, and home care.

Providing paid sick leave for all workers is essential to preventing contagion of illness--and saves money for businesses.

Require guardians to complete initial and ongoing training as a condition of their service; and direct DARS to develop such training.

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
MEETINGS ATTENDANCE REPORT
July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024**

COMMISSION ON AGING

Chairperson: Michael Schuster

Per City Council Guidelines, Members are expected to attend 75% of Meetings

X – present E – excused U - unexcused

Member's Name	Sept Can- celled	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Michael Schuster, Chair	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Barbara D'Agostino Vice Chair	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
William Thomas Reeder, Secretary	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Barbara Huelat	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	E
Alan Dinsmore	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	E
Ana Rivas	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	E	X
Canek Aguirre	N/A	E	X	X	X	X	X	E	E	E
David Kaplan	N/A	E	U	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
DT Oliver										X
Enid Borden	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	E	X
Geraldine Wallace	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
James T Bruen	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Jane King	N/A	X	X	X	X	E	X	X	X	X
Jeanette Shepard				X	X	X	X			
Jennifer Stowe	N/A	X	X	X	X	E	X	E	X	X
Jessica Lefevre	N/A	X	X	E	X	X	X	X	X	E
Jim Lindsay	N/A	X	E	X	X	X	E	E	X	E
Joy Kone	N/A	U	U	X	U	U	U	U	U	U
Kathleen Demik	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lois Steele	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Marshall Hesse	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Raymond Biegun	N/A	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Victoria Rutson					X	X	E	X	X	X
William Campbell	N/A	E	X	U						

LIST OF THOSE WHO DID NOT ATTEND 75% OF MEETINGS:

Joy Kone

APPROVED:

Michael Schuster 9/19/24
Michael Schuster, Chair Date

(FORM MUST BE SIGNED BY CHAIRPERSON)

**Commission on Information Technology
Annual Report
July 2023 – June 2024**

SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The mission of the Commission on Information Technology includes advising the City of Alexandria on the formulation and implementation of information and telecommunications policy, promoting civic engagement through the use of digital technologies, and identifying new technologies to enhance the delivery of city services. Within these guidelines, the Commission on Information Technology membership completed the following activities during its 2023-24 year.

I. Policy Discussions

Throughout the year, the Commission on Information Technology (CoIT) engaged in significant policy discussions aligning with its core mandate to advise the City of Alexandria on information technology and telecommunications policies. These discussions shaped the city's approach to emerging technologies and ensuring that Alexandria remains at the forefront of digital innovation.

1. **Cox Franchise Modification:** The Commission discussed and supported a modification to the Cox Communications franchise agreement, which included the addition of fiber, conduit, and handholds. This expansion enhanced the city's telecommunications infrastructure and ensuring that critical health services are well-supported by robust digital connectivity.¹
2. **Open Data Initiative:** The Commission played a pivotal role in advancing the Open Data Initiative. This initiative aims to make city data more accessible to the public while ensuring that the infrastructure supports such openness. The discussions highlighted the importance of establishing a centralized data warehouse and the potential involvement of external partners to provide tools and frameworks for safe data exposure.²
3. **AI in Government:** The Commission proposed and initiated discussions on the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) within government operations. This included the formation of an AI Subcommittee tasked with exploring the

¹ Minutes of the Commission on Information Technology, September 21, 2023

² Minutes of the Commission on Information Technology, November 16, 2023

potential use of AI in enhancing service delivery and civic engagement. The subcommittee's efforts were directed towards creating a speaker series to educate and engage both the public and city officials on AI's role in government.³

4. **Digital Equity and Smart Mobility:** CoIT deliberated on the city's Digital Equity initiatives and the implementation of Smart Mobility solutions. These discussions emphasized the need for equitable access to digital services across all communities and the integration of advanced technologies, such as AI and sensor-based monitoring, to improve city services like transportation and public safety.⁴

II. Program Accomplishments

In 2023-2024, the Commission on Information Technology achieved several key milestones in its mission to promote digital literacy, innovation, and civic engagement through technology.

1. **Cybersecurity Awareness Events:** The Commission successfully organized a cybersecurity awareness event, targeting different demographics within the city, including seniors and youth. This event focused on crucial topics like online scams, misinformation, privacy, and password hygiene. The Commission's efforts ensured that the community is better equipped to navigate the digital landscape safely.⁵
2. **Digital Inclusion and Civic Engagement:** CoIT collaborated with various city departments and external partners, such as Computer CORE, to enhance digital inclusion across Alexandria. This included support for events that helped residents sign up for free internet services through the Affordable Connectivity Program and initiatives to promote digital literacy during Digital Inclusion Week.⁶
3. **Smart Mobility and Data Transparency:** The Commission contributed to the City of Alexandria's Smart Mobility initiative by engaging in discussions and providing recommendations on data collection and usage for monitoring city services. This included exploring the use of sensors and AI to improve service delivery and ensure that the data collected is secure and transparent.⁷

³ Minutes of the Commission on Information Technology, November 16, 2023

⁴ Minutes of the Commission on Information Technology, March 21, 2024 and April 18, 2024

⁵ Minutes of the Commission on Information Technology, November 19, 2023 and March 21, 2024

⁶ Minutes of the Commission on Information Technology, July 20, 2023

⁷ Minutes of the Commission on Information Technology, March 21, 2024

4. **Digital Equity Mapping Tool:** A significant accomplishment was the development and rollout of the Digital Equity & City Services Map. This tool, designed to be a 'one-stop shop' for city services, allows residents to access various services digitally, with the application offering multilingual support and continuous updates based on user feedback. This initiative directly contributes to reducing the digital divide and improving access to city services.⁸
5. **AI Speaker Series:** The AI Subcommittee initiated a speaker series about the potential applications of AI in government. This series fostered a better understanding of AI's capabilities and helped the city leverage AI to enhance service delivery and operational efficiency.⁹

III. Leadership

Officers for the upcoming year were elected at the August 28, 2024 meeting:

Chair: Ricardo Alfaro
Vice Chair: Sara Crifasi
Secretary: Brandon Mosoriak

The following individuals joined the Commission during the 2023-2024 year:

- Cassie Page, Representative for Mayor Justin Wilson
- Heather Barrows, Citizen Member
- Ella Graf, Alexandria City High School Representative (Resigned)
- Karen Graf, Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee (BFAAC) Representative (Resigned)

During the course of the year, membership included the following individuals:

- Ricardo Alfaro, Chair
- Sara Crifasi, Vice Chair
- Brandon Mosoriak, Secretary
- Steve Davidson
- Stephen Morris
- Timothy Casey
- Cassie Page
- Jay Chauhan
- Rhonda Syler

⁸ Minutes of the Commission on Information Technology, April 18, 2024

⁹ Minutes of the Commission on Information Technology, November 16, 2023

- Heather Wojton
- Catharine Rice
- Christopher Harris
- Elizabeth Hoover, ACPS CIO
- John Crites, ACPS IT Staff

Stacey Campbell acted as the staff liaison to the Commission on Information Technology during the course of the 2023-24 year.

IV. Priorities for 2024-2025

1. Open Data Resolution

In accordance with the commission's mandate to promote civic engagement through digital technologies (Sec. 2-4-113(a)), the IT Commission will advocate for the continued expansion and public access to the city's open data. This effort aligns with promoting transparency and citizen participation. The goal of the resolution is to begin a process where the commission will work with city staff to leverage open and publicly accessible data sets across city departments and identify new opportunities for expanding the use of open data for civic engagement and service delivery improvement.

2. Digital Equity

To fulfill the city's objective of promoting education and access to digital technologies (Sec. 2-4-113(b)), the Commission will collaborate with Alexandria's Office of Strategic Initiatives. The focus will be on analyzing the findings of PRR's digital equity study and proposing recommendations for addressing digital inequities across the city. The Commission aims to ensure that the underserved communities gain better access to necessary technologies. Exploring further actions for 2024-2025 will include initiatives that focus on infrastructure and educational programs to bridge the digital divide.

3. Community Education and Outreach

In line with the Commission's function to educate Alexandria's citizens and businesses about digital technologies (Sec. 2-4-113(c)), we will prioritize community outreach and educational programs on various technology topics. These efforts will include public forums, and collaborative partnerships with local institutions and non-profit organizations. The Commission will focus on

cybersecurity awareness, digital literacy, and the benefits of emerging technologies for enhancing daily life and business operations in Alexandria.

4. Artificial Intelligence

To meet the city's goals of evaluating new technologies and identifying their potential to improve city services (Sec. 2-4-113(e)), the Commission will continue the AI speaker series. The series will highlight both city staff and private sector innovators in AI, focusing on how AI is currently being applied to improve public services in Alexandria. These discussions will explore AI's role in enhancing operational efficiency, service delivery, and civic engagement, with the aim of identifying potential policy recommendations for the City Council regarding the safe and effective use of AI in government services.

V. Conclusion

This report underscores the Commission's dedication to advancing Alexandria's digital landscape through thoughtful policy discussions and impactful programs that promote digital equity, innovation, and security across the city.

ADVISORY GROUP ANNUAL ATTENDANCE REPORT

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
COMMISSION ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
MEETING ATTENDANCE REPORT**

JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024

CHAIRPERSON: RICARDO ALFARO

MEMBER'S NAME	Aug 17	Sep 21	Oct 19	Nov 16	Jan 18	Feb 15	Feb 28	Mar 21	Apr 18	May 16
Ricardo Alfaro	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Heather Barrows						X	R	R	R	R
Timothy Casey	E	X	U	X	X	E	R	X	X	R
Jay Chauhan	R	X	X	X	X	E	R	X	U	X
Sara Crifasi	X	X	X	X	R	X	R	X	E	R
Steve Davidson	X	X	R	R	E	X	R	X	X	R
Ella Graf		X	X	X	U	U	U	U		
Karen Graf			X	X						
Christopher Harris		R	E	E	E	R	E	E	E	E
Kelly Carmichael Booz	X									
Elizabeth Hoover (Proxy)	X	X	E	R	X	R	R	E	E	R
Amy Jackson	X	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
Stephen Morris	R	E	X	X	X	E	R	X	R	R
Brandon Mosoriak	X	E	E	X	X	X	R	X	X	R
Cassie Page									X	X
Catharine Rice	X	X	X	R	X					
Rhonda Syler	R	X	X	X	R	X	R	X	E	X
Justin Wilson	E	E	E	E	X	E	E	E	E	E
Heather Wojton	R	X	E	X	R	R	R	E	E	R

**INDICATE: X - FOR PRESENT E - FOR EXCUSED U - FOR UNEXCUSED
R - REMOTE**

FORM MUST BE SIGNED BY CHAIRPERSON

(APPROVED) _____ (Chairperson)

**Alexandria Community Criminal Justice Board
Annual Report
July 2023 – June 2024**

Summary of Accomplishments

The mission of the Alexandria Community Criminal Justice Board is to enhance and promote the safety of City of Alexandria residents and visitors through the most effective and efficient administration of criminal and juvenile justice services. Within these guidelines, the Alexandria Community Criminal Justice Board membership completed the following activities during its 2023/24 session.

**Alexandria Community Criminal Justice Board Policy and Membership
Accomplishments**

- A few memberships became vacant in 2023/24 session. During this fiscal year we maintained a quorum for 3 out of 4 meetings. The board continued to identify specific designees who would report on behalf of some *Ex Officio* members to ensure strong attendance.
- The board continues to incorporate information from the CCJB sub-committee meetings and will report-out at during main meetings when appropriate.
- The new chair, Matthew Taylor, no Vice Chair, and Secretary, Michael Mackey were voted in on March 2, 2023.
- The board continues to meet jointly with the Health and Safety Committee (HSC) twice a year. The board will continue to hold separate meetings twice a year.
- CCJB meetings were held on: March 7, 2024
- Joint H&SC meetings were held on: September 8, 2023, and May 3, 2024

Alexandria Community Criminal Justice Board Member Activities

- Mental Health and Substance Abuse are high priority topics for both CCJB and HSC. Updates on Opioid overdoses (57), Narcan deployments and 911 calls were provided by APD. Data on suspected Fentanyl overdoses is (23), (27) unknown 2018, 2019, (7) each 2017, (3), 2020 rise. Spike in overdoses is climbing.

- Fentanyl has changed everything from policing to treatment. Opioid Work Group helps with partnerships across community. Discussed partnerships/Health Department – libraries, restaurants (multiple neighborhoods). Health Department conducts routine visits as an added component of opioid education.
- Regional Task Force update. Their counterparts across the northern area share a great deal of education and prevention campaigns. Major components need be in prevention while treatment systems are built (e.g., libraries, west end business, bilingual Spanish; Public Health Advisory Commission; Faith-based organizations to provide information and Narcan distribution.
- Discussions related to 3rd/4th grade implementation related to Opioid use. Work continues with Alexandria City Public Schools for education of students. Local and regional efforts continue to develop an appropriate treatment continuum.
- Discussions related to Temporary Detention Orders (TDOs) reveal that out of 409 in FY23, 4% were minors; out of that, 70% of patients admitted in the Northern Virginia area and 30% in other Virginia hospitals across the region. This represents 37% of crisis evaluations.
- Psychiatric boarding where a lot remain in hospital after having been recommended for treatment, impacting supply and demand. Some patients are not able to obtain the care that they need. Collaborating with INOVA continuing to discuss barriers for those waiting for placement. This wait is disproportional for youth.
- 391 patients stayed at emergency room in FY23. Mt. Vernon Hospital opened 20 additional beds, which has been a help. There has been some decrease in need over last 2 months. Civil commitment hearings at the Emergency Room have been having system difficulty with Police Department and Sheriff's Office. Discussions around staffing matters as it relates to how law enforcement is impacted. There are discussions about contracting with Special Conservatory of Peace/staff with ability to maintain custody and lessen Law Enforcement burden. Additional discussions to follow on utilization of Del Pepper Center space; however, no resources are available yet.
- Detailed discussion on ACORP (Alexandria Co-Response Team), two new teams have been launched. ACORP started in 2021; as of January 2023, we now have 3 teams with 7 days a week coverage. In FY 2023, there were 739 contacts made. This allows for diversion from higher level of care and the legal system. This approach was presented at the National Conference.

- Marcus Alert System Pre-Implementation includes training to 911 – diversion to different teams away from law enforcement/fire). In the future, calls may be diverted to a 90-day regional call center (no police presence required).
- Discussions continue with OPA on ways to look at program evaluations around diversion from legal system, high level-care, reducing hospitalizations, TDOs, etc. Looking for ways to link the various systems together.
- The need for more help is needed for children around mental health/substance abuse without a detoxification center. As of now people are detoxing at the detention center and shelter care and eventually end up at the hospital. Concerns expressed that a more combined and coordinated efforts between law enforcement, mental health systems, substance abuse systems are needed.
- Discussion and clarifications made regarding the charge of the CCJB including CCJB's existence per the code. The need for mental health and substance abuse services for adults was expressed. Questions surrounding data on mental health and substance use were raised. City Attorney's Office determined that the state statute named specific members who need to attend meetings but may designate a proxy who must be approved by city council.
- Changes to the ordinance were made to mirror the state code, as the previous language was limiting. City Attorney will be brought in on the discussion.
- Treatment Court grant expires in September, City Manager included funding in the proposed budget for FY25.
- The expungement clinic, which was held on March 7, 2024, was successful.
- Concerns regarding those with mental health needs falling through the cracks. Discussion on the expansion of emergency services and the pending regional programming. ACORPS 3rd team should also be helpful.

Program and/or Legislative Accomplishments

- Change in Local Ordinance to better reflect state code

Goals for 2024-2025

- A goal for 2024-2025 board—is to fill all vacant seats on the board. Vacant seats include representatives for Local Educator, Non-Profit Organization and Business Community Representative from Chamber of Commerce.

Leadership

- The chair, Elizabeth Jones Valdarama, resigned from her position on March 7, 2024, and Vice Chair, Matthew Taylor assumed the role. Mike Mackey remained the Secretary.
- Listed term expirations and new members, with month they were appointed:
 - City Council Representative: Yon Lambert, Deputy City Manager, Appointment: *Ex Officio (Retired)*; replaced by Acting Deputy City Manager Jean Kellaher
 - Circuit Court: Honorable Lisa Kemler, Chief Judge, Appointment: 8/13/12 - *Ex Officio*
 - General District Court: Honorable Donald Haddock, Jr., Chief Judge, Appointment (February 2020) - *Ex Officio*
 - Juvenile Domestic Relations Court: Honorable Constance Frogale, Chief Judge, Appointment 10/21/09 - *Ex Officio*
 - Office of the Magistrate: Honorable Adam Willard, Chief Magistrate, Appointment 11/14/17 - *Ex Officio*
 - Alexandria Sheriff's Office: Sean Casey, Sheriff, Appointment 01/18/22 - *Ex Officio*,
 - Alexandria Police Department: Raul Pedroso, Acting Chief of Police, Appointment *Ex Officio*;

- Commonwealth Attorney's Office: Bryan Porter, The Commonwealth Attorney Appointment 5/13/14 - *Ex Officio* (Designee: Cathryn Evans)
- Public Defender's Office: Megan Thomas, The Public Defender; Appointment (9/01/2022 - *Ex Officio* (Designee: Emily Beckman)
- Administrator of the Community Services Board: Kate Garvey - Appointment (February 2014) - *Ex Officio* (Designee: Jonathon Teumer)
- Chief of Adult Probation & Parole: Jillian Mackling, Deputy Chief Probation & Parole, Appointment - *Ex Officio*
- Director of Court Services Unit: Mike Mackey, Director Court Services, Appointment 5/14/19 - *Ex Officio*
- Local Educator: Marcia Jackson, Ed.D, Chief of Student Services & Equity, Appointment
- 4 Citizens:
 - Matthew Taylor 1/10/23-1/31/25
 - Elesha Nightingale 5/14/24-5/31/26
 - Lisa Bagby 9/13/22 – 9/30/2024
 - Brian Schiff 5/14/24-5/31/26
- Community Organizations:
 - Business Representative (Recommended by Chambers of Commerce): Elizabeth Jones Valderrama (OAR) - Appointment 9/13/2022 – 9/30/2024
- City Staff: Desha Hall-Winstead
- During the year, membership included the following individuals:
 - Judge Lisa Kemler
 - Judge Donald Haddock, Jr
 - Judge Constance Frogale
 - Magistrate Adam Willard
 - Acting Police Chief Don Hayes
 - Sheriff Sean Casey
 - Chief Deputy Cathryn Evans on behalf of Commonwealth Attorney Bryan Porter
 - Jonathon Tuemer on behalf of Community Services Board Administrator Kate Garvey

- Assistant Public Defender Emily Beckman on behalf of Public Defender Megan Thomas
 - Deputy City Manager Yon Lambert
 - Deputy Chief Probation Officer Jillian Macklin
 - Director Mike Mackey
 - Ms. Elizabeth Jones-Valderrama
 - Citizens: Matthew Taylor, Lisa Bagby, Kendall Wangsgard
- Desha Hall-Winstead, Director of Alexandria Criminal Justice Services, Pretrial and Local Probation for Alexandria Sheriff's Office acted as the staff liaison to Alexandria Community Criminal Justice Board during the 2023/2024 year.

Attachments

1. Any notable letters to City Council, date, subject
2. Any letters to other Advisory Groups, date, subject
3. Any completed reports or relevant documents

**APPENDIX F.
ADVISORY GROUP ANNUAL ATTENDANCE REPORT TEMPLATE**

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
COMMUNITY CRIMINAL JUSTICE BOARD
MEETING ATTENDANCE REPORT**

JULY 1, 2023, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024

CHAIRPERSON: Matthew Taylor (Chair effective 2/26/24); Elizabeth Jones-Valdarama (Resigned: 2/26/24)

MEMBER'S NAME	Jan '24	Feb '24	Mar '24	Apr '24	May '24	Jun '24	Jul '23	Aug '23	Sep '23	Oct '23	Nov '23	Dec '23
Bagby, Lisa			X		E				X			
Beckman, Emily <i>(for M. Thomas)</i>			X		-				E			
Casey, Sean			X		X				X			
Evans, Catherine <i>(B.Porter)</i>			X		X				X			
Frogale, Constance <i>(Thomas Cullen)</i>			X		X				X			
Garvey, Kate <i>(J. Teumer)</i>			X		X				X			
Haddock, Donald <i>(S. Sacks)</i>			X		X				E			
Hayes, Don <i>(M. Downey)</i> <i>(R.Pedroso)</i>			X		X				X			
Jackson, Marcia			X		X				X			
Jones Valderrama, Elizabeth			X		X				E			
Kemler, Lisa			E		E				X			
Lambert, Yon <i>(Kelleher, J.)</i>			X		X				X			
Mackey, Mike			X		X				X			
Macklin, Jillian <i>(for A. Shinns)</i> <i>(C. Bittner)</i>			X		X				-			
Shapiro, Katherine			X		E				-			
Taylor, Matthew			X		X				X			
Willard, Adam <i>(Daniel Sachs)</i>			X		X				X			
STAFF/VISITORS												
Blancas, Miguel			-		X				-			
Ferguson, Josh			X		X				X			
Hall-Winstead, Desha			X		X				X			
Wedeles, Dana			X		X				X			

INDICATE: X - FOR PRESENT E - FOR EXCUSED U - FOR UNEXCUSED - NOT APPOINTED
*** Representative Reported on behalf of board member**

LIST OF THOSE WHO DID NOT ATTEND 75% OF MEETINGS:

FORM MUST BE SIGNED BY CHAIRPERSON

(APPROVED) Desha Hall Winstead (Liaison) for Matthew Taylor (Chair)

**Alexandria Community Policy Management Team
Annual Report
July 2023 – June 2024**

The Alexandria Community Policy Management Team (ACPMT) consists of representatives from the City Manager’s office, Alexandria City Public Schools, Court Service Unit, Health Department, Community Services Board, Social Services, a family representative, and a Private Provider representative. The ACPMT, through local policy and practice initiatives that are responsive to State code and policy, oversees the expenditure of funds to implement the mandates of the Children’s Services Act (CSA). Services are provided under the CSA for at-risk children/youth in or possibly needing foster care, children/youth requiring special education and private day services through individual education plans (IEPs), and children/youth with significant problems in the home, school, or community, requiring multiple City agency involvement.

The ACPMT focuses on ensuring every child and youth has a permanent home by nurturing the strengths of our children/youth and their families and by creating community-based partnerships which address the challenges facing the City of Alexandria’s at-risk children, youth, and families. State legislative initiatives and priorities, along with challenging fiscal times, demand that services supporting permanency planning be individualized, child, youth and family-centered, and delivered whenever possible in our community. Through CSA funding, communities are given financial incentives via State match rates which support local services.

The ACPMT continually seeks innovative action steps for constructive internal transformations to better meet the needs of Alexandria’s children/youth and to contain costs. Priority is on engagement in family-centered policies and focused resources to prepare staff to deliver flexible and individualized services. The goal is to enhance a collaborative, merged system of high-quality care.

The ACPMT, while always integrating safety as a paramount consideration, is committed to keeping children and youth in their home and in the community. The policies and procedures set forth by the leadership of the ACPMT articulate the following objectives:

1. Preventing our children and youth from leaving the community
2. Bringing our children and youth home from congregate care settings
3. Strengthening existing, and developing new, community resources to achieve the first objective, and
4. Maintaining services within our budgeted allocation.

Within these guidelines, the ACPMT membership completed the following activities during FY24.

Policy and Membership Accomplishments

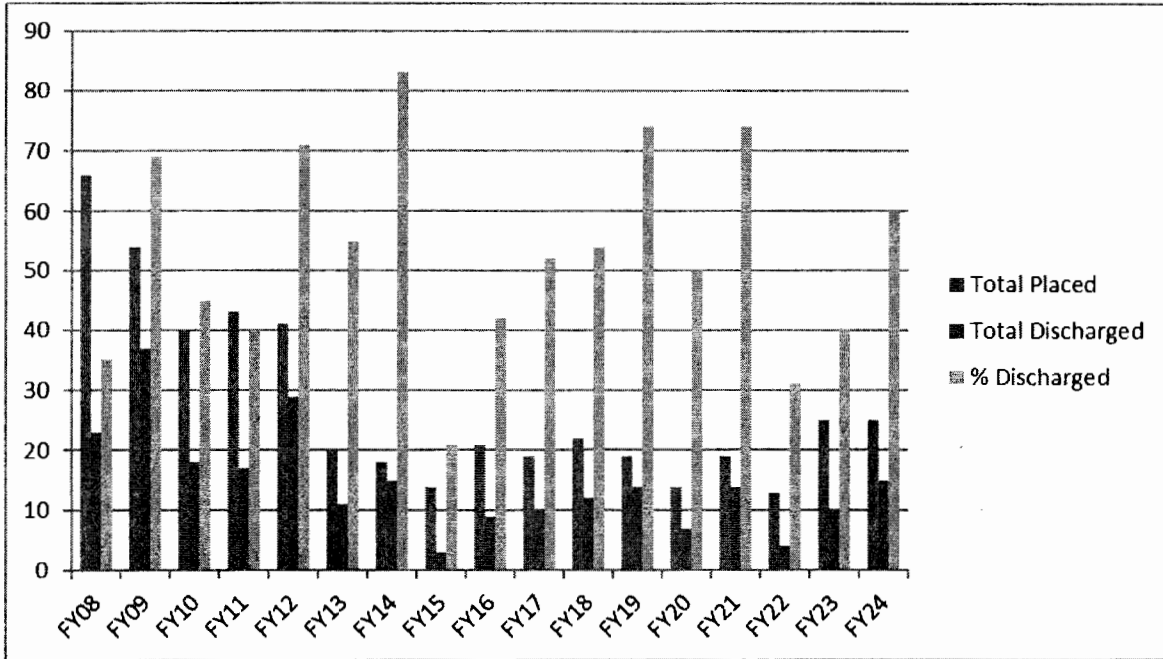
- The Family Assessment Planning Team (FAPT) process continued offering high quality service review and approvals. The FAPT team met weekly, reducing the need for emergency approvals. The ACPMT assigns permanent staff to the FAPT ensuring that 20% of their work is devoted to this role. This ensures that FAPT team members are dedicated child serving staff who review, recommend, and monitor the most effective services for children and families. By focusing the FAPT functions, the ACPMT continues enhancing the quality of the funding review process while ensuring a system-wide culture to keep services within the community.
- The ACPMT embraces and supports CSA's underlying value of full family participation and engagement. To prioritize family voice, the CSB's Family Support Partner Coordinator continued to participate on the ACPMT and ACPMT Utilization Review Committee. A CSB Family Support Partner also continued as part of the FAPT. Family Support Partners (FSPs) are professionals whose lived experience with their children in mental health, child welfare, special education and/or juvenile justice systems is integral to their work. FSPs are trained to create environments where family voice is heard and prioritized and their expertise on ACPMT and FAPT is invaluable.
- ACMPT held a joint meeting with FAPT in April 2024 to discuss successes and opportunities for growth as well as ways to strengthen family voice in the CSA process.
- The ACMPT was focused on preparing for the FY 2024 State CSA audit which entailed significant effort reviewing policies, internal control practices, and governance. ACMPT members worked closely with CSA staff throughout FY 2024 to support the planned audit. The group will continue to monitor the outcomes of the audit and to implement any required quality improvement.
- While Alexandria experienced an increase in residential placements during FY 2024, the ACMPT continued to focus on use of residential and group home placements to provide assessment and services in support of returning children to community-based care in the shortest period of time. FY24 showed an increase in congregated care placements with a total of 32 children placed and ended the year with 7 still in these settings. Of these 63% percent were parental placements as compared to 28% in FY23 and 54% in FY22.
- FY24 showed that ninety percent (89.4%) of the youth and families received community-based services which is **2.5% above the statewide average**.
- FY24 showed that special education youth starting services between FY 2019 and FY 2023 improved their initial CANS assessment scores in the school domain by 61.3%, **exceeding the statewide average**

by 17.7%. This outcome measure represents the percentage of youth whose scores in the school domain of the CANS instrument decreased from a baseline assessment to the most recent re-assessment.

- ACPMT members from Court Service Unit, Child Welfare Services and Child & Family Behavioral Health Services remain part of Alexandria's Crossover Youth Practice Model Team (CYPM). These members continued to work collaboratively in FY24 to identify best practices in services and advocacy to support youth involved in multiple systems.
- The ACPMT and the CSA Office continued coordinated planning with regional localities. Collaborative engagement between private providers of services and the regional CSA Coordinators resulted in a half day in-person regional CSA Symposium held in the spring. More than 350 attendees gathered at Northern Virginia Community College (Annandale) to explore the impact of diverse cultures, languages, and countries of origin on our service delivery system. Case workers from throughout the region also participated in break-out sessions to further their knowledge about cultural responsiveness in the helping professions, empowering youth and families through peer support and practices in trauma-informed supervision and leadership. ACPMT members participated in a roundtable discussion amongst their peers where they explored various programs and strategies being used to address issues affecting children and youth within the region.
- ACPMT members continued to work with Best Practice Court members, to include GALs and Judges, on expanding ways of keeping children in the community and transitioning children back into the community from congregate care settings.
- ACPS social workers and counselors ensured that the allocation for IEP Wraparound funds was used to provide services in the home or community for children and families to support the least restrictive IEP placement.
- CSA staff continued to work with DCHS IT to provide needed input for the launching of the new Kinship database management system that will support CSA case management and financial operations.
- The CSA team continued conducting training sessions for FAPT case workers.
- CSA staff continued operations and maintained quality standards to support case workers and other community stakeholders.
- ACPMT continued to implement internal controls to minimize risks and optimize service delivery.
- Developed and implemented infrastructure for blending Family First funding into the CSA process to ensure that qualified families have access.

- For 16 years Alexandria has demonstrated proven results of successful change strategies (see graph below) and continues to be viewed as a leader in the Commonwealth.

FY08 to FY24
CSA Congregate Care Placements
Residential, Group Homes, Diagnostic Placements, Detention Center, & Shelter Care



It is important to include incarcerated youth in the analysis of our System of Care. In FY08, there were 5,599 DJJ child-care days utilized by Alexandria, while in FY24, there were 7,886 days. During the Covid years FY20 – FY22, the child-care days dropped considerably. Please see childcare days chart below (based on detention center data). Sheltercare is another temporary care group facility that provides a safe and structured environment for court-involved youth and DSS youth. Due to demand, the bed capacity increased from five beds in FY21 with 1,768 child-care days to 12 in FY23 with 3,609 child-care days. In FY24 there were 3,261 child-care days at Sheltercare. Most youth placed in Sheltercare are from Alexandria with a smaller percentage coming from Arlington County. In the recent past, the increased Detention Center and Sheltercare bed days has included higher numbers of CHINS petitions and numbers of youth struggling with substance addiction, specifically fentanyl use. The correlation between CHINS involvement and substance use are aligned with the increase in utilization as these youth are not able to safely remain in their home. The number of youths struggling with a co-occurring disorder (mental health and substance use) is a further contributing factor.

Detention Center Child Care Days Utilized by Alexandria

FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY 18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY 22	FY23	FY24
5,599	5,438	5,628	5,569	4,429	3,663	4,638	3,074	3,574	4,496	4,459	2,579	1,341	1,789	2,294	4,641	7886

Goals for 2024-2025

The goals outlined below are in service to our beliefs. We believe that all children are best served in the Alexandria community. When exceptions occur, placements out of the home and community are of the shortest duration possible. We believe that partnering with families and youth and coordinating community services to transition or maintain children in their homes and communities is a public responsibility and that public community agencies should serve the community in this role.

- Limit use of congregate care for children/youth and look for permanent local family-based homes; when these services are needed, limit the length of stay.
- Revise existing policies to more closely align with State CSA policies as per audit recommendations.
- Develop ACMPT strategic plan informed by data from the State’s Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) tool.
- Review recommendations from audit report and develop quality improvement strategies where needed.
- Continue to support existing Racial and Social Equity efforts within our respective agencies/areas of responsibility.
- Require public direct service professionals and supervisors to participate in any available cross-system training.
- Translate into relevant languages the CSA Family Guide, currently available on the City’s website, which explains CSA and the FAPT process to families.
- Translate into relevant languages the ACPMT Right to Appeal policy and ensure that FAPT Case Workers have copies of the policy for distribution to the families with whom they work.
- Ensure full use of allocated IEP Wraparound funds for children and youth with disabilities needing services in the home or community to prevent more restrictive IEP placements.

Leadership

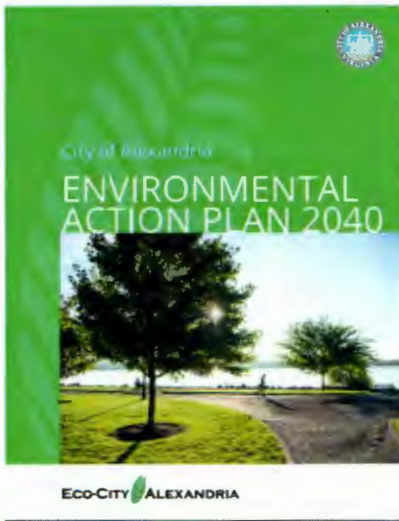
- Officers, continuing for the upcoming year, were elected at the September 2023 meeting:
 - Chair: Meghan McGrane, Office of Management and Budget
 - Vice-Chair: Greta Rosenzweig, Social Services
- List term expirations and new members, with month they were appointed.
 - Christopher Bishop – Private Provider Rep – Appointed 10/10/2023
 - Nathan Schultz – Parent Representative Appointed 2/13/2024

- During the year, membership included the following individuals:
 - Meghan McGrane, Office of Management and Budget (Chair)
 - Greta Rosenzweig, Social Services (Vice Chair)
 - Tricia Bassing, Community Services Board
 - Mike Mackey, Court Service Unit
 - Erin Stone ACPS Special Education
 - Felicia Simmons, VA Department of Health
 - Carla Oliver, DCHS Family Support Partner Coordinator
 - Nathan Schultz, Family Representative
 - Christopher Bishop, Private Provider Representative

- Sharon Minter, CSA/DCHS served as the staff liaison to the Alexandria Community Policy & Management Team during the 2023/2024 year.



Environmental Policy Commission



FY2024 EPC ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2023 – JUNE 30, 2024

SEPTEMBER 27, 2024

1. Introduction

The Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission (EPC) was established under Chapter 4, Article M, of the City Code to “advise and make recommendations to the City Council and, when appropriate, to the Planning Commission and City Manager.” This report provides a summary of EPC activities during Fiscal Year 2024.

2. Who We Are

The Alexandria City Council established the EPC in 1970 to advise and make recommendations to the City Council and, where appropriate, to the Planning Commission and City Manager, on matters relating to the following:

- The Climate crisis and its effects
- Clean air;
- Land use;
- Noise pollution;
- Pesticides, herbicides and contaminants;
- Solid waste;
- Water quality and supply;
- Other matters referred to the EPC by the City and citizens; and
- Other topics relating to the conservation and protection of Alexandria’s environment.

The EPC, when fully appointed consists of 13 members, including five members from the field of environmental sciences, five citizen-at-large members, one member from the field of urban planning, one member with experience in federal or state environmental statutes/regulations, and one representative from the Alexandria business community. The EPC regularly works with other organizations to further the environmental goals of the City.

The following is a list of Commissioners who served on the EPC during FY2024.

Kishla Askins ²	Kathie Hoekstra (Chair)
Dan Beattie	Anna Marino ³
Eldon Boes	Philip Mobilia ²
Alexander Clark	Michael Olex (Vice-Chair) ¹
Benjamin Cuddy	Theresa Romanosky (Secretary) ³
Jennifer Debias	Marta Schantz
Cynthia Elliott ¹	Julia Slayden ²
Oleksandr Faryga ³	James Vandeputte

Notes: ¹Term ended in FY24; ²Term began in FY24; ³Resigned

During this fiscal year, the commission held hybrid meetings once a month, except in January and February when the meetings were virtual. Additionally, the commission held one educational event in August, one working group meeting on budget, and four small working group meetings on creating an Eco-City Homes Recognition program from March through May. All meetings were open to the public, agendas and documents considered during the meetings as well as minutes of the

meetings and videos, as appropriate, were posted to the EPC page on the City website:
<https://www.alexandriava.gov/EnvironmentalPolicyCommission.html>

Throughout the year, the staff of the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES), Office of Environmental Quality supported the EPC. The EPC wishes to express its thanks for the support and guidance provided by City leadership and staff.

3. EPC Annual Retreat

The EPC held its annual retreat in April 2024. The focus included:

1. A discussion from Virginia Energy, Alexandria's Office of Climate Action, and the VA League of Conservation Voters;
2. A discussion on topics for educational presentations and information EPC members wanted included in future meetings;
3. A discussion of FY23 successes and challenges;
4. A discussion on how the EPC can have more interaction/influence with City Council and other organizations.

4. EPC Activities and Accomplishments

The following are some of the major activities and accomplishments of the commission during FY2024:

Throughout the year, EPC leadership worked with the Director of Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES) to increase coordination and initiate annual planning of T&ES updates from staff.

In July, the commission wrote a letter of support for the U.S. Department of Energy Buildings Upgrade Prize application.

In September, the EPC wrote a letter of support for the City of Alexandria's 2023 U.S. Department of Transportation's Pilot Program for Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Planning Grant.

In October, the EPC wrote a letter to City Council and the City Manager for the EPC's 2024 Legislative Agenda, which addressed the City's Strategic Priorities including equity, environmental justice, civility, transparency, respect and service.

In October, the commission sent a letter to the City Manager detailing recommendations for the remainder of FY24 and FY25 budgets, including continuation of the remaining \$600,000 from FY23 and a summary of the EPC's recommended list of programs/projects and budget allocation for each.

In November, the EPC wrote two letters where the EPC advocated for City funding for FY25 for Housing ALX and supported City Staff's Recommended Zoning for Housing/ Housing for All Proposals, respectively.

From January through June, the EPC participated in the Advisory Group for the ongoing update to the Green Building Policy.

From March through May, the EPC held small subgroup meetings to draft a proposed framework for an Eco-City Homes Recognition program, which was passed to the Office of Climate Action to further develop and implement, as appropriate. This program follows similar design as the City's Eco-City Business Recognition Program, includes a tiered approach, and recognizes residents for making sustainable choices.

In May, the EPC engaged with ACPS to foster an ongoing relationship regarding sustainability in the school system. The intent is to continue engagement over time across areas of development/capital planning, operations and maintenance, and learning curriculum.

In June, the EPC wrote a letter of support for the proposed Hoffman Eisenhower East Coordinated Development District (CDD #2), specifically supporting the elimination of minimum parking requirements in the CDD #2 zone. The EPC plans to continue closer engagement with Planning & Zoning to identify other projects and sites for review and advisory activities.

Throughout the year, the EPC also piloted an Instagram account @SustainALX to engage the community, promote environmental activities and amplify relevant City (EcoCity, T&ES, Beautification Commission) social media posts.

Members of the Commission also participated in the following City commissions, committees, and advisory groups in the capacity of voting members:

- Waterfront Commission
- Transportation Commission
- Stormwater Utility and Flood Mitigation Advisory Group (non-voting)

6. EPC Correspondences

All EPC correspondences are posted on the EPC webpage:

www.alexandriava.gov/environmentalpolicycommission

1. Letter of Support. Re: US Department of Energy Buildings Upgrade Prize application from the Housing Alexandria/Build Our Future, July 14, 2023
2. Letter of Support. Re: City of Alexandria's 2023 U.S. Department of Transportation's Pilot program for Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Planning Grant, September 28, 2023
3. Letter to City Council and City Manager. Re: EPC's 2024 Legislative Agenda to address the City's Strategic Priorities including equity, environmental justice, civility, transparency, respect and service, October 7, 2023
4. Letter to City Manager. EPC's Recommendations for the Remainder of FY24 and FY25 budgets, October 31, 2023
5. Letter to City Manager. EPC Advocating for City Funding for FY25 for Housing ALX, November 1, 2023

6. Letter to City Council and City Manager. Letter of Support for City Staff Recommended Zoning for Housing/ Housing for All Proposals, November 14, 2023
7. Letter of Support. Re: Proposed Hoffman Eisenhower East Coordinated Development District (CDD #2), June 11, 2024

7. EPC Membership Recruitment and Leadership

During FY24, five members left and three new members joined the commission. At the end of June 2024, the Commission had 11 members and 2 vacancies.

The Commission held its annual elections for FY2024 during its June 17, 2024, monthly meeting. Marta Schantz, Benjamin Cuddy and Philip Mobilia were elected unanimously as Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary, respectively.



FY2024 ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY COMMISSION ATTENDANCE REPORT

Date: September 27, 2024

Commission Chair: Marta Schantz

Signature: 

FY2024 Environmental Policy Commission Attendance Summary												
Member's Name	2023				2024							% Attendance
	18-Sep	16-Oct	13-Nov	11-Dec	22-Jan	26-Feb	18-Mar	15-Apr	27-Apr Retreat	20-May	17-Jun	
Kishla Askins	N	N	N	N	N	P	P	P	P	P	E	100%
Dan Beattie	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Eldon Boes	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Alexander Clark	P	P	P	P	E	P	A	P	P	P	E	91%
Benjamin Cuddy	P	P	P	E	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	100%
Jennifer Debias	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Cynthia Elliott	P	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	100%
Oleksandr Faryga	A	E	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	50%
Kathie Hoekstra, Chair	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	100%
Anna Marino	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	E	N	82%
Philip Mobilia	N	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Michael Olex, Vice-Chair	P	E	P	P	P	N	N	N	N	N	N	100%
Theresa Romanosky	P	P	E	P	P	P	E	N	N	N	N	100%
Marta Schantz	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Julia Slayden	N	N	N	N	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
James Vandeputte	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	E	100%

P: Present; **A:** Absence – Unexcused; **E:** Absence -Excused; **N:** Not a member



George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee Annual Report July 2023 – June 2024

Mission

The Committee shall exist for the purpose of planning and carrying out of the City's annual George Washington Birthday celebration., as set forth in Title 2, Chapter 4, Article O of the Code of the City of Alexandria and shall operate in accordance with the Charter and Title 2, Chapter 4, Articles A and O of the Code of the City of Alexandria.

Leadership and Membership

- Officers for the 2023-2024 year were Sue Johnson as Chair, Carol Myers as Vice Chair, and Michele Longo as Secretary.
- Michele Longo and Gretchen Bulova from the Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA) acted as the staff liaisons to George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee during the 2023-2024 year.
- During the course of the 2023-2024 year, membership included the following individuals
 - Edgar Bates, George Washington Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), 11/1/2022-10/31/2024
 - Colin Eilts, Citizen at Large, 11/1/2022-10/31/2024
 - Sandra Welch, Kate Waller Barrett Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, 12/1/2022-11/30/2024
 - Jeanne Jacob, Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association, 1/1/2023-12/31/2024
 - Lauren Augustine, Veteran Citizen Member, 6/1/2023-5/31/2025
 - Peter Duggan, 1st Virginia Regiment of the Continental Line, 6/2/2023-5/31/2025
 - Tyler Vanice, George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 6/1/2023-5/31/2025
 - Allison Collender, Citizen at Large, 7/1/2023-6/30/2025
 - Susan Johnson, Citizen at Large, 10/2/2023-9/30/2025
 - Andrew McCarthy-Clark, Citizen at Large, 12/2/2023-11/30/2025
 - Jacqueline Martin, Citizen at Large, 1/1/2024-12/31/2025
 - Kristen Eastlick, Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society, 3/1/2024-2/28/2026
 - Laura Packard, Citizen at Large, 3/1/2024-2/28/2024
 - W. Patrick Wilson, Veteran Citizen Member, 7/1/2024-6/30/2026
 - Stephen Konya, Citizen at Large, 10/1/2024-9/30/2026
 - Carol Myers, American Legion Post 24, 10/1/2024-9/30/2026
 - Robert Garbacz, City of Alexandria Transportation Division, life term

Legislative Accomplishments

- Alexandria City Council approval of Proclamation recognizing the month of February as George Washington Birthday Celebration Month on February 13, 2024.

Attachments

1. Annual Attendance Sheet
2. George Washington Birthday Celebration Schedule for 2024
3. Press Releases for Parade and Cherry Challenge 2024
4. February 20 *Washington Post* article (front page of Metro section)
5. Newsletter of the George Washington Chapter of the Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) describing February George Washington Birthday Celebration activities

Program Accomplishments

The 2024 George Washington Birthday Parade

All photos of the Parade can be viewed on the home page of www.washingtonbirthday.com.

The February 19, 2024 George Washington Birthday Parade returned to its traditional route east of Washington Street (<https://washingtonbirthday.com/parade-route>), after marching up King Street to the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in 2023 to honor the 100th Anniversary of the Laying of the Cornerstone of the Memorial.

Approximately 1,500 individuals marched in the parade. Participants included drum corps, color guards, marching bands, city and community dignitaries, community and fraternal organizations, youth groups and, of course, General Washington and Martha Washington. A mandatory parade registration fee of \$75 was charged, with a \$125 fee for those units registering after January 15, 2024.

In honor of Alexandria's 275th Anniversary, the Parade Grand Marshals this year were the Living Legends of Alexandria, the mission of which is to identify, honor and chronicle the lives of individuals who have contributed to the community in an exemplary and lasting way that has significantly impacted the quality of life in Alexandria and serves as an inspiration to others. Dozens of Alexandria's Living Legends marched in the parade, or rode in a float designed by Jason and Loren Yates of Yates Corner in Alexandria.

The weather was sunny with a high temperature of 50 degrees, and the parade route was lined with many thousands of spectators.

A panel of judges gave awards in the categories of Antique Vehicles, Community Spirit, Floats, Historical Units, Honor Guards & Color Guards, Military Units & Drill Teams, Youth Groups, and The Spirit of George Washington. A list of winners can be viewed at <https://washingtonbirthday.com/2024-parade-winners>.

Sponsors of the parade included:

- **Gold Sponsors** – Hotel AKA Alexandria, Sue Johnson (GWBCC Member), *The Zebra Press*
- **Silver Sponsors** - Simpson Development and Wegmans
- **Cherry Challenge Sponsor** – George Washington's Mount Vernon
- **Bronze Sponsors** – Alexandria Washington Lodge No. 22; Fraternal Order of Eagles ALVA Aerie 871, Friendship Fire Veterans Engine Association; Hotel Indigo Old Town Alexandria; Kate Waller Barrett Chapter, NSDAR; Media Tek USA Inc (GWBCC Member-owned); and the Old Dominion Boat Club Foundation

- **Grant** – George Washington Legacy Foundation
- **George Washington's Preferred Inn Sponsor** - Duvall House
- **Supporting Sponsors** – Alexandria Restaurant Partners, Bob & Edith's Diner, Carol Myers (GWBCC Member), Coldwell Banker Realty – Alexandria, McLaughlin Ryder Investments, Inc., and The Old Town Shop
- **Hunt for Washington Sponsor** – Lafayette College
- **Parade Donors** – Allison Collender (GWBCC Member), Davey's Tree Expert Company, Donald Dorr, Dr. Elisha Dick Chapter, NSDAR, Janet Barnett, Light Horse Restaurant, Military Orders of the World Wars (MOWW), Nancy A. Redman Hill, Sandra W. Welch, Kate Waller Barrett Chapter NSDAR (GWBCC Member); Sharon Anderson White, Kate Waller Barrett Chapter NSDAR; The Lucky Knot, Tyler Vanice (GWBCC Member) and Woodbine Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center.



Post-Parade Reception at Hotel AKA of Alexandria

The Hotel AKA of Alexandria, a Parade Gold Sponsor, hosted a post-parade reception for parade unit leaders, parade donors, parade volunteers, and city/community officials at the conclusion of the parade. General Washington joined the festivities to thank all who made the 2025 George Washington Birthday Parade a success.



The 2024 Cherry Challenge

Alexandria's "Cherry Challenge" culinary contest ran from February 1 through February 15 and included 20+ restaurants across the city competing to win by crafting their choice of a cherry-oriented appetizer, entrée, beverage, or dessert.

Diners—whether dine-in or take-out—received QR codes to vote electronically for their favorite cherry entries based on three criteria: taste, presentation, and creativity. Diners rated each item from one to three cherries for a maximum score of 9 on each ballot. Point totals for each dish are divided by the number of ballots to get the average score. The highest average in each category wins.

This year's #GWCherryChallenge participant list included Bastille Restaurant, BRABO Brasserie, Crazy Mason Milkshake Bar, Dishes of India, Don Taco, Evening Star Café, Jula's on the Potomac, Kiwi Pie Shop, Lost Boy Cider, Mae's Market and Café, Murphy's Grand Irish Pub, River Bend Bistro & Wine Bar, Taqueria el Poblano, The Italian Place, The Light Horse, The Tasting Room, Trattoria da Franco, and Whiskey and Oyster.

The winners of the 2024 #GWCherryChallenge were:



Honorable Mentions:

Beverage: Brabo Brasserie's "Shirley Blossom"

Beverage: The Light Horse's "Cherry Amour"

Entrée: Murphy's Grand Irish Pub, Old Town's "Cherry Duck Confit"

Dessert: Bastille Brasserie's "Cherry Cheesecake"

Dessert: The Italian Place's "Cream and Cherry Bomboloni"

Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolution

On February 19, 2024, the GWBCC, with support of the Kate Waller Barrett Chapter NSDAR and the George Washington Chapter VSSAR, held a 30-minute wreath laying event in the burial grounds of the Old Presbyterian Meeting House. This event honors the memory of the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolution buried there as well as all Veterans and the current Grand Marshall of the event. The ceremony is free and was attended by approximately seventy members of the community and lineage organizations. It is open to the public without prior reservation. Before and after the event, members of the Old Presbyterian Meeting House host tours of the historic church. This year, the Kate Waller Barrett Chapter purchased posters for sandwich boards promoting the event which were placed on the sidewalks on both S. Fairfax and S. Royal Street, which likely enhanced the awareness and attendance of the event.

The Color Guard from the Sons of the Revolution began the program followed by comments from the President of the George Washington Chapter VSSAR, a representative of the Parade Grand Marshals (The Living Legends of Alexandria,) the Virginia State Regent of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Virginia Society President of the Sons of the American Revolution. The Regent of the Kate Waller Barrett Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution closed the program.

A special part of this year's ceremony was the attendance and participation of historic reenactors for George Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette. They solemnly walked together to the Tomb where they each placed a flower, then bowed their heads in a moment of silence. The 70+ attendees remained silent showing their reverence for this soldier. Then each attendee also approached the Tomb and placed their flower. The Historian of the Church tolled the church bell during the ceremony presentation of the individual flowers laid upon the tomb. This bell is forged from parts of the original bell which tolled when the death of Gen. George Washington was announced.

After all the flowers had been placed on the Tomb, a poem called "A Toast to the Flag" was recited by a member of the Col William Grayson Chapter of the VASSAR while the crowd gazed at the flag.





The George Washington Chapter of the Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution (SAR)

On the morning of February 19, the Chapter joined Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) members at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House Churchyard Burial Ground in Old Town Alexandria. There, before the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolution, newly elected Virginia SAR President William Greaif joined Chapter President Scott Walker and DAR leadership in a wreath laying ceremony that also featured the Virginia State Color Guard.

Next, SAR members marched in the George Washington Birthday Parade on the 275th Anniversary year of the founding of Alexandria. The Chapter brought together the U.S. Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps and reenactors dressed as George and Martha Washington, who led various elements of the Virginia SAR in the parade to pay tribute to our first and greatest president.



George Washington's Alexandria Tours

This free two-hour guided walking tour given by long-time GWBCC tour guides Sue Johnson and Danny Smith through Old Town Alexandria, given every Sunday in February, visited sites associated with Washington and his closest colleagues, including Christ Church, Light Horse Harry Lee's house, the Lord Fairfax home, Washington's townhouse, Gadsby's Tavern, Duvall Tavern, Wise's Tavern, the Carlyle House, Market Square, Ramsay House, the Apothecary Shop, and Gentry Row. Registrations, capped at 50 participants per tour, sold out quickly.



The Hunt for Washington

The Hunt for Washington is a fun and educational game in which individuals and families traverse through Old Town Alexandria to uncover Clues about George Washington. Individuals and families were invited to print Clue Sheets from the GWBCC website, after which they could walk to the sites on the date/time of their choosing February 1-28 and complete questions in the Clue Sheets. It's estimated that hundreds participated in the Hunt, and it was particularly popular with Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops. Many individuals and families submitted completed Clue Sheets to be eligible for a prize drawing in March. Three participants won a gift certificate from The Old Town Shoppe in the drawing, and three participants won a gift certificate from Bob & Edith's Diner.



An Intimate Evening with General Washington

Approximately 35 GWBCC supporters joined General Washington at the Historic Duvall House on February 10, 2024 in the very room in which he was feted by leading Alexandrians when he returned to Mount Vernon at the end of the Revolutionary War. The General shared his most memorable experiences about the War, and answered questions from the attendees. Proceeds from the event were used to support the George Washington Birthday Parade.



George Washington Masonic National Memorial Celebratory Events

The Memorial's George Washington Symposium is held annually to honor Washington's birthday by providing the public with enlightening contemporary research on the life of George Washington. The theme of the 2024 George Washington Symposium was "Commemorating Two-Hundred Twenty-five Year of George Washington's Death and Funerals" and was held on February 24, 2024 at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. The Keynote speaker was Dean Malissa, Mount Vernon's longtime and retired historic interpreter of George Washington.

The annual George Washington Memorial Society Reception, held exclusively for members of the Society, was held Friday night, February 23rd, at the Memorial.

The George Washington Birthday Gala was held on Saturday, February 24, which started with a reception at 5:00 p.m.; entertainment followed at 6:30 p.m. and the Gala banquet at 7:30 p.m. The banquet ended with the keynote speaker giving attendees a brief lecture and being presented with the George Washington Memorial Award.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ALEXANDRIA TO CELEBRATE GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY ON FEBRUARY 15

Alexandria, VA – The city of Alexandria's George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee (GWBCC) is pleased to announce that the city's annual celebration of George Washington's birthday will return in 2025, culminating with the Annual George Washington Birthday Parade through Old Town Alexandria. The parade will be on Saturday, February 15, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Parade route can be viewed [here](#).

The 2025 parade will be held on the Saturday during the three-day holiday weekend in Alexandria instead of Monday, the day on which the city officially recognizes Washington's Birthday, because of the significantly increased costs of city security personnel on city holidays. The majority of funds to support parade expenses, including the cost of the security team that directs traffic and ensures public safety on a day when there are large crowds lining our streets, come through private sponsorships and donations. Sponsorship options that help make the 2025 parade and future parades possible can be viewed [here](#), and other donation opportunities can be viewed [here](#).

The start time of the 2025 parade will be moved from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. EST to allow vendors and customers of the Old Town Farmers Market held every Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in Market Square the opportunity to leave the parade route area before it is closed.

The theme of the 2025 George Washington Birthday Parade is "George Washington: America's Commander-in-Chief" in honor of the 250th Anniversary of the War of American Independence. Parade registration will open in November 2024, and the full schedule of February events honoring Washington's birthday in his adopted hometown will be made public by the end of the year. You may follow parade and event updates at www.washington.org.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 31, 2024

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ALEXANDRIA'S 2024 "CHERRY CHALLENGE" KICKS OFF ON FEBRUARY 1ST

George Washington's Mount Vernon Sponsors This Year's Contest of Cherry Menu Items

Alexandria, VA – Alexandria's "Cherry Challenge" culinary contest will kick off on February 1 with restaurants across the city competing to win by crafting their choice of a cherry-oriented appetizer, entrée, beverage, or dessert.

2024 marks the first time that the Cherry Challenge enjoys an event sponsor in George Washington's Mount Vernon. This month of festivities culminates with the nation's oldest and largest George Washington Birthday Parade on Monday, February 19th in Old Town Alexandria.

"This unique event helps generate buzz for Alexandria restaurants, encourages chefs to get creative, and boosts customer traffic," said Kristen Eastlick, GW Birthday Celebration committee member and chair of the event. "The #GWCherryChallenge lets us offer a tasteful event that keeps George Washington's memory alive in his hometown. We're thrilled that historic Mount Vernon has graciously sponsored this whimsical event."

Diners—whether dine-in or take-out—will receive QR codes to vote electronically for their favorite cherry entries based on three criteria: taste, presentation, and creativity. Diners will rate each item from one to three cherries for a maximum score of 9 on each ballot. Point totals for each dish are divided by the number of ballots to get the average score. The highest average in each category wins.

This year's #GWCherryChallenge participant list includes Bastille Restaurant, BRABO Brasserie, Crazy Mason Jar, Dishes of India, Don Taco, Evening Star Café, Jula's on the Potomac, Kiwi Pie Shop, Lost Boy Cider, Mae's Market and Café, Murphy's Irish Pub, River Bend Bistro, Taqueria Poblano, The Italian Place, The Light Horse, The Tasting Room, Trattoria da Fanco, Whiskey and Oyster, and others are still joining.

The full list of participating restaurants can be found on the GWBCC website at <https://washingtonbirthday.com/cherry-challenge-participants>. . .

Guests are encouraged to share photos and descriptions of the cherry items they tasted on Instagram or X (formerly Twitter) by using the hashtag "#GWCherryChallenge" or by posting them to the George

Washington Birthday Celebration's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/GeorgeWashingtonsBirthdayCelebration>

The George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee (GWBCC) is a city-appointed volunteer committee charged with coordinating events to celebrate the birthday of the first President and Alexandria native. Celebration events include the February 19 parade, George Washington walking tours, the Hunt for Washington, a Birthnight event at Gadsby's Tavern, the annual Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association breakfast, and more.

For more information and a schedule for this year's events, please visit www.washingtonbirthday.com.

Parade sponsorships are tax-deductible and essential to each year's successful celebration. To find out more about sponsorship opportunities, go to <https://washingtonbirthday.com/2024-sponsorships>, contact Sue Johnson at suej020924@gmail.com or the GWBCC at gwbirthdayevents@gmail.com.

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George Washington Birthday Celebration 2024 Schedule

THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ABOUT ANY CELEBRATION EVENT IS PUBLISHED ON washingtonbirthday.com by the George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee (GWBCC).

Alexandria Celebrates George Washington on his 292nd Birthday!

Parade Day Events: Monday, February 19, 2024

George Washington Birthday Parade 1-3 p.m.

The City of Alexandria, Virginia, the adopted hometown of George Washington, celebrates his birthday each year with events throughout February. The highlight will be on February 19, 2024, when guests will line the streets of Old Town Alexandria to cheer on the oldest and largest George Washington Birthday parade in the country. The parade features drum corps, color guards, bands, community and fraternal organizations, youth groups, local merchants, city dignitaries, and, of course, General Washington and Martha Washington. This year, the theme is *George Washington: Alexandria's Original Living Legend* in honor of Alexandria's 275th Anniversary. The parade Grand Marshals will be *The Living Legends of Alexandria* (alexandrialegends.org), an organization that identifies, honors, and chronicles the lives of individuals who have contributed to the community in an exemplary and lasting way that has significantly impacted the quality of life in Alexandria and serves as an inspiration to others. For more information, including parking, maps, route, and status, visit washingtonbirthday.com; email gwbirthdayevents@gmail.com.

Thank you to the 2024 George Washington Birthday Celebration Sponsors and Contributors! Gold Sponsors: Sue Johnson; The Zebra Press. Silver Sponsor: Simpson Development. Bronze Sponsors: Alexandria Washington Masonic Lodge #22; Fraternal Order of Eagles ALVA Aerie 871; Friendship Fire Veterans Fire Engine Association; Kate Waller Barrett Chapter, NSDAR; Media Tek USA, Inc., Old Dominion Boat Club Foundation. Grant: The George Washington Legacy Foundation (GWLf). Hunt for Washington Sponsor: Lafayette College. Supporting Sponsors: Alexandria Restaurant Partners; Bob & Edith's Diner; Carol Myers; McLaughlin Ryder Investments, Inc. Parade Donors: Dr. Elisha Dick Chapter, NSDAR; Light Horse Restaurant & Bar; the Military Order of World Wars (MOWW); Sandra Welch, Kate Waller Barrett Chapter, NSDAR; Sharon Anderson White, Kate Waller Barrett Chapter, NSDAR; Ten Thousand Villages. Sponsorship and Donation Opportunities are still available; visit washingtonbirthday.com/donate.

Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association

Breakfast

9–10 :30 a.m.

Cost: \$45 per person, table of 10 \$400

Join the movers and shakers of Alexandria at this historic celebration marking the 250th anniversary of the Friendship Fire Company (1774-2024) and the City's 275th anniversary. For more information and to purchase tickets, contact Bill Kehoe, Secretary, kehoefd@aol.com. Location: The Hilton Alexandria at Mark Center, Terrace Room, 5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria.

Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the Revolution

11 a.m.

Free, no registration required

Join the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Sons of the American Revolution as they honor the Unknown Soldier of the Revolution.

Location: Old Presbyterian Meeting House, 321 S. Fairfax St.

Historic Sites Open on Parade Day

Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax Street

Open 10 a.m.—4 p.m.

\$8 per adult; \$3 per child

Christ Church, 118 N. Washington Street

Open 10 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Free

Freedom House Museum, 1315 Duke Street

Open 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

\$5 per person, City residents free

Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 S. Alfred Street

Open 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

\$2 per person, City residents free

Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal Street

Open 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

\$5 per person, City residents free

Old Presbyterian Meeting House, 323 S. Fairfax Street

Open 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Free

Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum,

105 S. Fairfax Street

Open 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

\$5 per person, City residents free



Facebook.com/GeorgeWashingtonsBirthdayCelebration

Instagram: gwbirthdayalx

X: WashingtonBirth



Events Throughout February

The Restaurant Cherry Challenge

February 1-15, 2024

The “Cherry Challenge” is a competition among the finer restaurants in Alexandria. Each restaurant will develop its own cherry cocktail, appetizer, entrée, and/or dessert in honor of our distinguished native son, of course! The competing restaurants and their entries will be listed on the George Washington Birthday Celebration website and Facebook page, and the winners will be announced on Parade Day.

“Hunt for Washington”

February 1-29, 2024

Sponsored by Lafayette College

A fun and challenging game to uncover clues about Alexandria and George Washington! The hunt, which should take about 60-90 minutes to complete, will take individuals and families to places in Old Town Alexandria associated with the General. Start by printing a clue sheet from washingtonbirthday.com and bring it with you as you traverse the heart of Old Town and use your sleuthing skills to find answers to the clues. Submit your findings to gwbirthdayevents@gmail.com any time before the end of the day on February 28 to be entered into a prize drawing! FREE.

American Legion Post 24 Run, Walk, n' Roll

February 1-29, 2024

This George Washington Birthday Commemorative event is intended to build community and enhance the physical, mental, and emotional resiliency of participants—veterans and non-veterans alike. This month-long event encourages participants to run, walk and/or roll on their own for at least 24 miles in increments and routes they choose. Proceeds support Alexandria American Legion Post 24 veterans and youth programs. Registration is \$24 and opens until February 25, 2024. For more information, visit runsignup.com/Race/VA/Alexandria/GWB24RunWalkRoll

“George Washington’s Alexandria” Tours

Every Sunday in February (4th, 11th, 18th & 25th)
2-4 p.m.

Explore historic Old Town Alexandria as George Washington knew it! This popular two-hour guided walking tour will visit sites associated with Washington and his closest colleagues. To register, visit eventbrite.com and search George Washington’s Alexandria. FREE.

Mind your Manners! Balls in Early America

February 9, 6-7 p.m.

February 10, 10-11 a.m.

Gadsby’s Tavern Museum is famous in part because George Washington celebrated his Birthnight Ball there, but there’s so much more to the story! From scandal to social class, balls reveal the political intrigue and power structures that were part of early America. Learn more through this specialty tour. \$15 per person, purchase at AlexandriaVA.gov/Shop.
Location: 134 N. Royal St.

An Intimate Reception with General Washington

Saturday, February 10, 2024

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Join General Washington at the beautiful and historic Duvall House, where he was feted by leading Alexandrians upon his triumphant return from the Revolutionary War in 1783. The General will share his most poignant memories of the war and answer questions about his life and times. Libations and heavy hors d’oeuvres will be served. \$150 per person, with proceeds benefiting the 2024 George Washington Birthday Celebration. Purchase tickets at AlexandriaVA.gov/Shop.
Location: Historic Duvall House, 305 Cameron St.

Washington’s Entertainments: A Birthnight Event

Saturday, February 17, 2024

6–9 p.m.

George Washington was entertained for his birthday in Gadsby’s Tavern with music and dance. You can mark the occasion with a dinner that features a series of 18th-century entertainments Washington enjoyed in his lifetime, including music, dance demonstrations, toasts, and even a bit of mind reading. Ticket includes four-course dinner with wine and live performances. \$150 per person, purchase at AlexandriaVA.gov/Shop.

Location: Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal Street

Washington Symposium

Saturday, February 24, 2024

1 p.m.

The George Washington Masonic National Memorial hosts leading scholars of the life and legacy of George Washington, this year around the theme “Commemorating Two-Hundred Twenty-five Years of George Washington’s Death and Funeral.” Admission is free and free parking is available. For more information, visit gwmemorial.org.

Location: The George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive

George Washington Birthday Gala

Saturday, February 24, 2024

Formal (white tie optional). Reception at 5 p.m. Entertainment in the Memorial Theater at 6:30 p.m. Banquet in the Memorial’s Grand Masonic Hall at 7:30 p.m. The presentation of the George Washington Memorial Award will take place during the banquet. Tickets are \$225. To purchase tickets, visit gwmemorial.org. Tickets are limited.

Location: The George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive



George Washington Chapter Newsletter in Alexandria, Virginia

Volume 26, Issue 3

Visit us online at www.gwsar.org

March 2024

Washington's Birthday

Annual Ceremonies

RIGHT: Past Virginia SAR President, Bill Schwetke, of the Culpeper Minutemen Chapter, doffs his hat at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolution.



Photo by **Tom Roth**

Inside, **Page 4**

President's Corner

Compatriots,

GREETINGS.

I've been delighted to see and talk with so many of you at our recent events. Though we held no February chapter meeting, we enjoyed many opportunities this month to gather, pay respects to our ancestors, and strengthen our compatriot ties.

Secretary Jaymie Cook, a relatively recent transfer into our chapter, has quickly become one of our most active members and is contributing greatly to the success of our chapter communications, meetings, and events. Alas, duty calls, and Jaymie and his family will be transferring overseas in a few months. While we're fortunate to have Jaymie around for a while longer, it's not too soon to start thinking about who will assume the Secretary office when he departs. Please reach out to me by phone, email, or in person if you think you might be interested or have questions about this important and rewarding role.



The George Washington Chapter turned out in great numbers at the Virginia SAR Annual Meeting in Richmond to witness Compatriot, and now Past State President, Ernie Coggins pass the gavel to Dr. William Greaf. Our chapter and its members were honored to receive many awards recognizing their significant efforts on behalf of our state's society.

Some of the most notable recipients include Past C.A.R. State President Will Elston for Outstanding Young Member Medal (Silver), and his parents Treasurer General Michael Elston (State Henry Knox Achievement Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster) and Julie (Virginia Society Dolly Madison Medal).

Compatriot Mark Jackson and Chaplain Paul McComb received the Billy Flora Medal (Mark's with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters) for their contributions to the Color Guard. Paul was also awarded the Distinguished Service Certificate for his service as Assistant Chaplain of the Virginia Society. Our public service committee, led by Compatriot John Blair, again brought home a literal boxful of awards. Our chapter was the sponsor of the state-wide winners of Hero of the Year, Best Fire Safety Person of the Year, and Best EMS Person of the Year. Once again for 2023, our chapter was also honored to receive the John Blair Award. Past President David Thomas was recognized with the Virginia State Service Medal for his contributions as the state's Assistant Registrar, and Past President Tom Roth received the Patriot Medal for his service as State Historian.

Past Chapter President Rand Pixa was awarded the Silver Meritorious Service Medal. State Roger Sherman Medals were presented to Jamie Callender (Patriot Research System) and Rich Sherman (Knight Essay Contest). State Henry Knox Achievement Medals were received by Vice President Scot Bryant, Past President General Joseph Dooley, Past President Don Reynolds, Past President Paul Walden, and me. Certificates of Appreciation were given to Edgar Bates (America 250), John Blair (Public Service and Heroism), and Past President Richard Rankin (Color Guard Committee).

Last, and certainly not least, hearty congratulations are due Scot Bryant. Our newsletter was selected as the best in the state, and Scot as Newsletter Editor of the Year. Our website was also named the best in the state, and Scot as Webmaster of the Year.

Late February brought the always popular trio of events related to George Washington's Birthday (along with, thankfully, sunshine and pleasant temperatures). The morning of February 19 began with the placement of wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary Soldier, followed by the annual parade through the streets of Old Town Alexandria honoring General Washington.

The U.S. Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps again set the pace for our unit this year. Our chapter banner was carried by Secretary Jaymie Cook and his son, Compatriot Elliot Cook, followed by a Color Guard contingent representing several Virginia SAR chapters, and the blue coat brigade along with many family members. Ernie Coggins escorted Virginia SAR President Dr. Bill Greaf in his Saab convertible, while Compatriots Bill and Doug Wilson escorted Virginia C.A.R. President Nora Stufft in their Jaguar. The Sergeant Major John Champe Chapter again joined us with their patriotic float, always a favorite with the parade watchers. Please take a moment to enjoy a [parade highlight reel](#) on our chapter website.

Finally, on February 22 we placed a wreath at George Washington's tomb at his Mount Vernon estate. Dr. Greaf was again on hand to deliver inspirational remarks on General Washington's leadership lessons. Compatriot Don Francisco performed our National Anthem on fife, as Color Guard members Joe Dooley and Paul McComb (**RIGHT**) stood solemn watch for the duration of our ceremony. Please be sure to [watch the video](#) of this moving ceremony.



Our March chapter meeting promises to be both educational and entertaining. I've had the good fortune of running into David Heiby, our March speaker, twice in the last couple of months--at the Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex and at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House. David's grasp of, and enthusiasm for, Alexandria's history are without match. And, as Superintendent of the Presbyterian Cemetery and owner of Gravestone Stories, his is a unique perspective. I look forward to seeing you there.

Looking ahead one month, please plan on attending a special meeting celebrating the 70th anniversary of our chapter's founding on April 13. More details to follow.

Fraternally,

Scott Walker

President

George Washington Chapter



George Washington's Birthday Ceremonies

Alexandria, Virginia, Feb. 19 and 22 (Photos by Compatriot Tom Roth)



LEFT: Members of the Chapter march through Old Town Alexandria as part of the city's annual George Washington Birthday Parade.

BELOW RIGHT: Chapter President Scott Walker lays a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the Revolutionary War.

BELOW LEFT: The George Washington Chapter wreath laid by President Walker.

See more photos of the events on Tom Roth's [flickr site](#).

GEORGE WASHINGTON CHAPTER members participated in several annual events last month commemorating our namesake's birth in Westmoreland County, Va. on Feb. 22, 1732, by the Gregorian calendar.

On the morning of February 19, the Chapter joined Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) members at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House Churchyard Burial Ground in Old Town Alexandria. There, before the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolution, newly elected Virginia SAR President William Greaf joined Chapter President Scott Walker and DAR leadership in a wreath-laying ceremony that also featured the Virginia State Color Guard.

Next, SAR members marched in the George Washington Birthday Parade on the 275th Anniversary year of the founding of Alexandria. The Chapter brought together the U.S. Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps and reenactors dressed as George and Martha Washington, who led various elements of the Virginia SAR in the parade to pay tribute to our first and greatest president.



On February 22, Virginia SAR President Greaf and George Washington Chapter leadership and members gathered at the Washingtons' Tomb on their Mount Vernon estate south of Alexandria. Dr. Greaf provided remarks, after which both he and Chapter President Walker presented a wreath at the Tomb. Dr. Greaf outlined some of President Washington's characteristics that made him a great leader, including how he learned from mistakes at Fort Necessity, staying cool under fire and surveying his environment before acting, and how he effectively managed his personal affairs. Thirteen members of the Chapter were present along with representatives of the Williamsburg and Col. William Grayson Chapters and the DAR.

Also of note that morning at Mount Vernon, past Chapter President (2021) and current Virginia SAR Historian Thomas M. Roth III had the honor to not only lead 63 new U.S. citizens from 60 different countries in their first Pledge of Allegiance but also to share with them, as well as the ceremony's presenters and additional attendees in the audience, a brief history of the Sons of the American Revolution.

One of the most moving parts of the ceremony occurred when the new U.S. citizens stood with their hands over their hearts and recited together the Oath of Allegiance:

"I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law; and that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God."



Annual Meeting of the Virginia Society SAR

Richmond, Virginia, Feb. 9 and 10 (Photos by Compatriot Tom Roth)



ABOVE: Chapter President Walker delivers welcoming remarks at the 134th Virginia SAR Annual Meeting in Richmond, Feb. 9.

BELOW: Meeting attendees gather in front of the Virginia Washington Monument on the public square in Richmond.



FOLLOWING TWO WEEKS of virtual workshops hosted by Compatriots Rand Pixa, Scott Walker, and Scot Bryant, the George Washington and Richmond Chapters co-hosted the 134th Virginia SAR Annual Meeting in Richmond, Va., Friday, February 9 - 10. Our George Washington Chapter led the way by having the most members registered for the conference. SAR members and their spouses or partners enjoyed a well-paced series of presentations, receptions, and meals. Also of note, the organizers were pleased to offer for the first time a Ladies Luncheon, Friday, held at the Historic Jefferson Hotel before the start of the Annual Meeting.

The meeting began Friday with the traditional Scrapbook Contest, a multi-patriot Grave Marking and Commemoration at nearby Shockoe Hill Cemetery, a new Virginia SAR Color Guard Drumhead Muster event, an update on Virginia's SAR and DAR relations, a Ladies Program Game Night, and a handsome reception hosted by outgoing Virginia SAR President (and beloved George Washington Chapter Compatriot) Ernie Coggins.

The General Membership meeting, followed by the Rumbaugh Orations Contest and Youth Awards ceremony, kicked off Saturday. Then, conference attendees were bussed to the nearby State Capitol to conduct a memorial service for Virginia SAR members who passed away in 2023. The new state officers (minus the President) were installed, and Public Service and 2023 Chapter Winner awards were presented. After the proceedings inside, attendees and guests gathered in the public square, in front of the impressive, renovated Virginia Washington Monument, of George Washington on horseback, for a group photo. Attendees then returned to the Omni Richmond Hotel.

The conclusion of the weekend's meetings and celebrations began with a black-tie banquet dinner to install the 104th Virginia SAR President, Dr. William D. Greafe, and to conduct the bi-annual Color Guard Change-of-Command. The time together with fellow Virginia SAR compatriots and guests officially wrapped up with an exquisite reception hosted by President Greafe.

The George Washington Chapter and its members were heavily honored for their service to the SAR during the meeting. The Chapter received a Certificate of Commendation and Thanks for having co-sponsored the meeting and received a number of Chapter awards, which will be presented at a later Chapter meeting. These included the John Blair Award for having presented awards in all five of the Public Service Awards categories. The Chapter was noted as having placed second among Very Large Chapters in the Outstanding Chapter and Virginia President's Cup award competitions.

The Chapter's nominees were selected for the State Awards in three of the five Public Service Categories. In addition, a number of our members were recognized for their personal service.

Outgoing Virginia SAR President Ernie Coggins and Historian Tom Roth were honored with the Patriot Medal. Past Chapter President Rand Pixa received the Silver Meritorious Service Medal. Past President General Joe Dooley, former Virginia SAR and Chapter President Don Reynolds, Treasurer General Mike Elston, Chapter President Scott Walker, and Chapter Vice President Scot Bryant received the Silver Henry Knox Achievement Medal. Compatriots Richard Sherman and Jamie Callender received the Silver Roger Sherman Medal. Dave Thomas received a second Virginia Society State Service Medal. William Elston received the Silver Sgt. Joseph Plumb Martin Outstanding Young Member Award. Virginia SAR First Lady Diane Coggins and former First Lady Julie Elston received the Virginia Society Ladies State Service Medal, and former First Lady Diane Coggins also received the Lydia Darragh Medal.

For more photos of the annual Virginia SAR meeting, please visit Compatriot Tom Roth's [flickr site](#).



Clockwise, from TOP LEFT: Chapter President Scott Walker and Chapter Vice President Scot Bryant receive the Silver Henry Knox Achievement Medal from outgoing Virginia SAR President Ernie Coggins; Chapter Compatriot Dave Thomas receives his second Virginia Society State Service Medal from President Coggins; and the Richmond and George Washington Chapter presidents each receive a Certificate of Commendation and Thanks for having co-sponsored the annual meeting.

Francisco Menendez and Joseph Cinqué

Freedom Fighters who Changed America, by Compatriot John Haseltine

FRANCISCO MENENDEZ and Joseph Cinqué were two freedom fighters against tyranny. They lived at different times, yet both would rise to the challenge of fighting back against bigotry and winning their freedom. They both became icons in the fight to end slavery and help shape the future of a growing nation.

Francisco Menéndez is believed to have been born in the Gambia, a country in West Africa, before 1709. Early in life he was captured by slave traders and shipped to the Carolina territory of North America. At some point he escaped from his captors and hid in the swamps of Spanish Florida, evading slave hunters for at least a decade. He decided to come out of hiding and when he learned that the Spaniards were offering refuge to any escaped slaves who volunteered to serve in their local militia. His services proved instrumental in the nine-year war between Spain and Great Britain that erupted in 1738. Known as the "War of the Jenkins' Ear," most of the fighting took place around the Caribbean Islands, though a number of pivotal battles took place in the territories of Georgia and Florida. Francisco Menéndez was in the middle of one of these crucial engagements.

To prove his loyalty to the Spanish Crown, Menéndez was given command of a small outpost (and a garrison of a few dozen former slaves) named Fort Mose, outside of St. Augustine, Florida. In June of 1740, a small British force of 170 regulars and native warriors invaded Florida from Georgia. As the enemy force approached Fort Mose, Menéndez realized he was severely outnumbered. He quickly retreated to St. Augustine and then returned with reinforcements.

At dawn on June 15, Menéndez and 300 free blacks, Seminole warriors, and even some Spanish regulars returned to Fort Mose and launched a brutal attack that caught the British completely off guard. With swords, muskets, war clubs, and tomahawks, the joint force slaughtered more than half of the British force within less than two hours. When it was over, British casualties were 75 killed and 34 captured. Menéndez's army had lost only 10 killed and 20 wounded. What remained of the British army quickly fled into the marshes in complete disorder.



An illustration of Francisco Menendez from the Slaves No More historical marker in St. Augustine, Fla., erected by Historic Tours of America and photographed by Cosmos Mariner of Cape Canaveral.

Joseph Cinqué was born in 1814, in British Sierra Leone. His original name was Sengbe Pieh of the Mende Tribe. He grew up as a rice farmer before being kidnapped by African slave traders and sold to the Spanish. He was then put on the slave ship *Tecora*, taken with hundreds of other enslaved Africans across the Atlantic Ocean, and sold to man named Jose Ruiz. Cinqué, with 52 others, was then transferred to another slave ship, *La Amistad*. Although the situation seemed to be dire, Cinqué had no intention of remaining enslaved. He intended to regain his freedom or die trying.



Portrait of Joseph Cinqué. The original is held by the New Haven Colony Historical Society of New Haven, Conn. Digital image courtesy of the Wikipedia Commons.

On the night of July 1, 1839, Cinqué used a nail file to pry off his manacles and those of his fellow captives. Once free, they armed themselves with cane knives, quickly slaughtered most of the Amistad's crew, and took control of the ship. They spared two members of the crew and demanded to be returned to Africa. However, the two surviving Spaniards tricked the freedmen into sailing north along the coastline of the United States. On August 26, an American cutter named the U.S.S. Washington approached and apprehended the Amistad. Cinqué and all the other former slaves were taken into custody in New York.

What followed was a series of legal cases about what was to be done with the Amistad, its surviving crew, and the former slaves. Spanish authorities demanded that Cinqué and the others be turned over to Cuba to face punishment. The case was known as *United States v. Schooner Amistad*. At least three different trials were held in Connecticut. Among those to defend Cinqué was former American President John Quincy Adams. Finally, in March of 1841, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of Cinqué and the Mende people. They were officially released on March 9. A year later, Cinqué and 35 others boarded an American ship and were returned to Africa.

EPILOGUE

The victory at Fort Mose had a major impact on the British invasion of Spanish Florida. Later in June, the British were soundly defeated at the siege of St. Augustine. Francisco Menéndez was later captured at sea by a British warship, but he escaped back to Florida and was granted his freedom. In 1759 he returned to the site of Fort Mose and established the first free Black community on American soil.

Unfortunately, this did not last very long. In 1763, Great Britain emerged victorious in the Seven Years' War. The treaties that came from that conflict forced Spain to trade Florida to the British. Menéndez and his fellow freedmen were then forced to abandon Fort Mose for good and evacuate to Cuba. From there, Francisco Menéndez disappeared from history.

Joseph Cinqué returned to Sierra Leone in November of 1841. To his horror, he found that most of his family had been killed in his absence. The Mende people had been plunged into a civil war that quickly engulfed the country. Cinqué was forced to become a trader along the African coast. Like Menéndez before him, Joseph Cinqué also disappeared from history and is believed to have passed away in 1879.

Although neither of these men knew it, their courage and valor in fighting for their freedom had had a major impact on the anti-slavery movement in the United States. Thousands of people across the country heard their stories and were inspired to support the abolition of slavery, including Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass. Today, both Francisco Menéndez and Joseph Cinqué continue to inspire millions of people around the world. I believe that they should be remembered among the greatest heroes in the history of humanity.

SOURCES:

<https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/staugustine/timeline/the-english-menace/>

<https://myfloridahistory.org/frontiers/article/79https://www.encyclopedia.com/history/news-wires-white-papers-and-books/menendez-francisco>

<https://www.pbs.org/wnet/african-americans-many-rivers-to-cross/history/what-was-americas-1st-black-town/>

<https://spartacus-educational.com/Scinque.htm>

http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/amistad/AMI_BCIN.HTM

<https://whereilivect.org/the-long-journey-of-sengbe-pieh-joseph-cinque/>



COMPATRIOT EDGAR BATES introduces himself as our Chapter's representative at the Alexandria City Council meeting on February 13, when the Council officially proclaimed February as *George Washington Birthday Celebration Month*.

The event was captured on video. Watch it online at <https://fb.watch/qgMpLUy2Ee/>.

Huzzah!



March through the years with George Washington

- 1674** on the 1st--Patent including Mount Vernon land issued to John Washington.
- 1761** on the 14th--Washington takes legal possession of Mount Vernon.
- 1776** on the 11th--Washington forms the Life Guard.
- 1776** on the 17th--Washington leads Continental Army into Boston.
- 1781** on the 1st--Articles of Confederation go into effect.
- 1783** on the 15th--Washington delivers Newburgh address.
- 1785** on the 25th--Washington hosts Mount Vernon Conference.
- 1787** on the 28th--Washington agrees to serve as delegate at Constitutional Convention.
- 1789** on the 4th--The Constitution goes into effect.
- 1793** on the 4th--Washington takes oath for second term as president.

By signing the Declaration of Independence, the fifty-six Americans pledged their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor. Nine died of wounds during the Revolutionary War. Five were captured or imprisoned. Wives and children were jailed, mistreated, or left penniless. Twelve signers' houses were burned to the ground. No signer defected. Their honor, like their nation remained intact.



Upcoming Events

March 9: Saturday, 11:30 a.m.

March Chapter Meeting

Mount Vernon Country Club

5111 Old Mill Road, Alexandria, VA 22309

Guest speaker will be David Heiby, board member at Lee-Fendall House & Alexandria Historical Society, public historian and authority on Alexandria's cemeteries.

March 10: Sunday, 2 to 3 p.m.

Commemoration of Col. William Grayson

Grayson Family Vault

2338 West Longview Dr., Woodbridge, VA 22191

Join members of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter as they commemorate the life of their namesake Colonel William Grayson at his tomb.

March 15: Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Commemoration of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse

Courthouse

2332 New Garden Road, Greensboro, NC 27410

The battle of Guilford Courthouse in North Carolina on March 15, 1781, proved pivotal to the American victory in the American Revolutionary War (1775-83).

March 16: Saturday, 11 a.m.

Commemoration of the 273rd Birth Anniversary of James Madison

Montpelier

11350 Constitution Highway

Montpelier Station, VA 22957

United States Marine Corps Color Guard will lay the presidential wreath at the Madison Family Cemetery at Montpelier. The ceremony is free and open to the public.

March 16: Saturday, 1 p.m.

Grave Marking Ceremonies

Presbyterian Cemetery at the Wilkes Street Complex
Alexandria, VA 22314

George Washington and Fairfax Resolves chapters will conduct joint grave marker dedication and grave marking ceremonies honoring Fairfax Resolves signer Robert Adam and Rev War Patriots David Black and John Dundas. The Virginia SAR Color Guard is scheduled to participate.

March 16: Saturday, 1- 5 p.m.

Color Guard Workshop

VFW Post -1177

401 Old Waterford Road

Leesburg, VA 20176

Training will include: flag carriage and presentation, wreath presentation, basic marching commands, etc.

April 13: Saturday, 11:30 a.m.

April Chapter Meeting

Mount Vernon Country Club

5111 Old Mill Road, Alexandria, VA 22309

George Washington Chapter's 70th Anniversary!

April 20: Saturday, 10 a.m.

James Monroe Birthplace

Commemoration

In front of the Birthplace House

4460 James Monroe Highway

Route 205

Colonial Beach, VA 22443

April 28: Sunday, 11 a.m.

Birthday Observance Wreath Laying Ceremony at 5th U. S. President James Monroe's Tomb

Hollywood Cemetery

412 S. Cherry St., Richmond, VA



Note: Details for "Events" are updated on the Chapter website at: <https://gwsar.org/>

***Please remember that you must be logged in to view SAR members-only events in addition to the public events.**

Please see the Virginia SAR calendar for upcoming, statewide SAR events: <https://vssar.memberclicks.net/calendar>

Chaplain's Corner

COMPATRIOTS, Saint Patrick's Day commemorates Saint Patrick and the arrival of Christianity in Ireland in the 5th century, and by extension, celebrates the heritage and culture of the Irish in general. A Saint Patrick's Day prayer:

May the Strength of God pilot us. May the Power of God preserve us. May the Wisdom of God instruct us. May the Hand of God protect us. May the Shield of God defend us. May the Host of God guard us, Against the snares of the evil ones, Against temptations of the world. May Thy Salvation, Lord, Always be ours, This day, O Lord, and evermore. Amen.

For God & Country,

Paul McComb
Chaplain



Past SAR President-General Joe Dooley and Chapter Chaplain Paul McComb before Alexandria's George Washington Birthday Parade, Feb. 19.



"A citizen, first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee, December 26, 1799.

President	Scott Walker: 703-216-4798
Vice President	Scot Bryant: 703-922-4431
Treasurer	Jonathan Coles: 570-449-8197
Secretary	Jaymie Cook: 202-570-2008
Registrar	Richard Sherman: 301-654-6319

The George Washington Chapter was chartered in its present form April 2, 1954. With over 220 members, it is Virginia's largest SAR chapter.

Meetings customarily are held at 11:30 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month (June, July & August excepted).

Immediate Past President:

Rand Pixa: 703-622-7001

Ride Share: Members in need of a ride to a Chapter meeting or a Chapter-sponsored event may contact the Amenities Committee Chairman, Paul McComb, Chapter Chaplain, at 202-403-4463.

Editor: Eric Atkisson. Submissions from Chapter officers, committee chairmen and fellow Compatriots are always needed.

Please send submissions and comments to Secretary Jaymie

Cook at vasargwsecretary@gmail.com.

6 a.m. 34° 9 a.m. 45° 12 p.m. 48° 6 p.m. 41°

THE DISTRICT
Police arrest a man in a fatal shooting near the White House they said was tied to a turf war. **B2**



RETROPOLIS
Records show Abraham Lincoln pardoned Biden's great-great-grandfather during the Civil War. **B3**



OBITUARIES
Anthony Epstein, 102, advanced cancer research through his co-discovery of the Epstein-Barr virus. **B4**

Volunteers hope to fix community tool library

Free resource in D.C. is closed temporarily after multiple break-ins

BY OLIVIA DIAZ

Abigail Salvatore moved to Washington nearly four years ago to a house in need of some tender loving care. Her porch in particular needed some fixing, but she lacked the proper tools.

Enter the D.C. Tool Library: a one-stop shop in the Petworth area where residents can borrow woodworking, construction and gardening tools at no cost. After she borrowed a power tool, Salvatore began volunteering at the library in 2023, helping people as they perused the shelves stocked with drills, saws, drivers and more.

But that all changed recently when 61 tools were stolen during multiple break-ins at the library located at Twin Oaks Community Garden, Salvatore said. The theft dealt a second blow to the library after 40 tools were plundered earlier in February. All told, according to Salvatore, more than 170 tools worth about \$10,000 have disappeared. The once-stocked shelves are wiped clean and two smashed windows have since been boarded up.

The thefts at the tool library reflect how few communities in D.C. have been spared from crime. Police said Thursday that they had not made any arrests in the break-ins. Volunteers said the tool library would be shut down for at least a month while they address the losses.

Volunteers said they are committed to making sure the library lives on.

"We're here for everybody, especially the ones that need it the most," said Tony Viseo, another volunteer at the library. "To shut down and not to have something like this would exponentially take things downhill."

Salvatore added, "I think we have a responsibility to make it work."

Run by Green Neighbors D.C. in partnership with the Department of Parks and Recreation, roughly 900 Washington-area residents have registered to use the resource since it opened in 2018. **SEE TOOLS ON B2**

Plenty of presidential pageantry on display in Northern Virginia



FROM TOP: Reenactors with the 1st Virginia Regiment of the Continental Line prepare to march Monday in Alexandria's parade to mark George Washington's birthday. Hadassa Ngassa, 7, holds a cutout of the first president. People gather for a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolution.

Effort to recall Allen kicks off

CAMPAIGN COMES AMID SPIKE IN CRIME

Ward 6 group takes issue with councilman's focus

BY MEGAN FLYNN

Rich Masters was standing with a microphone in front of dozens of people on the third floor of an office building in the Navy Yard neighborhood on the edge of Ward 6. Behind him were yard signs tacked on the wall urging voters to "Recall Charles Allen," among the dozens ready to be distributed to the mini army of volunteers.

Yet Masters insisted: "This is not about Charles Allen."

To the crowd, Masters' paradox of a comment seemed to make sense: It was about crime — and Allen, over the course of the past year, as Congress sweated down two of the D.C. Council member's criminal justice and policing bills, had become its scapegoat.

"He's a decent man who has the wrong idea about crime," said Masters, a longtime Hill staffer who is doing public relations for the campaign, urging the room of potential volunteers to "be nice" if they saw Allen, who has been the target of online rage for months.

Thursday's event launched the recall campaign's ground game, recruiting volunteers and door-knockers for what is shaping up to be one of the most explosive local political dramas this year. The push to recall Allen got an initial green light before the D.C. Board of Elections last week, but it has drawn counter campaigns including No Recall in Ward 6 and Neighbors United for Ward 6 — groups of Allen supporters who see it all as a misplaced attack backed by big-money outsiders. Now, in what was supposed to be an off-election year for Allen, that fervent debate over his future has crystallized the split among Democrats over liberal criminal justice policies Allen had championed, as the city seeks to reverse a spike in violent crime.

The recall campaign is headed up by organizers who are well-versed in the city's politics. **SEE ALLEN ON B3**

Maryland's library bill would protect freedoms we thought we already had

One of the most disquieting pieces of legislation hit the Maryland General Assembly last month.

It's House Bill 785 — the Freedom to Read Act.

"A library should not exclude material from its catalogue because of the origin, background or views of a person who created the material," it says.

A library should not prohibit or remove material from its catalogue because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.

And the gut punch is about the librarians themselves. They shall not be "dismissed, demoted, suspended, disciplined, reassigned, transferred or otherwise retaliated against," the bill states.

"This part is urgent. I have had library workers come to me and say, 'I'm scared to recommend books to young people,'" said Tiffany

Sutherland, president of the Maryland Library Association and a librarian in Calvert County. Her co-workers feel under siege and beleaguered.

Texas and Florida have been the epicenters of America's recent book-banning movement. But the book challenges, the retaliation against librarians and the chill of educational discourse are also a concern in blue Maryland.

"This is something you saw on the national news," said Del. Dana Jones (D-Anne Arundel), who introduced the bill in January. "But it's happening here, too."

A similar federal bill — the Fight Book Bans Act — was introduced in the U.S. House in December. Meanwhile, last year Illinois became the first state to pass a law penalizing libraries that ban books. New Jersey was considering one.

The bill in Maryland would be a sweeping and pioneering stand against a trend right out of Europe's totalitarian age or any of the science-fiction books kids read (when they were

still able to get them in the library).

In the 2022-2023 school year, there were 3,362 instances of books being banned from public school classrooms and libraries, according to Pen America. The organization's tally includes instances "where students' access to books in school libraries and classrooms in the United States was restricted or diminished, for either limited or indefinite periods of time."

It's the volume of attacks that is new in our era.

Sutherland said that in her 14 years as a librarian, she could previously think of only two instances of book challenges. "Now, it's a constant barrage of questioning our collection, questioning our profession, questioning what we're doing, what our intentions are," Sutherland said.

We can thank the Moms for Liberty — a name as oxymoronic as "down escalator" — for helping to fuel this assault on a freedom we all thought was part of the United States. **SEE DVORAK ON B3**

RETROPOLIS

Rare armor unearthed at Md. fort

17th-century plating was brought by European colonists, researchers say

BY MICHAEL E. RUANE

The slab of metal came out of the ground dirty and corroded after more than 300 years in the soil of rural Maryland.

It was slightly concave, about the size of a cafeteria tray, and didn't look like much. But the archaeologists at Historic St. Mary's City thought they knew what it might be. And an X-ray — which saw through the surface grime — proved them right.

What they found late last year was a rare piece of 17th-century armor called a tasset, which was designed to hang from a breastplate and protect one of the wearer's thighs during battle.

It had been brought by the first European colonists who arrived in the mid-1600s to establish one of the earliest settlements in what would become the United States. "The X-ray, everybody went



Researchers work in April at an excavation site at Historic St. Mary's City, the first colonial settlement in Maryland.

nuts over that," said Travis Parno, director of research and collections at Historic St. Mary's City, this month. "It really just brought the whole thing to life."

It was one of a series of recent discoveries to come out of a major archaeological project that in 2021 discovered the outlines of the long-lost palisaded fort erected in Maryland by the first White

settlers in 1654.

In March, the project unearthed the skeleton of a teenager with leg fractures who may have been among the first arrivals.

The archaeologists have also dug up, among other things, a pair of 17th-century scissors, a decorative braid made of metal thread that may have been on a **SEE ARMOR ON B4**

**Historic Alexandria Resources Commission
Annual Report
July 2023 – June 2024**

Summary of Accomplishments

The mission of the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission is to advise the City in the preservation of historic sites and buildings, artifacts, and records from loss or deterioration; and promote citizen and tourist use of historic sites and the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Within these guidelines, HARC's membership completed the following activities during its 2023/24 year.

HARC Policy and Membership Accomplishments

- During FY2023, HARC's meetings focused on a wide range of issues (as detailed below). Emphasis was placed on discussion of issues relevant to the HARC mission and goals. Deliberations consistently addressed (1) whether HARC positions should be communicated to other organizations relevant to historic preservation and other areas of concern and (2) whether actions should be taken.
- HARC worked with AAC and PRAC to send a letter to the City Manager on behalf of OHA to fund a new collections off-site storage facility.
- Frequent discussion of Zoning for Housing, pertinent to its impact on historic resources.
- Discussion of the issue of amateur "bottle digging" excavations of resident privies and wells with no permit or conversation with Alexandria Archaeology.
- A Strategic Plan was crafted by Vice Chair Sean Ferguson collecting the input from the August HARC retreat.
- The Ad-Hoc Proposed Street Naming Committee (co-chaired by Linda Lovell and Mark Farkas) completed their work in August 2023 and HARC approved the final list of recommended names and supporting information that were selected to be sent to the City's Naming Committee. This was a major undertaking of HARC and attracted some minor media coverage.
- HARC composition changes were discussed and forwarded to City Council for approval and subsequently approved by Council.
- The Commission agreed to cancel the December 19, 2023 meeting owing to holiday travel.
- The January 16, 2024 meeting and the May 21, 2024 meetings were canceled due to lack of a quorum.

- HARC is interested in the Department of Project Implementation (DPI)'s work on waterfront flooding mitigation, and plans to hear more about flood mitigation and particularly the pump house proposed for the foot of Prince Street.
- A presentation was provided by Gretchen Bulova and Al Cox on the Exterior Restoration Plan for 1315 Duke Street, returning the South façade to the period of significance.
- An Alexandria Archaeology Commission (AAC) update was provided by Ivy Whitlach, AAC chair, including information on Archaeology Month, the 2023 Ben Brenman Award, and the new electric van being used by Archaeology staff.
- Section 106 for Waterfront Implementation Project The City of Alexandria, along with the National Park Service, sent letters to potential interested parties, including HARC, the AAC, and the Waterfront Commission, in early June. These letters announce the initiation of consultation with interested people and groups as part of the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation act. Section 106 gives the public the chance to weigh in on projects like the waterfront implementation before a final decision is made.

HARC Member Activities

- HARC held a retreat on Saturday, August 5, 2023, at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. The agenda included: recognition of former HARC members, one guest speaker, identifying strategic priorities and action items. The guest speaker was André Béliveau, M.A. in Government, Johns Hopkins University, and he addressed how to more effectively engage elected leaders for advocacy.

Goals for 2024-2025

- Discussions have been held regarding new member onboarding, and ways to help people get active. One idea is to provide a list of acronyms for new members.
- Better integrate the needs of OHA into HARC activities.
- Diversify HARC's advocacy methods, introducing the following tactics when appropriate.
- Improve internal HARC operations.
- Continue HARC's commitment to preserving historic sites and structures.
- Ensure HARC addresses the needs of Alexandria's other historic resources, including but not limited to artifacts, records, and intangible cultural heritage.
- Ensure HARC serves historic resources in addition to those in Old Town.
- Increase HARC's visibility and connection to the public and community associations.

Leadership

- Officers for the upcoming year were elected at the November 2023 meeting: Shawn Eyer will serve as Chair, Sean Ferguson as Vice-Chair. Roberta Stevens was elected as Secretary. After Sean Ferguson stepped down as Vice-Chair due to relocation, Christopher Brownlowe was subsequently elected to that position in June 2024.
- List term expirations and new members, with month they were appointed.
 - Russell Simonaro (appointed Nov 2023)
 - Barbara Marvin (appointed Oct 2023)
 - Mia Mulrennan (appointed March 2024)
 - David Kovalik (appointed April 2024)
 - John Patrick (appointed April 2024)
 - Catherine Weinraub (term ended Oct 2023)
 - Danny Smith (term ended March 2024)
 - Linda Lovell (term ended Feb 2024)
 - Martha Raymond (term ended March 2024)
- During the course of the year, membership included the following individuals:

Bailee Barfield	Deborah Osborne
Carol Black	John Patrick
Christopher Brownlowe	Martha Raymond
Donna DeBlasio	Rebecca Rose
Shawn Eyer	Tim Rose
Mark Farkas	Gail Rothrock
Sean Ferguson	Lisa Schumaier
Kate Gillis	Tom Schultz
David Kovalik	Russell Simonaro
Laura Lieberman	Danny Smith
Linda Lovell	Roberta Stevens
Barbara Marvin	Steve Stuart
Mia Mulrennan	Ivy Whitlatch
- Gretchen Bulova and OHA acted as the staff liaison to HARC during the course of the 2023/2024 year.

Attachments

1. Any notable letters to City Council, date, subject

- August 22, 2023, Mayor, City Manager and Members of City Council Re: Zoning for Housing/Housing for All
- October 17, 2023, Mayor and Members of City Council Re: Zoning for Housing/Housing for All
- October 17, 2023, Mayor Justin Wilson, Town of Potomac
- November 21, 2023, Mayor and Members of City Council Re: Storage needs (HARC/AAC/PRAC)

Historic Alexandria Resources Commission

220 North Washington Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-2521
(703) 746-4554



Alexandria, Virginia



August 22, 2023

The Honorable Justin Wilson
City Hall
300 King Street, Alexandria VA 22314

Dear Mayor Wilson:

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission, the City Council's Commission chartered to advise the City Council on the responsible stewardship of our unique historic city, is writing to express our concern about the potential imminent threat of the Zoning for Housing/Housing for All project to the Town of Potomac National Register Historic District.

As you are probably aware, the Town of Potomac Historic District was added to Preservation Virginia's Most Endangered Historic Properties List in May. This endangered places program was initiated in 2000 to help raise awareness about threatened historic places in the Commonwealth. The listing for the Town of Potomac National Register Historic District states: *"Today, the 1,840-acre historic district includes a concentration of residences, including an eclectic collection of foursquares, Bungalows (many Sears kit houses), Colonial Revival, Folk Victorian, Mediterranean Revival, modified Queen Anne, and Tudor Revival houses, that are pleasantly arranged in a comfortable pedestrian and development scale."*

Over 75 houses in the Town of Potomac Historic District have been demolished in recent years. The Preservation Virginia listing identified an immediate threat of such tear-downs and the outsized and out-of-character houses that often replace them.

In addition to that threat, HARC's immediate concern is the fact that the preliminary zoning maps for the Zoning for Housing/Housing for All project showed projections of increased height and density within the boundaries of the Town of Potomac National Register Historic District, particularly along Mount Vernon Avenue.

As staff develops its proposals, which we understand will be released in early September, we urge you to direct staff to respect the historic character of this vibrant and low scale historic neighborhood of the Town of Potomac National Register Historic District.

Sincerely,

Shawn Eyer, Chairman
Historic Alexandria Resources Commission



Alexandria, Virginia

Historic Alexandria Resources Commission

*220 North Washington Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-2521
(703) 746-4554*



November 21, 2023

Mayor and Members of City Council
City of Alexandria

Re: Zoning for Housing/Housing for All

Dear Mayor Wilson and Distinguished Members of Council:

The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission (HARC) has great interest in the proposals for Zoning for Housing and Housing for All. We are supportive of affordable housing in Alexandria. We are also charged with advising the City of Alexandria on the responsible stewardship of this unique historic city.

HARC is vitally concerned with the proper administration of the Alexandria Zoning Ordinance and its critical role in protecting the historic fabric of our community. To that end, we write to underscore and support the Historic Alexandria Foundation and their letter of November 9, 2023 (pdf attached).

The historic and cultural resources of Alexandria need specific consideration as part of such broad zoning changes. We urge the City to evaluate how the many zoning amendments will affect the City's historic buildings and districts before moving for approval.

We advise you, as City leaders, to postpone the November 28, 2023 Zoning for Housing vote.

Sincerely,

Shawn Eyer, Chairman
Historic Alexandria Resources Commission



Alexandria, Virginia

Historic Alexandria Resources Commission

220 North Washington Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-2521
(703) 746-4554



October 17, 2023

The Honorable Justin Wilson
City Hall
300 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

re: Del Ray and Town of Potomac Historic District

Dear Mayor Wilson:

Thank you for your August 23, 2023, response to the Commission's letter about Preservation Virginia's classification of the Town of Potomac Historic District as one of the state's most endangered historic places. Knowing that you do not support any proposals that would threaten the character of the neighborhood will be encouraging to many in the community who have expressed concerns about the potential for a gradual erosion of the historic fabric in that area.

Perhaps one way that the City might ameliorate some of the concerns would be to communicate a commitment that new structures (including the higher-density projects under consideration) would more stringently adhere to architectural compatibility with their surroundings. Members of our Commission have heard concerns about both the scale and design of some recent and proposed construction. As noted in the Preservation Virginia materials on this subject, the 2015 creation of the *Del Ray Neighborhood Residential Pattern Book* provided a useful tool for new projects, should those involved wish to consult it. Moreover, both for residential and commercial projects, architectural compatibility should be strongly favored if the City wishes to maintain the essential character of the affected neighborhoods.

You noted, and it is certainly correct, that multifamily units are also an important part of the historic fabric of Del Ray and its vicinity. In HARC's view, new and appropriately scaled multifamily units that fit in well with the neighboring structures would best preserve the character of the area, even as some of the historic fabric is lost. However, if historic fabric is replaced with modernist architecture that disregards its immediate context, then concerns may continue to grow. Development that is sensitive to heritage will enhance our community and is likely to be welcomed by most.

Sincerely,

Shawn Eyer, Chairman
Historic Alexandria Resources Commission



Alexandria, Virginia

Historic Alexandria Resources Commission

*220 North Washington Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-2521
(703) 746-4554*



October 17, 2023

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council,

On behalf of the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission (HARC), the Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC), and the Public Records Advisory Commission (PRAC), **we request that the City Manager and elected officials prioritize the critical storage needs for Alexandria's important historical documents, collections, and archaeological materials as part of FY2025 general fund and capital improvement budget planning.**

These historic items provide powerful and tangible evidence of the lives of those who lived and labored in Alexandria in the past and allow us to evolve the historical narrative toward previously underrepresented communities in our city's history. As such, it is critical all historical documents, objects, and artifacts are properly stored and preserved for current and future generations.

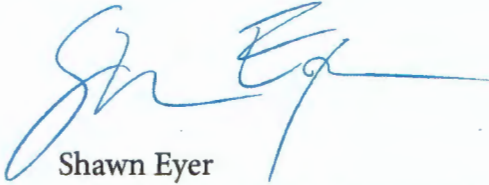
OHA has twice achieved accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums for their professionalism and museum management. Managing historic buildings and their contents, including a collections storage facility, is crucial to retaining this top recognition. By OHA's account, collections storage will be at capacity by January 2024. We urge you to prioritize funding to extend storage resources for our city's historic collections to avoid the irreversible loss of precious historic treasures that cannot be recouped.

OHA is currently applying for a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant to conduct a storage needs assessment for their collections. This assessment will provide a roadmap for the City that details the specific needs of the many historic collections – including paper, objects, digital records and images, and archaeological artifacts. The study will include HVAC, security, and other important recommendations. We would be happy to share updates on these findings to better equip you with the scope of what is immediately needed for these crucial preservation efforts.

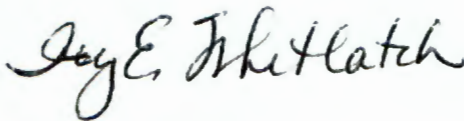
In closing, we urge you to prioritize funding for the City's museum collections through additional storage as part of FY 2025 budget planning. HARC, AAC, and

PRAC are closely following the success of the NEH grant and will prioritize advocacy for OHA collections storage and associated budget requests in FY2025 and beyond.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue for the City's cultural heritage.



Shawn Eyer
Historic Alexandria Resources Commission (HARC)



Ivy Whitlatch
Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC)



Lynn Jordan
Public Records Advisory Commission (PRAC)

Cc: Jim Parajon, City Manager
Emily Baker, Deputy City Manager
Gretchen Bulova, OHA

Historic Alexandria Resources Commission (HARC) attendance for FY 24

Name	July 2023	Aug. 2023	Sept. 2023	Oct 2023	Nov 2023	Dec 2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2024	March 2024	April 2024	May 2024	June 2024
Barfield	X	E	X	X	E	na	na	E	X	E	na	E
Black	X	X	X	X	E			X	X	E		E
Brownlowe	E	X	X	X	E			X	X	X		X
DeBlasio	X	X	E	X	X			X	X	X		X
Eyer	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X		X
Farkas	E	R	E	R	E			E	E	E		R
Ferguson	X	X	X	X	X							
Gillis					E							
Lieberman	X	X	E	E	E			X	X	E		X
Lovell End Feb 24	X	X	X	X	X			X				
Marvin Apt Oct 23				E	X			X	E	A		X
Mulrennan Ap. March 24									X	X		E
Osborne	X	X	X	X	E			X	X	E		X
Raymond End March 2	X	R	X	X	X			X	X			
Rose Rebecca				X	X			E	X	X		E
Rose Tim Ap Jan 24								X	X	X		X
Rothrock	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X		R
Schultz	X	R	X	E	X			A	X	A		A
Schumaier	E	X	X	E	X			X	A	A		X
Simanaro					E			X	X	X		A
Smith En d March 24	X	X	X	X	X			X	X			
Stevens	X	X	X	E	X			X	X	X		E
Stuart	X	X	X	X	E			E	X	X		X
Weinraub End Oct 23	E	E	E									
Whitlatch	E	X	X	X	X			X	E	R		X
Kovalik Ap. April 24										X		X
Patrick										X		E

Ap April 24														
-------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

X= present, E= excused, A= absent, R= remote,

no meetings in Dec , Jan & May

Alexandria Human Rights Commission Annual Report July 2023 – June 2024

This report of the Alexandria Human Rights Commission (HRC) highlights the activities that were accomplished by the Commission during the period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024.

The Human Rights Commission was established in 1975 with the passage of Alexandria’s Human Rights Ordinance. The Commission is charged with ensuring that equal rights are afforded to all individuals who live, work, and visit the City of Alexandria regardless of their race, sex, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, age, disability, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity or transgender status. More specifically, the Commission advises the City Manager, Mayor, and City Council on matters related to human rights, educates the community on responsibilities and protections under the ordinance, and has the capacity to adjudicate individual complaints in some circumstances.

The Commission is comprised of 14 members appointed by the Alexandria City Council. Nine members are “at large”; the remaining five seats are designated for representatives of other City Commissions and Boards: the Commission on Persons with Disabilities, the Commission on Aging, the Commission for Women, the Economic Opportunities Commission, and the Landlord-Tenant Relations Board.

Jean Kelleher, Director of the Office of Human Rights, served as the staff liaison to the Commission and managed a staff of three investigators who review, investigate, and conciliate complaints of unlawful discrimination, as well as the City’s ADA Program Manager. In June of 2024, Jean retired after 24 years of service to the City of Alexandria, including as Assistant City Manager and Director of Human Resources. The Human Rights Commission is extremely grateful to Jean for the passion and dedication that she has brought to advancing human rights in Alexandria over the years.

The Office of Human Rights staff also participates in outreach efforts and conducts training on diversity and discrimination.

Commission Achievements and Activities:

Accomplishments:

In 2023, the Commission continued to receive information about discrimination against Alexandria residents in access to housing. At its June 2023 meeting, the Commission heard from African Communities Together regarding the challenges and discrimination faced by African

immigrants renting apartments in the West End of Alexandria. In November, the Commission expressed its support for the City's Zoning for Housing/Housing for All Initiative in the form of a letter and oral testimony to City Council. The Commission cited documentation of the discrimination faced by African Americans in Alexandria in access to housing and encouraged the City to take a more active approach to reducing evictions and predatory practices that displace community members, to strengthen guidelines for tenant protection, and to expand locally funded voucher programs. A copy of the Commission's letter is attached to this report. On November 28, 2023, City Council approved the package of reforms.

Over the past few years, the Commission advocated for the creation of a rainbow crosswalk in downtown Alexandria, to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community and highlight that all are welcome in our city. On June 1, the Commission was delighted to attend the dedication of the rainbow crosswalk during the City's Pride Festival. The Commission is proud of the tireless efforts of David Rigsby, Sam Schwartz, and others, which finally brought this symbol of inclusion to fruition.

On September 19, 2023, the Commission and the Washington Field Office of the Equal Employment Opportunity held a public forum on New Developments in Civil Rights. Experts provided information on the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, as well as three recent decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court that could impact the enjoyment of civil rights in the City.¹

Between November of 2023 and February of 2024, the Commission heard from Jewish and Palestinian residents of the City regarding the conflict taking place in Israel and Gaza. On March 19, 2024, the Commission sent the following recommendation to the Mayor and City Council of Alexandria:

The Alexandria Human Rights Commission accompanies our Jewish and Palestinian residents in their suffering in light of the horrific attacks of October 7th and the catastrophic loss of civilian life that has followed in Gaza. During its last three meetings, the Commission has heard about the extreme emotional pain experienced by Alexandria residents who have strong personal ties to Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank. These residents feel that their voices are not being heard as decisions directly affecting them are made by City, state, and federal officials.

Alexandria is a diverse city that welcomes people hailing from all corners of the globe and practicing all religions. Consistent with the maxim that all human life is precious and must be protected, the City will not tolerate any acts of violence or hatred, including any antisemitic, Islamophobic, anti-Palestinian, or anti-Arab acts against our residents or visitors. Residents may contact the Office of Human Rights if they are aware of any such events or have concerns to express.

After several months of hearing heartbreaking testimony, the Alexandria Human Rights Commission finds it imperative that we recommend that the City Council call for a durable ceasefire. Several cities around the country have adopted resolutions containing similar calls.

¹ Decisions discussed were *303 Creative LLC v. Elenis* (involving the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals), *Students for Fair Admissions Inc. v. President & Fellows of Harvard College* and *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. University of North Carolina* (dealing with affirmative action in college admissions), and *Groff v. DeJoy* (involving religious accommodations for workers).

The Human Rights Commission of the City of Alexandria recommends that City Council join us in echoing the [call](#) of Alexandria’s U.S. Representative Don Beyer on December 4th for a “durable ceasefire to secure the release of all hostages, a halt to attacks on Israel, the protection of civilian lives in Gaza, and an end to the appalling loss of life from this conflict.”

Other activities:

- The Commission continued to strengthen its outreach to the community in 2023 during this year in order to better understand the concerns of City residents and to be more responsive to them. Commissioners shared information on the Office of Human Rights at the ALIVE! Food Hub on Van Dorn Street and designated members as liaisons to key civil rights advocacy groups in the City. The Commission also designated liaisons to the LGBTQ+ Task Force, the Commission on HIV/AIDS, and the Community Policing Review Board.
- The Commission continued its dialogue with the Alexandria Police Department and emphasized the importance of effective police oversight. The Executive Committee met with leadership of the APD in November. In May of 2024, Acting Police Chief Raul Pedroso and police leadership presented to the Commission on APD priorities and use of force incidents from 2023. The Commission expressed its regret that a Memorandum of Understanding has not yet been concluded between the APD and the Community Policing Review Board.
- On June 18, 2024, the Commission met at the Black History Museum and heard from Darrlynn Franklin, President of the Alexandria NAACP, about human rights issues of greatest concern to its members. Ms. Franklin highlighted protection for voting rights, access to affordable housing, unemployment, and access to healthcare through Planned Parenthood as key concerns.
- On February 20, 2024, the Commission heard from the LGBTQ+ Task Force and an Alexandria City High School student about challenges facing LGBTQ+ youth in the City. Following the meeting, the Commission joined a meeting of the Task Force and Alexandria City Public Schools officials regarding the need for easily accessible gender-neutral bathrooms in the schools.

Commission Goals for FY 2025

The Human Rights Commission has set the following goals for the fiscal year:

- The Human Rights Commission will seek to create a new rainbow crosswalk in the Del Ray Community. We hope to have this project completed by June of 2025.
- The Human Rights Commission will also create more dialog with our sister Human Rights Commissions throughout the region and will develop bi-annual updates and coordination calls with the leaders of those commissions.
- The Human Rights Commission will continue our meetings with local government and local non-profit officials to ensure that Alexandria’s Human Rights Ordinance is being adhered to.

Leadership

- Officers for the upcoming year were elected at the June meeting: Jonathan Thompson will serve as Chair. Marc Bendick and Elisabeth "PJ" Palmer Johnson will serve as Vice-Chairs.

Links and Resources

General

- [U.S. Department of Justice \(DOJ\)](#)
- [Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights \(LCCHR\)](#)
- [International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies \(IAOHRA\)](#)

Employment

- [U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission \(EEOC\)](#)
- [U.S. Department of Justice \(DOJ\)](#)

Housing, Credit, and Lending

- [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\)](#)

Education

- [Department of Education, Civil Rights Division](#)

Race & National Origin

- [National Association for the Advancement of Colored People \(NAACP\)](#)
- [UnidosUS \(formerly National Council of La Raza\)](#)
- [Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund \(MALDEF\)](#)

Disability

- [Department of Justice \(DOJ\) ADA Homepage](#)
- [EEOC Disability Discrimination](#)
- [ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia](#)
- [HUD Information for Persons with Disabilities](#)
- [Mid-Atlantic ADA Center](#)
- [Northern VA Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons](#)
- [Job Accommodation Network \(JAN\)](#)

Human Rights, Immigration, & Trafficking

- [U.S Citizenship & Immigration Services](#)
- [U.S. Department of State – Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons](#)
- [Legal Aid Justice Center](#)
- [Polaris Project](#)
-

Lawyer Referral & Legal Services

- [Legal Services of Northern Virginia](#)
- [Alexandria Bar Lawyer Referral Service](#)



**INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY POLICING
REVIEW BOARD**

ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2023 - JUNE 2024

ABOUT THE INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY POLICING REVIEW BOARD

The mission of the Independent Community Policing Review Board (ICPRB) includes ensuring all residents and visitors in the City of Alexandria are safe, secure, and treated fairly by the City of Alexandria Police Department.

The purpose of the Independent Community Policing Review Board is to enhance policing legitimacy and to increase and maintain trust between and among the Police Department, City Council, the City Manager, and the public. The ICPRB shall provide a timely, fair, and objective review of administrative investigations conducted by the Independent Policing Auditor and the Alexandria Police Department (APD), as well as the Independent Policing Auditor's evaluation of policing policies, practices, procedures, and outcomes in Alexandria. The ICPRB shall also recommend meaningful assessments and corrective recommendations intended to remedy discriminatory practices, including racial and social inequities; ensure the protection of all communities through reform, including the criminal justice system; and recommend strategies for effectively implementing these reforms in our community.

ICPRB MEMBERS

ROBERT KRUPIICKA - CHAIR
ALEXIS N. STACKHOUSE - VICE CHAIR
DARRLYNN FRANKLIN - SECRETARY
CHRISTOPHER LEWIS - BOARD MEMBER
INGRIS MORAN - BOARD MEMBER
JEANNE OTOOLE - BOARD MEMBER
TODD PILOT - BOARD MEMBER



Per Alexandria Ordinance 5337, the Alexandria Independent Community Policing Review Board is to produce a public report to the City Council by September of each fiscal year of its activities for the prior fiscal year, along with any comments and recommendations.

ICPRB ANNUAL REPORT

ICPRB POLICY AND MEMBERSHIP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The ICPRB primarily met on the first Wednesday of every month, except August. It held additional training activities on Saturdays in July and September.

At its May meeting, the ICPRB had training, held a retreat and updated its mission statement and established goals for the upcoming fiscal year.

The ICPRB completed all its training requirements for 2024. As part of this work, the ICPRB participated in numerous training activities with the Alexandria Police and National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement as required; in addition, the ICRBP completed required ride-alongs.

The ICPRB adopted a revised Standards of Professional Conduct policy to guide member activities and ethics.

The ICPRB established an MOU Committee to work with the Independent Policing Auditor to finalize the MOU between the ICPRB and the Police Department.

The ICPRB established a Public Outreach Committee that helped coordinate community activities like holding the April Board meeting at the Brent Place apartments on Alexandria's West End.

The City Council approved the ICPRB Bylaws in the Fall of 2023.

ICPRB POLICY AND MEMBERSHIP ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONTINUED

The ICPRB worked with the Independent Policing Auditor to update and enhance the ICPRB website during the fiscal year.

The ICPRB provided the City Council and the Alexandria state legislative delegation, along with other state officials, legislative input regarding the importance of funding mental health programs as an alternative to Police involvement.

At the Mayor's request, in May of 2024, the ICPRB provided the City Council with input into a performance evaluation of the Independent Policing Auditor.

The ICPRB bid farewell to inaugural Board member Dr. Francisco Duran in February of 2024.

In April of 2024, the ICPRB provided the City Council with input on the Police Budget as required by Ordinance. The input focused on:

- 1) The importance of mental health services.
- 2) The importance and cost of the body-worn camera program.
- 3) A request that the City Council direct staff to modify the budget format for the Police Department in order to allow the ICPRB to provide more detailed commentary.

The ICPRB held multiple meetings with the Police Chief and his staff to review the status of the work of the Office of Public Responsibility (OPR)

ICPRB POLICY AND MEMBERSHIP ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONTINUED

THE ICPRB PROVIDED THE CITY COUNCIL, ALEXANDRIA STATE LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION, AND OTHER STATE OFFICIALS WITH LEGISLATIVE INPUT REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF FUNDING MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO POLICE INVOLVEMENT.

IN PARTICULAR:

“WE ARE WRITING TO ASK THAT IN YOUR CAPACITY IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, YOU WORK TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES BY:

1) SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASING THE AVAILABLE MENTAL HEALTH BEDS IN VIRGINIA, ESPECIALLY IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA

2) SUPPORT NEW FUNDING TO ADD ADDITIONAL MENTAL HEALTH

PROFESSIONALS TO WORK COLLABORATIVELY WITH POLICE STAFF FOR MENTAL HEALTH-RELATED CASES

3) ADVOCATE FOR POLICIES AND PROCEDURES THAT WOULD MORE

EFFICIENTLY UTILIZE POLICE RESOURCES WHEN POLICE ARE NEEDED TO MONITOR CASES IN OUR HOSPITALS, FOR EXAMPLE, ALLOWING ONE

OFFICER TO MONITOR MULTIPLE CASES IN A HOSPITAL

4) SUPPORT FUNDING FOR THE CREATION OF PRE-TRIAL AND POST-

BOOKING MENTAL HEALTH DIVERSION PROGRAMS AND

5) SUPPORT FUNDING FOR PROGRAMS THAT BOLSTER SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS THAT FOCUS ON CARING FOR AND TREATING INDIVIDUALS

WITH MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES.”

MEMBER ACTIVITIES

- The ICPRB members completed numerous training sessions over the last 12 months which included required police ride-alongs, a presentation from Alexandria Police Chief Don Hayes and his staff, a presentation by Interim-Chief Raul Pedroso, and OPR, and National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) training.
- ICPRB Members also completed security awareness training as required to utilize City IT systems.
- Several members of ICPRB attended community functions and participated in numerous National Night Out activities.



PROGRAM AND/OR LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

- The City Council approved the ICPRB Bylaws.
- The ICPRB provided input on the Virginia state budget.
- The ICPRB provided input on the Alexandria, City budget.
- The ICPRB updated/adopted policies related to Standards of Professional Conduct.

GOALS FOR 2024 - 2025

- Execute a Memorandum of Understanding with APD.
- Create an intake process and tracking system for citizen complaints.
- Issue the ICPRB Readiness Resolution.
- Begin reviewing investigative cases as necessary.
- Partner with community groups, APD, and others for community outreach events.
- Work with City Council to update ICPRB training requirements.
- Work with City Council to update ICPRB Quorum requirements.
- Work with City Council to update requirements for ICPRB review of police investigations.



LEADERSHIP

- At the September 6, 2023 meeting of the ICPRB, the Leadership of the Board transitioned to Rob Krupicka as Chair, Alexis Stackhouse as Vice-Chair and Darrlynn Franklin as Secretary.
- In January 2024 the ICPRB conducted its annual officer elections based on its newly approved Bylaws. The elected officers were: Rob Krupicka as Chair, Alexis Stackhouse as Vice-Chair and Darrlynn Franklin as Secretary.
- Kim Neal acted as the staff liaison to the ICPRB with support from Robert Porter from the City Attorney's Office and the Clerk of Court, Gloria Sitton.

ICPRB ATTENDANCE REPORT

CHAIRPERSON: K. Rob Krupicka

MEMBER'S NAME	Jul 8	July 19	Sep 6	Sep 16	Oct 4	Nov 1	Dec 6	Jan 3	Feb 7	Mar 6 (No quorum/ Canceled)	Apr 3	May 4	Jun 5 (no quorum/ training only)
Francisco Duran	X	X	X	X	E	X	E	E	E		R	R	R
Darrlynn Franklin	X	X	E	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	V
Rob Krupicka	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Christopher Lewis	X	E	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	E
Ingris Moran	X	X	E	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Jeanne O'Toole	X	E	X	E	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	E
Todd Pilot	X	X	X	E	X	X	E	X	X		X	X	X
Alexis Stackhouse	X	X	X	X	E	X	X	X	X		V	X	X

X - FOR PRESENT E - FOR EXCUSED U - FOR UNEXCUSED V - Online Video Participation R - Resigned

LIST OF THOSE WHO DID NOT ATTEND 75% OF MEETINGS (missed 4 or more):

Not Applicable

ICPRB ATTENDANCE REPORT

CHAIRPERSON: K. Rob Krupicka

MEMBER'S NAME	Jul 8	July 19	Sep 6	Sep 16	Oct 4	Nov 1	Dec 6	Jan 3	Feb 7	Mar 6 (No quorum/ Canceled)	Apr 3	May 4	Jun 5 (no quorum/ training only)
Francisco Duran	X	X	X	X	E	X	E	E	E		R	R	R
Darrlynn Franklin	X	X	E	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	V
Rob Krupicka	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Christopher Lewis	X	E	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	E
Ingris Moran	X	X	E	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Jeanne O'Toole	X	E	X	E	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	E
Todd Pilot	X	X	X	E	X	X	E	X	X		X	X	X
Alexis Stackhouse	X	X	X	X	E	X	X	X	X		V	X	X

X - FOR PRESENT E - FOR EXCUSED U - FOR UNEXCUSED V - Online Video Participation R - Resigned

LIST OF THOSE WHO DID NOT ATTEND 75% OF MEETINGS (missed 4 or more):

Not Applicable

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

DATE: August 31, 2024

TO: Gloria Sitton, City Clerk and Clerk of Council

CC: Hon. Justin Wilson, Mayor
Members of City Council

FROM: Directors of the Industrial Development Authority of the City of Alexandria (IDA) through Stephanie Landrum, IDA Administrator

RE: IDA Annual Report (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024)

Directors

Jennifer Atkins

Chair

Christopher Hartman

Vice Chair

Eric Strickland

Secretary-Treasurer

Dwight Dunton

Lisa Edouard

Dak Hardwick

Thomas Hyde

Counsel to the AIDA

Michael W. Graff, Jr.

McGuireWoods LLP

Staff to the AIDA

Stephanie Landrum

Christina Mindrup

Wynn Hunsaker

AEDP, Inc.

Pursuant to Alexandria's City Code Section 2-4-7(i)(1), attached is the Alexandria IDA's Annual Report for the most recent completed fiscal year, July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

The Report includes a current list of IDA board members and their attendance records for FY 2024. No member of the IDA was absent without excuse for greater than 25 percent of the IDA's meetings.

In accordance with the organization's bylaws, officers for the upcoming year were elected at the Annual meeting: Jennifer Atkins will serve as Chair, Christopher Hartman as Vice-Chair and Eric Strickland as Secretary-Treasurer.

In support of the organization's mission to promote economic and commercial development in the City, the IDA executed two innovative transactions during Fiscal Year 2024. These initiatives involved engaging in new activities that had not been undertaken previously. Both transactions represent an evolution for the IDA, which highlights its commitment to adaptation to achieve the strategic priorities of the City.

- The IDA assisted The Art League with financing a portion of the tenant improvement buildout for its headquarters relocation to Slaters Lane. This support not only helped retain a vital cultural institution within the city but also solidified their commitment to activate the arts catalyst space at The Muse development in Old Town North.
- The IDA utilized previously allocated funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and a loan from the Virginia Small Business Financing Authority, to finance the acquisition and buildout of three commercial condominium units at The Muse development in Old Town North. The Art League's lease of these spaces enables the IDA to pay the required debt service for the loan. This transaction activated the first arts catalyst space identified in the Old Town North Small Area Plan.

Over the past 26 years (since the beginning of FY1998) we have processed 90 applications, issued more than \$1.5 billion in bonds, and collected over \$3.8 million in fees, which are dedicated for economic development purposes. No losses have ever been incurred by the IDA or the City over the history of this program. The IDA's bond issuances continue to be at no cost or liability to the City or the IDA, which are immune by state law from liability for the repayment of the bonds that the IDA issues and from associated costs and interest, and the IDA is represented in transactions by skilled legal counsel at the expense of borrowers and not the City.

This year, as in the past, the IDA received extraordinary support from our administrator, AEDP President & CEO Stephanie Landrum, our legal counsel, Michael W. Graff of McGuireWoods LLP, and City Finance Director Kendel Taylor. The Authority was also supported by AEDP's Real Estate team, Vice President Christina Mindrup and Real Estate Project Manager Wynn Hunsaker.

In addition to the attendance report, please find attached to this memo minutes from each Authority meeting held in FY2024.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Stephanie Landrum, President & CEO, Alexandria Economic Development Partnership, Inc. at 703/739-3820.

ADVISORY GROUP ANNUAL ATTENDANCE REPORT

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MEETING ATTENDANCE REPORT**

JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024

CHAIRPERSON: Jennifer Atkins

MEMBER'S NAME	Sep 2023	Oct 2023	Feb 2024	May 2024
JENNIFER ATKINS	X	X	X	X
CHRISTOPHER HARTMAN	X	X	X	X
ERIC STRICKLAND	E	E	E	X
DWIGHT DUNTON	X	E	X	X
LISA EDOUARD	X	X	X	X
DAK HARDWICK	X	X	E	X
THOMAS HYDE	X	X	X	E

INDICATE: X - FOR PRESENT E - FOR EXCUSED U - FOR UNEXCUSED

LIST OF THOSE WHO DID NOT ATTEND 75% OF MEETINGS:

- Eric Strickland (All Absences Excused with Notice)

FORM MUST BE SIGNED BY CHAIRPERSON (APPROVED)

 (Chairperson)

Stephanie Landrum
Administrator & Assistant Secretary
On behalf of Jennifer Atkins, Chair

ALEXANDRIA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Summary Minutes September 15, 2023 8:30 a.m.

Directors

Jennifer Atkins

Chair

Christopher Hartman

Vice Chair

Eric Strickland

Secretary-Treasurer

Dwight Dunton

Lisa Edouard

Dak Hardwick

Tom Hyde

Present: Jennifer Atkins
Chris Hartman
Dwight Dunton
Lisa Edouard
Dak Hardwick
Tom Hyde

Also Present: Michael Graff, McGuire Woods
Wynn Hunsaker, Alexandria Economic Development Partnership
Christina Mindrup, Alexandria Economic Development Partnership
Kendel Taylor, City of Alexandria

Counsel to the AIDA

Michael W. Graff, Jr.

McGuireWoods LLP

Staff to the AIDA

Stephanie Landrum

Christina Mindrup

Wynn Hunsaker

AEDP, Inc.

I. Call to Order

Chair Jennifer Atkins called the meeting to order at 8:34 am and welcomed Authority members and guests.

II. Approval of June 2, 2023 Meeting Summary Minutes

Chair Atkins entertained a motion for the approval of the minutes of the June 2, 2023, meeting.

Motion: Tom Hyde moved, and Dak Hardwick seconded a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was passed 6-0; Hyde, Hardwick, Atkins, Hartman, Dunton, and Edouard in favor.

III. Old Business

Old Town North Arts District - Christina Mindrup provided the Authority with an update on the Old Town North Arts District and highlighted the impact of the recent development approval of one project, Montgomery Center. Ms. Mindrup explained that this project, in the process of converting building's use from commercial to residential, would result in the displacement of The Art League's headquarters location. The Art League was seeking assistance from AEDP and the Authority to retain their headquarters within the City of Alexandria at a location identified on Slaters Lane. The headquarters relocation to Slaters Lane would allow The Art League to honor its commitment to activate The Muse project in Old Town North.

The Art League Financing Plan – Wynn Hunsaker detailed the required tenant improvement costs that would be necessary for The Art League to undertake if the organization relocated to Slaters Lane. Mr. Hunsaker then outlined a financing plan for Authority consideration to assist The Art League with funding these necessary buildout costs. The Authority discussed the merits of retaining the organization within the City of Alexandria, the activation of the Muse space, as well as the mechanics for repayment of the loan and revenue-backed bond issuance.

Bank Account and Tri-Party Agreement – Mr. Hunsaker provided an update on the Authority's bank account and outlined the necessary bank requirements for the proposed financing plan. Kendel Taylor updated the Authority on the status of the Tri-Party agreement and its impact on the financial relationship between the City and Authority.

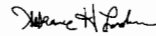
IV. Consideration of a Resolution to Support the Art League Financing Plan

Dwight Dunton proposed an amendment to the Resolution to include interest accrual on the second loan after the first loan was retired. Chair Atkins entertained a motion to amend and approve the proposed Resolution to Support The Art League Financing Plan.

Motion: Tom Hyde moved, and Lisa Edouard seconded a motion to approve the amended Resolution to Support The Art League Financing Plan. The motion was passed 6-0; Hyde, Edouard, Atkins, Hartman, Dunton, and Hardwick in favor.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Atkins adjourned the meeting at 9:35am.



Stephanie Landrum, Assistant Secretary

THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

Summary Minutes

October 18, 2023

8:45 a.m.

Directors

Jennifer Atkins

Chair

Christopher Hartman

Vice Chair

Eric Strickland

Secretary-Treasurer

Dwight Dunton

Lisa Edouard

Dak Hardwick

Tom Hyde

Present:

Jennifer Atkins

Chris Hartman

Lisa Edouard

Dak Hardwick

Tom Hyde

Also Present:

Michael Graff, McGuire Woods

Wynn Hunsaker, Alexandria Economic Development Partnership

Christina Mindrup, Alexandria Economic Development Partnership

Kendel Taylor, City of Alexandria

Counsel to the AIDA

Michael W. Graff, Jr.

McGuireWoods LLP

Staff to the AIDA

Stephanie Landrum

Christina Mindrup

Wynn Hunsaker

AEDP, Inc.

I. Call to Order

Chair Jennifer Atkins called the meeting to order at 8:52 am and welcomed Authority members and guests.

II. New Business

The Art League Financing Plan - Mr. Mike Graff informed the board that the Resolution approved by the board at the September 19th regular meeting was not properly notified to the public. Mr. Graff went on to explain that the proper public notice requirements were now met, and the Resolution was eligible to be considered by the board.

Chair Atkins entertained a motion to approve the proposed Resolution to Support the Art League Financing Plan.

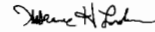
Motion: Tom Hyde moved, and Dak Hardwick seconded a motion to approve the Resolution to Support The Art League Financing Plan. The motion was passed 5-0; Hyde, Hardwick, Atkins, Hartman, Edouard in favor.

601 PRINCE STREET, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

PHONE: (703) 739-3820 Fax: (703) 739-1384

III. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Atkins adjourned the meeting at 8:57am.



Stephanie Landrum, Assistant Secretary

THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

Summary Minutes
February 02, 2024
8:00 a.m.

Directors

Jennifer Atkins
Chair

Christopher Hartman
Vice Chair

Eric Strickland
Secretary-Treasurer

Dwight Dunton
Lisa Edouard
Dak Hardwick
Tom Hyde

Counsel to the AIDA

Michael W. Graff, Jr.
McGuireWoods LLP

Staff to the AIDA

Stephanie Landrum
Christina Mindrup
Wynn Hunsaker
AEDP, Inc.

Present: Jennifer Atkins
Chris Hartman
Dwight Dunton
Lisa Edouard
Tom Hyde

Also Present: Michael Graff, McGuire Woods
Wynn Hunsaker, Alexandria Economic Development Partnership
Stephanie Landrum, Alexandria Economic Development Partnership
Christina Mindrup, Alexandria Economic Development Partnership
Kendel Taylor, City of Alexandria

I. Call to Order

Chair Jennifer Atkins called the meeting to order at 8:11 am and welcomed Authority members and guests.

II. Approval of September 07, 2023 Meeting Summary Minutes

Chair Atkins entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the September 07, 2023 meeting.

Motion: Tom Hyde moved, and Dwight Dunton seconded a motion approve the minutes of the September 07, 2023 meeting. The motion was passed 4-0; Hyde, Dunton, Atkins, Edouard in favor.

III. Approval of October 18, 2023 Meeting Summary Minutes

Chair Atkins entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2023 meeting.

Motion: Tom Hyde moved, and Dwight Dunton seconded a motion approve the minutes of the October 18, 2023 meeting. The motion was passed 4-0; Hyde, Dunton, Atkins, Edouard in favor.

IV. Old Business

a. Slaters Lane Project Update

Mr. Wynn Hunsaker gave a report on the progress of The Art League's fundraising efforts and the current status of the organization's tenant improvement buildout at Slaters Lane. Mr. Hunsaker shared both construction and loan administration updates for the project and the current project schedule.

601 PRINCE STREET, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314
PHONE: (703) 739-3820 Fax: (703) 739-1384

V. New Business

a. Muse Commercial Condominium Acquisition Overview

Mr. Hunsaker provided an overview of the proposed acquisition of the commercial condominium units at the Muse project in Old Town North. Mr. Hunsaker shared relevant financial information related to the transaction and ongoing operations of the property. Mr. Tom Hyde was designated as the Authority's representative on the condominium association board for the property.

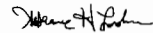
b. Consideration of a Resolution to Support the Muse Commercial Condominium Acquisition

Chair Atkins entertained a motion to approve the Resolution to Support the Muse Commercial Condominium Acquisition.

Motion: Dwight Dunton moved, and Christopher Hartman seconded a motion to approve the Resolution to Support the Muse Commercial Condominium Acquisition. The motion was passed 5-0; Dunton, Hartman, Atkins, Edouard, Hyde in favor.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Atkins adjourned the meeting at 8:47am.



Stephanie Landrum, Assistant Secretary

THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

Summary Minutes May 17, 2024 8:30 a.m.

Directors

Jennifer Atkins

Chair

Christopher Hartman

Vice Chair

Eric Strickland

Secretary-Treasurer

Dwight Dunton

Lisa Edouard

Dak Hardwick

Tom Hyde

Counsel to the AIDA

Michael W. Graff, Jr.

McGuireWoods LLP

Staff to the AIDA

Stephanie Landrum

Christina Mindrup

Wynn Hunsaker

AEDP, Inc.

Present: Jennifer Atkins
Christopher Hartman
Eric Strickland (virtual)
Dwight Dunton
Lisa Edouard
Dak Hardwick

Also Present: Michael Graff, McGuire Woods
Wynn Hunsaker, Alexandria Economic Development Partnership
Stephanie Landrum, Alexandria Economic Development Partnership
Marian Marquez, Alexandria Economic Development Partnership
Christina Mindrup, Alexandria Economic Development Partnership
Julian Gonsalves, City of Alexandria
Kendel Taylor, City of Alexandria

I. Call to Order

Chair Jennifer Atkins called the meeting to order at 8:34 am and welcomed Authority members and guests. The Authority acknowledged the electronic participation of one member, allowed per the Authority's adopted electronic participation policy.

II. Approval of February 02, 2024 Meeting Summary Minutes

Chair Atkins entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the February 02, 2024 meeting.

Motion: Dak Hardwick moved, and Lisa Edouard seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the February 02, 2024 meeting. The motion was passed 6-0; Hardwick, Edouard, Atkins, Hartman, Strickland, Dunton in favor.

III. Torpedo Factory Art Center Governance Update

Julian Gonsalves gave the Authority an update on the restructuring of the governing body of the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Mr. Gonsalves reported ConsultEcon's findings and conducted an activity survey with the Board.

IV. Consideration of a Resolution Approving the Issuance of Revenue Bonds for

Goodwin House

Michael Graff presented a resolution to approve the conversion of revenue bonds for Goodwin House. Mr. Graff explained that the resolution would permit Goodwin House to convert its existing taxable bonds to tax-exempt. The action was contemplated as part of an earlier approved IDA transaction. The Authority discussed their fees and their comparison to neighboring jurisdictions.

Chair Atkins entertained a motion to approve the Resolution Approving the Issuance of Revenue Bonds for Goodwin House.

Motion: Dwight Dunton moved, and Christopher Hartman seconded a motion to approve the Resolution Approving the Issuance of Revenue Bonds for Goodwin House. The motion was passed 6-0; Dunton, Hartman, Atkins, Strickland, Edouard, Hardwick in favor.

V. Old Business

a. Slaters Lane Project Update

Wynn Hunsaker reported on the progress of The Art League's tenant improvement buildout at Slaters Lane. Mr. Hunsaker shared both construction and loan administration updates for the project and the current schedule.

b. Muse Project Update

Mr. Hunsaker provided an update on the acquisition of the commercial condominium units at the Muse project in Old Town North. Mr. Hunsaker shared the current status of the construction buildout and construction loan.

New Business

a. Review and Approval of the Alexandria IDA The Muse LLC FY2025 Operating Budget

Mr. Hunsaker presented the FY2025 Operating Budget including supplementary schedules for the Muse condominium units. Mr. Hunsaker provided additional details about the cash flow schedule and individual expense line items.

Chair Atkins entertained a motion to approve the FY 2025 Operating Budget as presented.

Motion: Christopher Hartman moved, and Dwight Dunton seconded a motion to approve the Alexandria IDA The Muse LLC FY2025 Operating Budget. The motion was passed 6-0, Hartman, Dunton, Atkins, Strickland, Edouard, Hardwick in favor.

b. Election of Officers – As part of the Authority's Annual Meeting, the Authority considered the election of a slate of officers for the 2025 Fiscal Year in accordance with the Organization's bylaws.

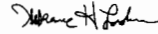
Chair Atkins entertained a motion to consider the election of a slate of officers to serve for the upcoming fiscal year.

601 PRINCE STREET, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314
PHONE: (703) 739-3820 Fax: (703) 739-1384

Motion: Dak Hardwick moved and Dwight Dunton seconded a motion to nominate Jennifer Atkins as Chair, Christ Hartman as Vice Chair, and Eric Strickland as Secretary-Treasurer. The motion passed 6-0; Hardwick, Dunton, Atkins, Hartman, Strickland, Edouard, in favor.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Atkins adjourned the meeting at 9:38am.



Stephanie Landrum, Assistant Secretary

**Alexandria Industrial Development Authority
Applications Approved/Bonds Issued
FY2024: July 2023-June 2024**

DATE	AMOUNT	APPLICANT	LENDER	FEE
May-24	-	Goodwin House		\$ 3,500 @

TOTALS: **\$0 0 new applications** **\$3,500**

Income from other sources:				
Jul 2023	--	Issuers Fees from Pooled Program	Wells Fargo	\$65.03

TOTAL Fees collected in FY2024 **\$3,565**

- * Balance Due (Application fee paid previously)
- ** Application Fee
- # Refinancing
- ! Application processed in previous FY
- @ Administrative Action

Overview of Program FY2019 - FY2024	
Bonds Issued	Fees Collected
\$1,564,409,870	\$3,874,938

Total applicants 90

**Landlord Tenant Relations Board
Draft Annual Report
July 2023– June 2024**

Mission: The Landlord Tenant Relations Board was established by City Council in 1971 to investigate and mediate landlord-tenant disputes and to make recommendations to City Council with respect to public policies affecting landlords and tenants. The duties, powers and responsibilities of the Landlord Tenant Relations Board can be found in §12-5 of the Alexandria City Code and include the following:

- Consider grievances of landlords and tenants when grievances are referred to the Board by City staff
- Act in an advisory capacity to the City Council on public policies affecting landlords and tenants
- Formulate and recommend legislative proposals to City Council
- Develop and publish guidelines and summaries regarding the rights and responsibilities of landlords and tenants, and
- Participate in educational activities relating to landlord-tenant issues.

Within these guidelines, the Landlord Tenant Relations Board completed the following activities during its 2023-2024 fiscal year.

MEMBERS SERVING DURING FISCAL YEAR FY 2023

The following members served on the Landlord Tenant Relations Board during Fiscal Year 2023:

- James Axelrod – Landlord (resigned April 2024)
- Geraldine Baldwin - Tenant (term ended April 2024)
- Olivia Jenkins – Landlord (resigned April 2024)
- Elijah St. Dennis – Homeowner, Chair
- Bonnie Naugle – Tenant
- Katherine O’Connell – Tenant, Human Rights liaison to LTRB, Vice Chair
- Amber Pendergrass – Landlord
- Elliot Waters – Homeowner
- Victoria Kelley – Homeowner

CITY STAFF

The Landlord Tenant Relations Board is staffed by the Office of Housing. Melodie Seau, Landlord Tenant Relations Division Chief, serves as the citizen officer/secretary.

FISCALR 2024

HIGHLIGHTS

Review of Relocation Plans

The Landlord Tenant Relations Board (LTRB) held a public hearing and reviewed the relocation plan for the Ladrey Highrise owned ARHA and to be redeveloped in partnership with Winn Companies and IBF Development.

Voluntary Rent Guidelines

The Board will review the Voluntary Rent Guidelines in the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

Annual Apartment Managers' Seminar

The Annual Apartment Managers' Seminar was held virtually on November 9, 2023, and was titled "Navigating the New Normal: Virginia's Landlord Tenant Legal Landscape after COVID." The presentation covered legal changes such as notice requirements, source of funds discrimination, late fee limitations, and resources for supporting tenants with anxiety or behavioral health concerns. More than 70 people participated.

Tenant Know Your Rights Training

In August and September of 2023, the City provided two tenant "Know Your Rights" presentations for residents of Southern Towers.

Legislation Review

Staff liaison Melodie Seau provided overviews of legislation being considered in the General Assembly and status reports for each bill. This activity will inform future LTRB legislative recommendations to City Council.

Presentations

In September 2023 the Board met with Kara Coughlin, Liz Achuff, and Ross Matzkin-Bridger from the Carlyle Place Tenants Association to hear concerns about building conditions.

In December 2023 Ms. Natalie Talis, Population Health Manager for the Alexandria Health Department, advised the Board of the development of the Healthy Homes Initiative and the Healthy Homes Task Force.

In May 2024 Office of Housing and Planning and Zoning Staff presented the housing recommendations from the Alexandria West Small Area Plan.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

September 10, 2024

From: Alexandria Library Board

To: Alexandria City Council

Subject: Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2024

LIBRARY BOARD MISSION

In accordance with an agreement with the City of Alexandria, the Alexandria Library Board sets the policies, rules and regulations of the Library; submits a budget to the City for the operation and maintenance of the Library; and appoints and approves such personnel as are necessary to operate the Library. The Board also sits as the Boards of the James M. Duncan, Jr. Foundation and the Alexandria Library Foundation, Inc. that monitors their investment portfolios and approves grants from these funds.

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

The Library Board consists of seven members: three appointed by City Council to serve two-year terms, three elected by the Alexandria Library Company to serve three-year terms, and one City Council Representative to serve a three-year term. The three City Council appointees are limited to five consecutive terms. The City Council appointees are Albert Moseley, II (elected 1/10/23), Dianne Fox (elected 2/14/23) and Trudi Hahn (elected 2/14/23). Oscar Fitzgerald was reelected to a three-year term by the Library Company at their annual meeting (5/31/23). The two other members representing the Library Company are Robert Ray, IV (elected 12/15/22) and Patsy Dane Rogers (elected 5/20/21). Libby Bawcombe was elected by the Library Company in June 2024 to fill the position of Patsy Rogers whose term expired, and she did not want to be reappointed. Canek Aguirre (appointed 1/2/22) serves as the City Council representative.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

At the June meeting Dianne Fox, chair of the Nominating Committee, put forward the following nominations for officers on the Board: (Hahn as Chair, Ray as Vice Chair, Bawcombe as Secretary and Moseley as Treasurer). The Board approved the slate unanimously.

MEETINGS

The Board met six times during the fiscal year: September 18, 2023 at the Beatley Library; October 16, 2023 at the Barrett Library; December 18, 2023 at the Beatley

Library: February 22, 2024 at the Duncan Branch Library: April 15, 2024 at the Burke Branch Library: and June 17, 2024 at the Beatley Library. All board members exceeded the 75% attendance requirement set by the City.

OVERSIGHT

During these meetings Director Rose Dawson kept the Board abreast of major developments in operations, services, usage, facility conditions, personnel matters and all other significant developments in the Library system.

The Board continued to be impressed with Director Dawson's leadership. Her involvement with leadership positions in both state and national library organizations continued to draw much favorable attention to the Alexandria Library system.

ANNUAL AUDIT

At the October meeting, Director Dawson reported that the Library had received a copy of the annual audit for FY 2023 . The Library received a clean bill of health with no negative findings. Director Dawson credited Division Chief Laura Gates, and Fiscal Analyst, Johanna Seltzer for producing clean audits for two years in a row. The Board voted to send a formal commendation letter to Division Chief Gates for her good work.

BUDGET

In February Director Dawson presented a summary of the Library's FY 25 operating budget that was submitted to the City Manager. To meet the 1% cut in the operating budget the Library proposed to increase Passport revenue by adding 2,500 new appointments. The Cybersecurity Enhancements request including a full time position, was first priority as a result of the recent hacking of the Library's computer system. A second priority was the addition of a permanent staff to man the newly arrived outreach vehicle. The third priority was to permanently fund the mobile hotspot and Chromebook lending programs so that the Library would not be the only one in the region without such a program. At the April meeting Director Dawson reported that the City Manager's proposed budget including first and third priorities. Councilmember Aguirre submitted a proposal to fund the full time outreach position using the Library's increase in State Aid and to fund the part-time outreach position using general funds from the City. His proposal had the support of 6 of the seven Council members.

COMPENSATION SHORTFALLS

The Board continued to be concerned that compensation for Alexandria library employees was significantly below libraries in surrounding jurisdictions. At a September meeting with friends groups and the City Manager the two major concerns were staff compensation and facility maintenance. Chair Hahn drafted a follow up letter to the City

Manager to reiterate these concerns. Director Dawson reported at the December meeting of the Board that the Human Resources Department had completed a Library compensation study that recommended increasing compensation for most Library jobs by 5% to 15%. She said that the City Manager had approved the suggested compensation increases and that they would be implemented in January 2024. The board voted unanimously to accept the results of the market analysis and compensation study and send a letter of thanks to the City Manager for his support.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

At the April meeting three members of the Board agreed to serve on a fact finding task force to investigate the issue of collective bargaining for Alexandria Library staff and to report back to the Board in the fall with their findings.

LIBRARY CLOSURES

At the February meeting Director Dawson proposed that the Library be closed on Friday, May 17, 2024, for Staff Day. The theme this year was "Courage" in honor of the theme of the 85th Anniversary of the Library Sit-in and due to the bravery it takes to work in a Library these days. The Board approved the request unanimously.

BURKE BRANCH RENOVATIONS

The Board continues to be concerned about the renovation of the first floor of the Burke Branch. Chair Hahn, Board members, Director Dawson, staff and Burke Friends met with the architect and contractors regarding the first floor renovation project as part of the design phase which concluded in March.

KUDOS

The Board is pleased to recognize the Fiscal 2024 Director's Awards and Outstanding Performance Awards (OPA) winners:

Comments	Type of Award

Anu Singla	Teamwork and cooperation in working with fellow employees to attain the goals of the organization	OPA
Michelle Biwer	An innovative or creative approach to a project or assignment that results in successful project completion beyond normal expectations	OPA
IT Staff (Brandon Mosoriak, Syed Hussain, D'Antoine Bennett)	An idea or method that significantly improves the administrative or operational efficiency of a work group, division, or department. AND Actions that result in a tangible and measurable savings in any or all of the following: time, labor, space, equipment, or supplies.	Directors
Josstin Gogue	Service to the public	Directors
Bianca Brown and Veronica Milliner	Efficiency, effectiveness, and productivity in job performance; Teamwork and cooperation in working with fellow employees to attain the goals of the organization; Actions which strengthen and contribute to the effectiveness of the nominee's immediate work group; Actions that result in a tangible and measurable savings in any or all of the following; time, labor, space, equipment or supplies.	Directors
Rania Chaya	Service to the public; Teamwork and cooperation in working with fellow employees to attain the goals of the organization.	OPA
Neeta Pattni	Service to the public; Efficiency, effectiveness, and productivity in job performance.	OPA
Jessica Shea	Efficiency, effectiveness, and productivity in job performance; Teamwork and cooperation in working with fellow employees to attain the goals of the organization; Actions which strengthen and contribute to the effectiveness of the nominee's immediate work group; An idea that significantly improves the administrative or operational efficiency of a work group, division, or department.	OPA
Johanna Seltzer	Actions that result in a tangible and measurable savings in any or all of the following: time, labor, space, equipment, or supplies	OPA

Laura Gates	Teamwork and cooperation in working with fellow employees to attain the goals of the organization; Efficiency, effectiveness, and productivity in job performance	OPA
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Finally, the Board would like to thank the Mayor, the City Council, and the City Manager for their continuing support of the Alexandria Library.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Trudi Hahn, Chair (City Council Appointee)

Robert Ray IV, Vice Chair (Library Company Representative)

Libby Bawcombe, Secretary (Library Company Representative)

Albert Moseley II, Treasurer (City Council Appointee)

Canek Aguirre, (City Council Representative)

Oscar Fitzgerald, (Library Company Representative)

Dianne Fox, (City Council Appointee)

ADVISORY GROUP ANNUAL ATTENDANCE REPORT

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
ALEXANDRIA LIBRARY BOARD
MEETING ATTENDANCE REPORT**

JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024

CHAIRPERSON: Trudi Bellardo Hahn

MEMBER'S NAME	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Trudi Bellardo Hahn			X	X		X		X		X		X
Robert Ray IV			X	X		X		X		X		X
Albert Moseley			X	X		E		X		X		X
Dianne Fox			X	X		X		X		X		X
Oscar Fitzgerald			X	X		X		X		X		E
Patsy D. Rogers			X	X		X		X		X		E
Canek Aguirre			X	X		E		X		X		E

INDICATE: X - FOR PRESENT

E - FOR EXCUSED

U - FOR UNEXCUSED

LIST OF THOSE WHO DID NOT ATTEND 75% OF MEETINGS:

•

FORM MUST BE SIGNED BY CHAIRPERSON

(APPROVED)  **(Chairperson)**

City of Alexandria Park & Recreation Commission
Annual Report
July 2023 – June 2024

Summary of Accomplishments

The mission of the Park & Recreation Commission is to advise City Council in matters relating to parkland, recreation and culture, and participate in planning recreational activities and services through its advice to Council and to the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities. Within these guidelines, the Park & Recreation Commission membership completed the following activities during its 2023-2024 year.

Park & Recreation Policy and Membership Accomplishments

Membership remained consistent through the year. The Commission held one virtual and nine in-person meetings from July 2023 through June 2024 and maintained at quorum during the year. Although the Commission continues to be successful in vacancy recruitment, the Commission will consider avenues to increase diversity of the membership in future recruitment opportunities.

- List participation/Coordination with other advisory groups as relevant:
 - One-member representative assigned/appointed to, or followed activities pertaining to open space and recreation activities with the following advisory groups and/or committees:
 - Zoning for Housing - Phase II
 - Eisenhower East CDD Update
 - Waterfront Commission
 - Youth Sports Advisory Committee
 - Potomac River Generating Station (PRGS) Development Project
 - High School Project
 - George Mason Modernization Project
 - Landmark/Van Dorn Area Planning Development Project
 - Eisenhower West Development Plan
 - AlexWest Draft Small Area Plan
- List any policy changes
 - None

Program and/or Legislative Accomplishments

- The Commission provided comments on FY 2025 Proposed Budget and Capital Improvement Program reaffirming the City's commitment to funding planned capital expenditures, operations, and maintenance of the parks, and consider creative funding to

ensure the future and continued success of the implementation of the park plans. The Commission has identified six priorities (1) Ensuring the availability of sports fields & open space; (2) Investing in new facilities; (3) Increasing RPCA maintenance budget; (4) Supporting the RPCA administrative needs; (5) Exploring creative, new non-traditional revenue generation opportunities to supplement budget; and (6) Addressing waterfront flooding. Endorsement Letter attached.

- The Commission received an update on the Alexandria Waterfront Implementation Plan. Recognizing the waterfront is one of Alexandria's most prominent and important gathering places for residents and tourists alike, the Commission was disappointed at the elimination of the passive, underground stormwater storage, however, the Commission supported moving forward and recognize that changes may still be made as the process moves forward. The Commission provided four primary considerations: (1) This project is urgent and commend the City and its team for their continued efforts to move this project forward within the budget available; (2) The City should plan for and prioritize park improvements in Waterfront Park; (3) Encourage bathrooms be added to the Waterfront Park pumping station; and (4) Concerned about the size, scope, scale, design and potential noise of the singular pump station in waterfront park. Endorsement Letter attached.
- The Commission hosted a Public Hearing and provided its support for the AlexWest Draft Small Area Plan. The plan addresses a number of issues critical to ensuring residents have ready access to open space, recreation facilities, and other amenities that improve quality of life. This Small Area Plan was highlighted for an update by City staff and the Council in the FY 2023 Long-Range Planning Interdepartmental Work Program, and one of the primary areas of interest to the Commission is the proposed improvements to open space and recreation facilities. Endorsement Letter attached.
- Based on its participation in the Superintendent Advisory Committee on the Modernization of George Mason Elementary School and public comments received, the Commission sent a letter to City Council urging the city to consider plans that would retain the two diamond fields, incorporate a new rectangular turf field and prioritize open space. Letter attached.
- The Commission reviewed, made recommendations and endorsed multiple Park Projects, Small Area Plans, Develop Special Use Permit and Policy Recommendations to ensure open space and other attributes support community wellbeing including:
 - Eugene Simpson Park Renovation
 - North Potomac Yard Park
 - PRGS Property Privat Development
 - Vulcan Property Private Development
 - Ewald Park Improvement Recommendations
 - AlexWest Draft Small Area Plan

Commission activities and addition work accomplished may be found by visiting <https://www.alexandriava.gov/25560>

Goals for 2024-2025

- The Commission will continue to:
 - Work with Alexandria residents and staff to evaluate existing recreation programs, facilitate public input and make recommendations to enhance and expand programs in order to serve the diverse needs of all of the City’s residents.
 - Hold public hearings on future Department projects and work with staff to ensure budget proposals reflect future CIP facility additions and renovations, as well as the operational needs of the Department. Among others, the Commission plans to hold a public hearing in particular on the future of Cameron Run Park this year to initiate community discussion in advance of the expiration of the City’s lease with NOVA Parks and budget in FY26 to fund additional community outreach.
 - Work on issues pertaining to parkland and facility needs in support of City Council’s Strategic Master Plan, RPCA Strategic Master Plan; City Open Space Master Plan, and Capital Facilities Maintenance Program
 - Initiate cooperative and coordinated planning with the Alexandria City Public School System in developing mutual benefiting opportunities on current school sites that are scheduled for redevelopment and expansion in the coming decade.
 - To ensure the preservation of existing open space and to expand open space as useable open space for the community and not turned over for commercial gain or solely to meet Clean Water mandates.
 - Increase resident participation at Park & Recreation Commission.
 - Provide support to staff in the update of the Cost Allocation and Resource Recover Policy, last updated in 2019.

Leadership

- Officers for the 2024-2025 year will be Dana Robert Colarulli, Chair; Katy Matthews, Vice Chair; and Stewart Fox, Secretary.
- List term expirations and new members, with month they were appointed in 2023-2024:
 - Rania Shuster (Resigned/Graduated 06/2024)
 - Barbara Marvin (term ended 01/2024)
- During the course of the year, membership included the following individuals:

Planning District I	Planning District II	Planning District III	Youth Representatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stuart Fox • Paul Komelasky • Barbara Marvin • Jeffrey Miller 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephen Beggs, Chair • Dana Colarulli • Geoff Goode 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Brennan • Katy Matthews • Philip Voorhees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rania Shuster • Tookie Organek

- Jack Browand, Deputy Director and the Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities acted as the staff liaison to the Park & Recreation Commission during the course of the 2023-2024 year.

Attachments

1. **FY 2025 Budget Memo to City Manager**
2. **Waterfront Small Area Plan Implementation Endorsement**
3. **AlexWest Draft Small Area Plan Endorsement**



Park & Recreation Commission

Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities

1108 Jefferson Street

Alexandria, Virginia 22314

August 13, 2024

Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council
City of Alexandria
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

RE: AlexWest Draft Small Area Plan

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council,

On behalf of the City's Park and Recreation Commission, we are writing to express our support for the AlexWest Draft Small Area Plan released by the City in June. The plan addresses a number of issues critical to ensuring residents have ready access to open space, recreation facilities, and other amenities that improve quality of life. This Small Area Plan was highlighted for an update by City staff and the Council in the FY 2023 Long-Range Planning Interdepartmental Work Program, and one of the primary areas of interest to the Commission is the proposed improvements to open space and recreation facilities.

The AlexWest Small Area Plan will increase the number of parks and open space areas, as well as make sure that all residents can reach one of these areas within a 10-minute walk of their home. Existing resources in the areas are significant -- 132 acres of publicly accessible parks - but easy access from the surrounding neighborhoods is not. Currently, 23% of residents living in the area are outside of this 10-minute radius. In the development of this plan, an emphasis was placed on increasing access points and making sure that city spaces and amenities are more evenly distributed. This represents effective and efficient use of City resources, and City staff should be commended for their significant efforts to provide equitable access to open space. In addition, the city did extensive outreach with the community and continues to receive and respond to feedback on the website.

Certain items in the plan should be prioritized. This includes the need for an additional recreation center that is open to community use during school hours. The only recreation center currently in Alexandria West is William Ramsay which is unavailable during school hours. The City should also increase the network of trails and other pedestrian- and bike-friendly routes that connect the existing and planned parks and open spaces, and upgrade access points to ensure all users can take advantage of them. The plan calls for new parks and open space, and we encourage the City, through the planning process, to

incentivize developers to also improve access to existing resources and create even more open space and recreation resources as part of the development approval process.

Lastly, as the City is about to embark on updating the Environmental Action Plan, we urge a renewed focus on cataloguing the existing tree canopy and taking every opportunity to increase the number of native trees in the City. This could include adding trees to existing open spaces, but the priority should be to plant native trees as part of new open space development and throughout the plan area. As you know, increasing the urban tree canopy has demonstrable environmental (reducing the urban heat island effect, improving air quality, and reducing stormwater runoff), economic (increasing property values), and social (adding shade to improve open space recreation areas) benefits.

The Commission encourages City Council to adopt the AlexWest Small Area Plan and to continue to look for ways to further improve open space and recreation resources in this growing area of our City.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to the Commission if we can further advise on this issue.

Sincerely,


Dana Colarulli (Aug 14, 2024 17:34 EDT)

Dana Colarulli, Chair
Park & Recreation Commission


Geoffrey Goode (Aug 14, 2024 17:57 EDT)

Geoff Goode, Planning District II
Park & Recreation Commission

cc: Park & Recreation Commission members
James Parajon, City Manager
Emily Baker, Deputy City Manager
James Spengler, Director, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities
Jack Browand, Deputy Director, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities



Park & Recreation Commission

Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities
1108 Jefferson Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

April 18, 2024

Mr. James Parajon
City Manager
City of Alexandria
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

RE: Waterfront Small Area Plan Implementation

Dear Jim,

The Commission received an update on the Alexandria Waterfront Implementation Plan in March. Given that the proposals to improve our stormwater management and address flooding in Old Town has changed significantly since the letter we sent to City Council nearly two years ago (June 16, 2022), wanted to memorialize and share our current feedback with you.

The waterfront is one of Alexandria's most prominent and important gathering places for residents and tourists alike. As we said in 2022, the economic and social costs caused frequent and severe flooding requires aggressive action.

In general, the Commission supports the plan as recently presented. We were disappointed at the elimination of the passive, underground stormwater storage which we supported in our previous letter. However, we support moving forward and recognize that changes may still be made as the process moves forward. A few points to consider:


1. **This project is urgent.** We commend the City and its team for their continued efforts to move this project forward within the budget available and we recognize that, given its scope, the project cannot all be accomplished with the current CIP allocation. However, any delays in the project will increase the both scope of the problems and the total costs, therefore we believe the current design build strategy that is being proposed will result in doing *something* to start improving the flooding which is desperately needed.
2. **The City should plan for and prioritize park improvements in Waterfront Park.** We would like to see an analysis of the costs of the long-awaited park improvements to Waterfront Park as envisioned in the Waterfront Small Area Plan. The update we received indicated that these improvements had to be removed due to budgetary constraints and that there was currently no


pathway to complete this work, which would leave the Park in a permanent interim stage. While we agree to prioritize flood mitigation efforts, these should be coupled with a plan to complete already approved Park improvements. The funds allocated to this project are to facilitate implementation of the Waterfront Small Area Plan, and while we agree to prioritize flood mitigation efforts, these should be coupled with a plan to complete the needed Park improvements.

3. **We encourage the bathrooms to be added to the Waterfront Park pumping station.** We understand efforts are already underway to include these facilities in current the project – amenities very much needed on the Waterfront - and support the efforts to add them in the initial phase of this project as opposed to in a subsequent phase.
4. **We are concerned about the size, scope, scale, design and potential noise of the singular pump station in waterfront park.** We understand that the plans are far from final but urge the City to carefully consider the plans and look to minimize the size of the above ground portion of the planned facility. As currently envisioned, the project will eliminate approximately 4,600 square feet of park space with a 30-foot-tall building. We hope that after this project is completed, the remaining space will continue to be space for the public to use and enjoy.

Please reach out to us if you would like to discuss any of these points. We also invite you to join us at a upcoming Commission meeting sometime in 2024.

Sincerely,


[Dana Colarulli \(Apr 18, 2024 15:01 EDT\)](#)
Dana Robert Colarulli, Acting Chair
Park & Recreation Commission


[Stuart Fox \(Apr 19, 2024 09:14 GMT+12\)](#)
Stuart Fox, Member
Park & Recreation Commission

cc: Honorable Mayor & Members of the Alexandria City Council
Park & Recreation Commission members
Waterfront Commission members
Emily Baker, Deputy City Manager
James Spengler, Director, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities
Jack Browand, Deputy Director, Staff Liaison to the Parks & Recreation Commission
Terry Suehr, Director, Department of Project Implementation
Matthew Landes, Portfolio Manager, Department of Project Implementation



Park & Recreation Commission

Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities
1108 Jefferson Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

November 3, 2023

Mr. James Parajon
City Manager
City of Alexandria
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

RE: Park & Recreation Commission Priorities for FY 2025 Budget

Dear Jim,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on budget priorities for FY 2025. Based on our meetings and discussions during the past year, the Commission has identified six priorities:

1. Ensuring the availability of sports fields & open space
2. Investing in new facilities
3. Increasing RPCA maintenance budget
4. Supporting the RPCA administrative needs
5. Exploring creative, new non-traditional revenue generation opportunities to supplement budget
6. Addressing waterfront flooding

Ensuring the availability of recreational fields & open space.

A combination of events has led to a significant increase in demand for recreational field space -- including COVID recovery, population increases, and new school construction. The Commission believes that the most efficient way to ensure availability of recreational spaces is with more synthetic turf and lighted fields. This enables the same number of fields to service many more hours of use throughout the year for a comparatively nominal cost. This important work should continue and expand to more sites to allow for increased capacity.

We also encourage the City to continue its recent practice of pursuing public access easements for open space in new developments which efficiently allow public access to these spaces while minimizing maintenance and operating expenses. We are particularly excited about – and have had an opportunity to review – the new open spaces being developed in the old Oakville Triangle, Potomac Yard, Virginia Tech and (longer term) at the HRP PRGS and Landmark Mall sites.

Investing in New Facilities and Parks to Better Serve our Growing Community

The City adopted an overall parks plan 10 years ago. Significantly, we have only completed 23% of all the planned upgrades & improvements since that time. We understand that the City's Capital Improvement Program is actively discussed and a top priority for Staff and Council alike. We believe

Signature: 
Email: danacolors@gmail.com

Signature: 
Stuart Fox (Nov 3, 2023 16:49 EDT)
Email: sfox@route66ventures.com

that funding more of the programs that were identified in the last 10-year plan, including Hensley Park, makes our community greener, more livable and attractive for those currently living in -- and this considering to move to -- the City of Alexandria.

Increasing RPCA maintenance budget.

Even though the number of parks and facilities that RPCA manages continues to increase, the maintenance budgets have barely increased in the past decade. The Department has done a stellar job managing our facilities more efficiently, but without proper maintenance our long-term expenses will increase substantially, and we risk requiring more capital improvement more regularly. Increasing the operating budget to maintain our facilities at a high level is critical.

Supporting the RPCA administrative needs.

The City must support its staff to attract and retain top-tier talent. We must provide competitive salaries as well as pathways for growth within the City, so that we are attracting and maintaining top performing staff. This is particularly the case within our Recreations Centers for staff playing critical roles providing after-school care and engagement programs as well as an increasingly diverse set of programs for all residents. These investments make the Department more efficient and better able to achieve its mission.

Exploring creative, new non-traditional revenue generation opportunities.

Today, an increasing share of the RPCA operating budget is funded via cost recovery, rentals, and classes. We encourage this trend to continue for several reasons:

1. to limit the impact to the City's operating budgets;
2. to ensure that we are providing the greatest value to our stakeholders: our City residents; and
3. to better align the programs and services we provide with the wants and needs of our community -- including considering new projects and new uses of city spaces.

We encourage RPCA to update its Resource Allocation Model with these priorities in mind and the goals of generating revenue, providing valuable services, and living up to our City's values and responsibilities.

Addressing waterfront flooding.

Waterfront flooding continues to severely impact multiple parks on a regular basis throughout the year. The engagement of Skanska/JMT as the phase 1A contractor the Waterfront Flood Mitigation Project is a big step in the right direction, however, there remains a tremendous volume of critical work to be done to ensure that we maximize the dollars being invested into the Waterfront and its parks that we know and are so loved by our community and visitors alike.

Please reach out to us if you'd like to further discuss or would like us to advise on other related issues.

Sincerely,

Dana R. Colarulli

Dana Robert Colarulli, Acting Chair
Park & Recreation Commission

Stuart A. Fox

Stuart Fox, Member
Park & Recreation Commission

cc: Honorable Mayor & Members of the Alexandria City Council
Park & Recreation Commission members
Emily Baker, Deputy City Manager
James Spengler, Director, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities
Jack Browand, Deputy Director, Staff Liaison to the Parks & Recreation Commission

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
MEETINGS ATTENDANCE REPORT**

JULY 2023 THROUGH JUNE 2024

COMMISSION: Park & Recreation Commission

MEMBER'S NAME	2023						2024					
	July	Aug	Sep 21	Oct 25	Nov 16	Dec	Jan 19	Feb 29	Mar 21	Apr 18	May 16	June 20
Stephen Beggs, Chair	---	---	X	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Dana Colarulli, Vice Chair	---	---	X	X	X	---	X	X	X	X	X	X
Katy Matthews, Secretary	---	---	X	E	X	---	X	X	X	X	X	X
David Brennan	---	---	X	X	E	---	X	X	X	X	X	X
Stuart Fox	---	---	X	X	E	---	X	E	X	E	X	X
Phillip Voorhees	---	---	X	X	X	---	E	X	E	E	U	X
Paul Komelasky	---	---	---	---	---	---	X	X	X	X	E	X
Geoffrey Goode	---	---	X	X	X	---	X	X	X	X	X	X
Jeffrey Miller	---	---	X	X	X	---	X	X	X	X	X	X
Joseph Fray	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	E
Tookie Organek (youth)	---	---	X	E	X	---	X	X	X	X	E	X
Rania Shuster (youth)	---	---	E	E	X	---	E	E	U	E	---	---

Note: The Park and Recreation Commission does not generally meet in August and December.
(*indicates special non-regular meeting)

INDICATE: X = PRESENT E = EXCUSED U= UNEXCUSED (Quorum is 50% + 1)

LIST OF THOSE WHO DID NOT ATTEND 75% OF MEETINGS: Stuart Fox – 66%, Phillip Voorhees – 55%, Rania Shuster – 14%

CHAIRPERSON APPROVED:

Dana Colarulli, Chair:



Attendance Report 2023-2024



City of Alexandria, Virginia

Planning Commission Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2024

INSIDE THIS REPORT

- 2 **Background and Summary of Regulatory Activities**
- 3 **Long Range Planning**
- 4 **Zoning for Housing/
Housing for All**
- 5 **Development Cases**
- 10 **Land Use Services/
Special Use Permits &
Sign Ordinance Update**
- 12 **Membership & Attendance**

BACKGROUND:

The Planning Commission is appointed by City Council and performs its duties under Chapter 9 of the City Charter, Title 7 of the City Code, and Section 11-500 of the Zoning Ordinance. It is charged with adopting, reviewing, and amending the City's Master Plan, making final decisions on Subdivision and Site Plan regulatory cases, and making recommendations to City Council on other regulatory cases such as Zoning Text Amendments, Special Use Permits, Development Special Use Permits, Encroachments, and Vacation proposals.

In Fiscal Year 2024, The Planning Commission held 12 Public Hearings, including one on November 1, 2023, which was a Special Public Hearing on Zoning for Housing/Housing for All.

WORK SESSIONS:

The Planning Commission held several Work Sessions during FY 2024, including two Joint Work Sessions with the City Council on Zoning for Housing/Housing for All; one was held on June 26, 2023 (FY 2023) and one was held on September 5, 2023 (FY 2024). Also, a Planning Commission Work Session was held October 3, 2023 on Zoning for Housing/Housing for All. Further, a Planning Commission Work Session on AlexWest was held on January 4, 2024. A Planning Commission Work Session on the Sign Ordinance Update was held on April 4, 2024. Further information on these Work Sessions and the related matters is included in the following pages.

SUMMARY OF REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

Regulatory Cases	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Public Hearing Special Use Permits (SUP)	19	37	27
Encroachments, Subdivisions and Vacations	15	8	7
Development Projects (DSP/DSUP)	22	18	17
Master Plan Amendments and Re-zonings	21	12	13
Zoning Text Amendments	12	9	7
Consolidated Development District (CDD) Conceptual Design Plans	5	2	2
City Charter Section 9.06	8	2	1
Transportation Management Plan Special Use Permits	11	10	1
Total	113	98	75
Administrative Approvals			
Administrative Special Use Permits (SUP)	35	40	33

Seventy-five (75) regulatory cases were considered by the Planning Commission in FY 2024, as shown in the table above. These cases were heard during 12 Public Hearings. The number of cases for FY 2022 and FY 2023 are included in the table above for comparison.

All regulatory cases were either recommended to City Council for approval or approved by the Planning Commission. Subdivisions and Site Plans are approved by the Planning Commission and do not require approval by the City Council. However, these cases are placed on the City Council Docket for informational purposes only.

FY 2024 Public Hearing case types stayed steady for the most part consistent with FY 2023. However, Public Hearing Special Use Permit declined approximately 25 percent. The reason for the decrease in FY 2024 may be tied to the fact that many Special Use Permits no longer require Public Hearings as their processes have been streamlined. Example changes include restaurant uses and home businesses no longer require Public Hearing Special Use Permits. Another reason for the drop in Special Use Permits may be a decrease in substandard lot redevelopment. The City was processing several Special Use Permits for substandard lots per year until interest rates increased. Additionally, as of September 1, 2023, the City made outdoor dining in the public right of way an administrative use.

The following pages provide examples of the case types recommended for approval by the Planning Commission in FY 2024. All FY 2024 Planning Commission Dockets, and Dockets prior to FY 2024, include Staff Reports and Presentations for all cases and can be found on the [City's Meeting Dockets and Video Webpage](#).

LONG RANGE PLANNING

AlexWest Work Session

On January 4, 2024, staff provided an update on the AlexWest planning process and received feedback on the draft Framework Elements of the Plan. The Department of Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES) staff also discussed mobility and safety projects in the Plan Area and their ongoing efforts to enhance safety on existing roadways. As part of the community planning process, prior to the Work Session, staff engaged with 1,500 community members and over 30 community organizations through online polling and in person events. Engagement was prioritized in key areas where residents are most at risk of displacement and interpretation and translation was provided in several languages.



Interdepartmental Long Range Planning Work Program FY 2024-2025

City departments involved in long-range planning and implementation jointly prepare a work program for the upcoming fiscal year and beyond. The draft Work Program is presented for Planning Commission and City Council feedback early in the calendar year. In June 2023, the Planning Commission recommended approval and City Council approved a two-year work program for FY 2024– 2025.

FY 2024-25 Long Range Planning Interdepartmental Work Plan
As approved by City Council June 27, 2023

Internal Staff Work Community Engagement Public Hearing

MAJOR PLANS/PROJECTS	FY 2023		FY 2024				FY 2025	
	Sum-Fall	Fall-Wint	Wint-Spr	Spring-Sum	Sum-Fall	Fall-Wint	Wint-Spr	Spring-Sum
PZ LED								
1 Zoning for Housing/Housing for All (PZ, Housing)								
2 Alexandria West Plan (PZ, TES, Housing, RPCA, AEDP)								
3 Eisenhower East CDD Update (PZ, TES, RPCA, Housing)								
4 Zoning Text Amendments (PZ, Code, TES)								
5 Vision Plan/Land Use Master Plan Update (PZ, TES, Housing, RPCA)								
6 Eisenhower West CDD (PZ, TES, RPCA, Housing)								
7 Arlandria Zoning Implementation (PZ, TES, Housing)								
8 Duke Street Small Area Plan Update (PZ, TES, Housing, RPCA)								
TES LED								
9 FEMA Floodplain Remapping and Ordinance Revisions/Effective Changes (TES, PZ, OH)								
10 Flood Resilience Plan (TES, PZ, DPI, OEM)								
11 Chesapeake Bay Ph3 TMDL 100% Action Plan (TES, DPI, PZ, GS, ACPS)								
12 Duke Street in Motion (Transitway Conceptual Planning, Environmental & Design) (TES, DPI, PZ)								
13 Lower King Street Closure (TES, PZ, DPI, RPCA)								
14 Beauregard Ellipse Analysis & Concept Design (TES, PZ)								
15 Update City's Multimodal Transportation Study Guidelines and Standards								
16 Parking Standards Evaluation & Update (TES, PZ, Housing)								
17 Curbside Management for Food Trucks (TES, PZ, CAD)								
RPCA LED								
18 Public Open Space Policy Plan (RPCA, PZ, TES, DPI)								
19 Urban Forestry Master Plan Update (RPCA, PZ, TES)								
20 Citywide Parks Improvement Plan Update (RPCA, PZ, TES)								
21 NEW Eisenhower East Park under the Metro Tracks (RPCA, PZ)								
22 Recreation Center Facilities Standards and Landscape Plans (RPCA)								
23 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update (RPCA, PZ, TES)								
24 Dog Park Master Plan Update (RPCA, TES, DPI, PZ)								
25 Cameron Run Regional Park Feasibility Study (RPCA, TES, PZ)								
26 Neighborhood Parks Improvement Plan Update (RPCA, PZ, TES)								
27 Old Town North Linear Park Planning (RPCA, PZ, TES)								
OH LED								
28 ARNA Master Plan Sites—Samuel Madden and Ladrey (ARNA, Housing, PZ)								
29 WMATA Affordable Housing Feasibility Study (Housing, PZ, TES, CMO-RASE/P3)								
30 Housing Master Plan Update (Housing, PZ, CMO-RASE/P3, TES, AEDP, ACPS)								
OCA LED								
31 Climate Heat Vulnerability Assessment & Planning (OCA, GS, TES, PZ, RPCA, OH, DCHS, Fire, APD, Code, OMB, Finance, ACPS)								
32 Green Building Policy Updates (OCA, GS, TES, PZ, RPCA, Housing, Code, OMB, Finance, ACPS)								
OTMHP AGENCY LED PLANS/PROJECTS								
33 Project Management Standards (DPI, TES, OMB, GS, RPCA, ITS)								
34 Freedom House Planning (OHA, DPI, GS)								

ZONING FOR HOUSING/HOUSING FOR ALL

The Planning Commission held three Work Sessions on Zoning for Housing/Housing for all in FY 2023 and FY 2024, with two of them held as Joint Work Sessions with the City Council. Following public input, data gathering and analysis, the Planning Commission recommended approval of the Initiative on November 1, 2023 and the City Council approved the Initiative on November 28, 2023. Three Public Hearings on Zoning for Housing/Housing for All occurred in November with approximately 300 speakers.

Information on the Zoning for Housing reforms and Housing for All, the equity component, can be found on its webpage at <https://www.alexandriava.gov/planning-and-zoning/zoning-for-housinghousing-for-all>



**ZONING FOR HOUSING
HOUSING FOR ALL**
Accessibility. Affordability. Availability.

DEVELOPMENT CASES

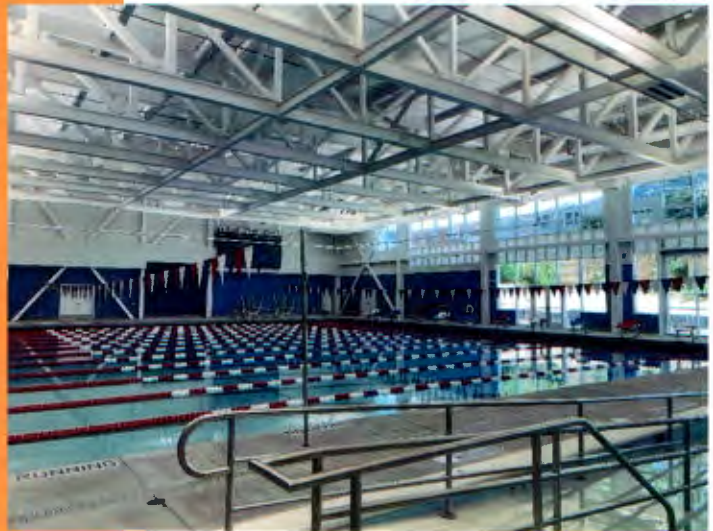
Alexandria City High School—Minnie Howard Campus

The new Minnie Howard Campus completed the first phase of construction with a ribbon cutting ceremony in May 2024. The school building opened for academic year 2024-2025, providing over 300,000 square feet of education space designed for 1,600 students, a full size gymnasium, and 25-yard indoor pool for competitive swimming and diving as well as several co-located spaces such as a new Health Department Teen Wellness Center, and Department of Community and Human Services programming for families. In addition, the site features many community recreational facilities, including an artificial turf athletic field, outdoor tennis, basketball and pickleball courts, and a perimeter walking path at the rear of the site connecting the various recreational areas. The recreation facilities will begin construction as part of phase two, anticipated to be completed in the fall of 2025. The school is designed to meet LEED Gold and Net Zero standards, the first building in Alexandria designed to meet this high standard. Net Zero energy will be achieved through a combination of nearly three acres of photovoltaic panels and about two acres of geothermal wells for the heating and cooling system.

Address: 3701 W. Braddock Road



Approved: January 2022



View of new, competition length indoor pool

DEVELOPMENT CASES

Meridian 2250



Construction of the 26-story residential building known as Meridian 2250 at Eisenhower Station, located on the western portion of Block 20, was completed in July 2024. The 420 Unit residential development includes rooftop open space, and a half-acre, publicly accessible dog park on the southern portion of the development's site. Pedestrian streetscape improvements connect the dog park with the open space and pond improvements along Eisenhower Avenue completed with the adjacent Parc Meridian development.

The project, which received Planning Commission and City Council approval in December 2017, includes 15 on-site affordable units with an estimated value of approximately \$3 million. In addition to the on-site open spaces, the applicant agreed to contribute \$350,000 to area parks. Public art has been installed on the exterior walls of the above-grade parking garage. The building is a distinctive new addition to the Eisenhower East Town Center skyline.

Address: 2250 Mill Road
Approved: December 2017
Completed: June/July 2024

DEVELOPMENT CASES

WMATA Headquarters Building

Completed in October 2023, the building is approximately 400,000 square feet with 14 stories. This project is part of a regional effort by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) to consolidate offices to three headquarters in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. For the Virginia headquarters, WMATA has chosen Alexandria, near the Eisenhower Avenue Metro Station. The building includes a roof top green space as well as a public art installation at the lobby level. This project continues to build momentum for the mixed use Eisenhower Town Center.

Address: 2401 Mill Road

Approved: July 2019



View of building from SE along Mill Road
(picture courtesy of JairLynch)



View of building from SW along Mill Road (picture courtesy of JairLynch)

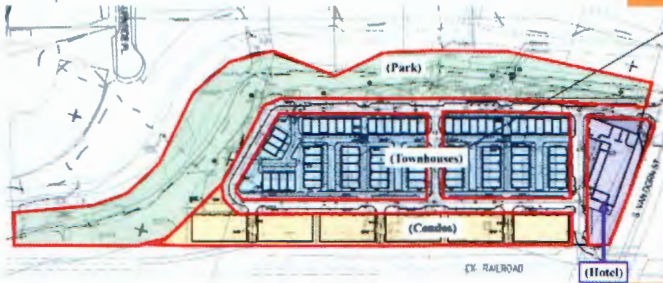


DEVELOPMENT CASES

Vulcan Redevelopment Site



Hotel (view from S. Van Dorn)



Site Plan showing the public park boundaries in green



Townhouses (facing new road D and public park)

In April 2024, the Planning Commission and City Council approved the 17.8 acre Vulcan Site Redevelopment to transform the brownfield site into a new neighborhood. While close to the Van Dorn Metro Station, the site posed challenges with access from S Van Dorn Street and environmental remediation from previous industrial use. The approved project overcame these challenges and will deliver a 256-room dual-branded hotel with ground floor retail, 14 townhouses and stacked townhouse “sticks” with 199 units, and 6 condominium buildings with 204 units. The development also includes a 6-acre protection area associated with Backlick Run.

The applicant will contribute about \$112,000 toward Capital Bikeshare, \$250,000 toward public art, \$2.6 million toward constructing Backlick Run Park, and \$3.5 million toward affordable housing. The contemporary buildings will all comply with the City’s 2019 Green Building Policy, with the National Green Building Standard’s Silver Certification pursued for the condo flats, townhouses, and stacked townhouses; and LEED Silver pursued for the hotel. The redevelopment advances several 2015 Eisenhower West Small Area Plan goals, including restoring Backlick Run, providing a new street network (with opportunities to connect further to S Pickett Street and to the Virginia Paving Company Site), and a range of housing types.

Address: 701 S Van Dorn St. and 698 Burnside Pl.

Approved: April 2024

DEVELOPMENT CASES

Tidelock Site Redevelopment

In January 2022, the Planning Commission and City Council approved the 1.38-acre Tidelock Site Redevelopment to transform a portion of the underutilized office development site (known as Transpotomac Plaza) into a mixed-use site with one rental multi-unit building, one condo building, and restaurant and arts and cultural use building which will be home to the Levine School of Music. The project includes 234 units, 10 of which are affordable and 21,120 square feet of open space, with 6,212 square feet to be publicly accessible. In 2023, the applicant modified the restaurant and arts building to remove the second floor and rooftop deck, in consultation with the Urban Design Advisory Committee for Old Town North. The project is currently under construction.

The applicant's monetary contributions include about \$30,000 to Capital Bikeshare, \$9,000 to the Urban Forestry Fund, \$560,000 to the Old Town North Implementation fund, and \$200,000 to affordable housing. The contemporary buildings will all comply with the City's 2019 Green Building Policy, with LEED Silver certification for the entire site. The redevelopment advances several goals of the Old Town North Small Area Plan and Urban Design Standards and Guidelines, including the enhancement of the Old Town North Arts and Cultural District, providing a range of uses and housing options, and integration of historic interpretation.

Address: 1033, 1055, and 1111 N Fairfax Street

Approved: January 2022



View of entire site from east elevation



Site Plan



Site under construction, summer 2024

LAND USE SERVICES/ SPECIAL USE PERMITS

FY 2024 Special Use Permits strengthening Community Connections

Special Use Permit Approvals Strengthen Community Connections

In September 2023 the Planning Commission and City Council approved SUP #2023-00052 which enabled the Art League to relocate to the long-term vacant building at 800 Slaters Lane, ensuring that the revered art school and its exhibition space and community gathering area remained within the City. Almost 7,000 students a year of all ages and skill levels will continue taking classes in the 17 new studio spaces, focusing on drawing, painting, watercolor, fiber art, ceramics, sculpture, printmaking, photography, jewelry making, clay animation, silk screening, and stained glass at a location not far from its previous Montgomery Street space. As part of the Special Use Permit, important safety and aesthetic enhancements to the parking lot were also addressed.



Relocation of the Art League



Gustave Boulangerie and Brasserie's Community Recreation and Entertainment Venue



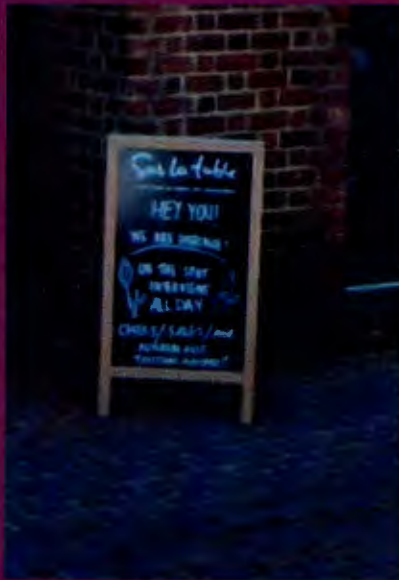
Expanding on support for community gathering spaces in the City, in June, 2024 the Planning Commission and City Council approved SUP #2024-00033 to allow outdoor dining and outdoor recreation and entertainment at Gustave Boulangerie and Brasserie, 2207 Mount Vernon Avenue. The Del Ray outdoor space has become popular with Alexandria neighborhood residents as it provides a family friendly and relaxing place to meet at the extensive dining, bocce ball court, and sandbox areas. The business operator may add an approved outdoor off-leash dog play area in the future.

LAND USE SERVICES/ SPECIAL USE PERMITS

SIGN ORDINANCE UPDATE

At the April 4 Planning Commission Public Hearing, the Planning Commission held a Work Session on potential updates to the City's Sign Ordinance. At the Work Session, staff established the main goals of the update which include improvements to organization, clarity, and consistency. Regulation of specific sign types were also discussed including those regulating digital signs, A-frames in the publish right-of-way, illuminated signs on buildings more than 35 feet high, pole signs, and painted wall signs/murals. Staff discussed potential policy directions for each of these sign types. The Planning Commission was generally open to regulating most of these sign types differently. Prior to the Work Session, staff held a virtual community meeting on April 1. The Planning Commission Work Session mirrored the community meeting's format. Attendees of the community meeting were divided on changing the regulations on A-frames and digital signs.

Staff intends to share draft language reflecting staff research and analysis with the Planning Commission and community input in fall 2024. The draft language will be available on the City website and the community will have an opportunity to provide comments. Staff also intends to hold a second community meeting in fall 2024. Given this timeframe, staff anticipates that the final Sign Ordinance Update would be considered by the December 2024 Planning Commission and City Council Public Hearings.



MEMBERSHIP & ATTENDANCE

There were no changes in the membership of the Planning Commission for FY 2024. Elections were held in March 2024; Chair Nathan Macek was re-elected as Chair and Vice Chair Melissa McMahon was re-elected as Vice Chair. All members attended at least 75 percent of the scheduled meetings in FY 2024.

Planning Commission appointments to other Commissions and Work Groups for FY 2024 are noted below. In FY 2025, Stephen Koenig will join the 2025 Superintendent's George Mason Elementary Modernization Advisory Team.

<u>2024 Group</u>	<u>Planning Commission Member</u>
Transportation Commission*	Melissa McMahon, Chair Jody Manor, Member
Waterfront Commission*	Nathan Macek*
Green Building Policy Advisory Group	Stephen Koenig
ARHA Redevelopment Work Group	Stephen Koenig
Eisenhower West/Landmark Van Dorn Implementation Advisory Group	Mindy Lyle (Chair)
Open Space Steering Committee	David Brown
Duke Street Transitway Advisory Group	Mindy Lyle

* Appointments subject to City Council Approval

MEMBERSHIP & ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION: Planning Commission

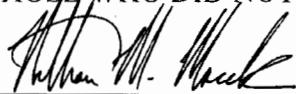
CHAIR: Nathan Macek

Public Hearing Meetings

Board Member	2023					2024						
	Sep 5	Oct 3	Nov 1	Nov 6	Dec 5	Jan 4	Feb 6	Mar 5	Apr 4	May 7	Jun 4	Jun 24
Nathan Macek, Chair	X	X	X	V	X	X	X	X	X	X	V	E
Melissa McMahon, Vice Chair	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Mindy Lyle	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
David Brown	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Stephen Koenig	V	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Jody Manor	X	X	X	X late	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	V late
Vivian Ramirez	X	X	V	X	X	X	X	X	X late	X	X	X

***There were no Planning Commission Public Hearings in the months of July and August 2023.**

INDICATE: (X) PRESENT; (E) EXCUSED, (U) UNEXCUSED, (V) VIRTUAL
 LIST OF THOSE WHO DID NOT ATTEND 75% OF MEETINGS: NONE

Approved: 

Nathan Macek, Chair

OTHER

Planning Commission Information

The Planning Commission's process for elections to fill leadership positions, namely, Chair and Vice Chair, is specified in its By-laws and involves the election of officers on an annual basis in March. Elections this year are described in the summary of membership and attendance. As called for in the By-laws, it is the vote of the Planning Commission that determines changes in leadership. Membership changes can also affect changes in the Planning Commission's leadership.

Questions?

Please contact Planning & Zoning staff at 703.746.4666 or email the Planning Commission at PlanComm@alexandriava.gov.

City of Alexandria
Department of Planning & Zoning
Room 2100
301 King Street Alexandria, VA 22314

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: AUGUST 15, 2024

TO: GLORIA SITTON, CITY CLERK
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK AND CLERK OF COUNCIL

THRU: KARL MORITZ, DIRECTOR
PLANNING & ZONING

FROM: NANCY APPLEBY, ACTING CHAIR
POTOMAC YARD DESIGN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: FY 2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT of the PYDAC

This is the submittal for the Annual Report for the Potomac Yard Design Advisory Committee (PYDAC) for the Fiscal Year 2024 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024), as required by City Code Section 2-4-7(i)(1).

Summary of Accomplishments

The mission of the Potomac Yard Design Advisory Committee is to review development applications for development within CDD #10 (Potomac Yard (South) and CDD #19 (North Potomac Yard) for consistency with the Potomac Yard Design Guidelines and the North Potomac Yard Design Guidelines and the North Potomac Yard Design Excellence Standards. PYDAC provides guidance to staff and makes formal recommendations to the Planning Commission on new development proposals as well as amendments to previously approved projects. The Potomac Yard Design Advisory Committee met once during the 2023/2024 fiscal session. This was due in part to the absence of any new submission or amendments to previously approved submissions as well as the slowdown in the general economy. A proposal for a sports arena and performing arts venue on the site of the innovation district was not pursued.

Policy and Membership Accomplishments

None during this fiscal year. Several new members joined the committee and received an orientation from City staff.

Program Accomplishments

In FY2023, PYDAC met once to receive an update on the status of the Innovation District. In particular this included an update on the infrastructure, Metro Plaza space in front of the North Pavilion and the extension of the liner park. No other projects came forward for review.

Projects that were completed or opened included the following:

- Potomac Yard Metrorail Station
- The North Potomac Yard Pump Station
- Linear Park from Glebe Road to the north end of the Innovation District

Projects under Construction include:

- Virginia Tech Building which is slated to open in early 2025

Goals for the Coming Year

The Committee will also be available to provide any necessary reviews of changes to approved buildings in Phase 1 redevelopment of North Potomac Yard or provide reviews of any remaining land bays in South Potomac Yard, as applicable.

Leadership

- Jeremy Fretts, Chair (term expired 06.14.2024)
- Nancy Appleby, Vice-Chair

New Members and Expirations

- Daniel Roth (1/31/2026)
- Joyce Williams (3/31/2026)
- Peter Bahm (4/30/2026)

Complete Committee Membership with Roles and Terms

Name	Term Expiration	Role
Jeremy Fretts (Chair)	June 14, 2024	Architect
Nancy Appleby (Vice-Chair)	June 14, 2025	Potomac Yard Area Rep
Melissa Kuennen	November 30, 2025	Landscape Architect
Vacant		Potomac East Rep
Peter Bahm	April 30, 2026	Potomac East Rep

Joyce Williams	March 31, 2026	Potomac Yard Area Rep
Sean Sweeney	March 31, 2025	Potomac West Rep
Brandon Masur	September 30, 2024	Potomac West Rep
Daniel Roth	January 31, 2026	Civic Association in Potomac Yard Rep
Nicholas Gueterman	May 31, 2025	Business Community Rep
Vacant		National Park Service Rep

Committee Attendance

July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024*

The Committee last met on July 26, 2023. The Committee selected a new Vice Chair and received an update on the current construction projects in both Potomac Yard and North Potomac Yard.

*Note that only members current at the time of the July 2023 meeting are listed as this was the only meeting held during the last fiscal year.


MEMBER'S NAME	JUL	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Jeremy Fretts (Term Expired)	X										
Melissa Bennett	E										
Nancy Appleby	X										
James Horsman (Term Expired)											
Sean Sweeney	X										
Alex Stack (Term Expired)	X										
Brandon Mansur	X										
Nicholas Gueterman	X										

INDICATE: X- FOR PRESENT E- FOR EXCUSED U- FOR UNEXCUSED

LIST OF THOSE WHO DID NOT ATTEND 75% OF MEETINGS: None
Staff Liaisons

- Dirk Geratz and Abigail Harwell, Planning and Zoning, acted as the staff liaisons to the Potomac Yard Design Advisory Committee during the 2023/4fiscal year.

PYDAC Chairperson Approval

APPROVED  DATE 8/15/24

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COMMISSION

**Annual Report
July 2023 – June 2024**

Summary of Accomplishments

The mission of the PHAC includes advising Council on any and all issues affecting public health in Alexandria. Within these guidelines, the PHAC members completed the following activities during FY24.

PHAC Policy and Membership Accomplishments

- PHAC submitted for consideration several legislative recommendations, including: a) availability of LGBTQIA Health Information and Services, b) HB 947 regulating the location of tobacco-related sales, c) protection of reproductive health care rights, and d) reimbursement for Community Health Workers.
- PHAC submitted to the Mayor and City Council a recommendation and decision support framework regarding the transition of the Health Department to local administration.
- PHAC hosted the 2023 Flora K. Casey Award at City Hall in November. This year's award honored the efforts of Allen Lomax.
- The PHAC Chair and Vice-chair met monthly with the Director of the Alexandria Health Department and key staff to exchange ideas and information on critical public health issues.
- PHAC welcomed several new members this year, including the CSB representative, a position that previously had a long-term vacancy. Interest in the commission has been high.
- PHAC convened monthly to set priorities and hear from liaisons and the Health Department regarding key activities, issues and concerns for PHAC awareness and/or action.

PHAC Member Activities

- **Jerome Cordts (Chair):** a) led exploration of the potential for local health department administration, b) initiated structured process for prioritizing PHAC issues and activities, c) met with Northern VA Health District Directors to understand local administration advantages and disadvantages, d) facilitated relationships with organizations that have appointed positions on the commission to encourage temporary fulfillment and official nominations of longstanding vacant positions.
- **Lisa Chimento (Vice Chair):** Represented the PHAC on the Community Health Assessment Steering Committee during the initial survey development phase; met with Partnership for Healthier Alexandria, Commission on Aging, and Economic Opportunities Commission to identify collaboration opportunities with the PHAC; assisted with planning for Flora Casey Award presentation and presented the award at the event.
- **Anita McClendon:** One of two CHIP Mental Health Literacy Work Group representatives; PHAC representative on the Community Health Assessment Steering Committee; facilitated Leadership and Strategic Planning development work with Alexandria Health Department.

- **David Bowen:** Alternate representative on the Community Health Assessment Steering Committee
- **Tricia Rodgers:** Representative of the Metrics Subcommittee of the Health Homes Initiative.
- **Richard Merritt:** Introduced new report Gun Violence as a Public Health Crisis to commission (still in progress for FY25); Previously adopted Advancing Health Equity by Reducing Tobacco Use and Exposure to Secondhand Smoke Report was sent in support to State HB 947 letter sent to Council; Sponsored resolution to reinstate Flora K. Casey Award; Prepared Health Equity Action Plan for FY 25; Met with Commission on Aging leadership to evaluate where the two commission could work together; attended multiple City Council meetings; presented physical award and previous MRC proclamation at MRC event.
- **JeanAnn Mayhan:** Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria representative and CHIP Steering Committee: One of two PHAC Mental Health Literacy Work Group representatives; ACAP Leadership Council and participated in four key events (Peer Advocates training, Wrap up Alexandria program, May Sex ed for All Month, 11th Annual Youth Leadership Conference); participated in bi-monthly Hunger Free Alexandria Meetings; Advocate for Concerned Citizens Network of Alexandria and participated in seven CCNA sponsored Programs; participated in over five community outreach events and attended three trainings with MRC; Attended and participated in multiple City Council meetings.
- **Melissa Riddy (Inova):** Sponsored resolution for the reinstatement of the Flora K. Casey award and supported work on reworking the nomination process. Inova co-sponsored the event ceremony in November 2023.
- Chair and three commissioners attended the Primary Care for All Americans presentation.
- Multiple members remain active in the Medical Reserve Corps.

Program and/or Legislative Accomplishments

- Topical Discussion in FY 24:
 - Medicaid Unwinding and impact in Alexandria
 - Health Equity
 - Gun Safety
 - Local Administration of the Health Department
 - Inova Hospital at Landmark
 - Community Health Improvement Plan and Community Health Assessment

Submitted the following to Council:

- Letter to Mayor and Council regarding Local Administration of the Health Department and offer of PHAC input.
- Budget Response letter to the City Manager
- Letter to Council encouraging support of enacting HB947 in Alexandria (restriction of sales locations near schools and child care centers).

Guest Speakers and Public Engagement

- Guest speaker from DCHS Public Benefits Department, Patrick Okoronkwo, provided an update to the commission on the unwinding of temporarily expanded Medicaid benefits.
- Adrienne Fikes, of the PLTI Alexandria People's Association spoke to the commission about their organization and attended several meetings as a guest.
- Patricia Mathews, Northern Virginia Health Foundation, spoke with the commission about the Dying Too Soon Report, and health disparities in Northern Virginia.

Goals for 2024-2025

- PHAC is continuing promote the Flora K. Casey Public Health Award. The commission voted to return the awards ceremony to Public Health Week (first week of April). The next award will be presented in April 2025.
- PHAC continues to work on determining goals. Will be participating in goal/strategy planning sessions in the fall of 2024. Will work on introducing new topics of discussion and action.

Leadership

- Jerome Cordts and Lisa Chimento were recertified as Chair and Vice-Chair in December 2023. Leadership appointments are held in December of each year.

- During the course of the year, membership included the following individuals:

- Chair Jerome Cordts
- Vice Chair Lisa Chimento
- Andrew Romero
- Patricia Rodgers
- Dr. Michael Trahos
- Richard Merritt
- JeanAnn Mayhan
- Melissa Riddy
- Anita McClendon
- Sylvia Jones
- Alex Long
- David Bowen
- Michele Walz
- Dr. Jessica Hill
- Robin Wallin

The Following people served as unofficial appointees for vacant positions:

- Assistant Chief Andrew Duke- Fire Department
- Philip Caldwell- CSB
- Dr. Lauren Gibberman- Northern Virginia Dental Society

- Casey Colzani and the Alexandria Health Department acted as the staff liaison to PHAC during the course of FY24; Dr. David Rose, Alexandria District Health Director, and Natalie Talis, Population Health Manager, regularly attend and present at monthly PHAC meetings.

Public Records Advisory Commission
Annual Report
July 2023 – June 2024

Summary of Accomplishments

The mission of the Public Records Advisory Commission (PRAC) includes providing advice and guidance to the City Records Administrator and Archivist on records management matters and implementation of the records program in the city. The commission is comprised of professional archivists, records managers, historians, research specialists, and citizens. Within these guidelines, the PRAC membership completed the following activities during its 2023/24 year.

PRAC Policy and Membership Accomplishments

- Sean Ferguson and Allan Krinsman both left PRAC during the 2023/2024 year, while David Kovalik, Carl Rohde, and Emma Parsons joined PRAC.

PRAC Member Activities

- Dennis McDonald continued serving as liaison to the IT Committee.
- With Sean Ferguson's departure, David Kovalik was appointed to be PRAC's representative to HARC.

Program and/or Legislative Accomplishments

- **Renovations:** Despite delays and issues with contractor competence, there has been much progress made to facility renovations within the past year, including replacement of sprinkler heads, HVAC and duct work, replacement of doors and windows, and replacement of the external fire escape. ARC has also kept in close contact with the Fire Department and General Services regarding construction of a burn building, its proximity to the ARC facility and its potential impact.
- **Digitization:** ARC has continued making progress on digitization of records. Certificate of Occupancy records were digitized, which greatly reduced FOIA-related search burdens. ARC also has begun digitizing new construction permits and supporting documentation (though not the construction plans themselves. Other newly digitized records include City Council records from the middle of the century. ARC has been loading digitized records into SharePoint. Overall, ARC has digitized 11,274 pages of documents.
- **Dashboard:** ARC had discussions with the City's Office of Performance about retention of copies from the City's online "dashboards," which display a mix of data related to City operations. It was decided not to retain copies of the constantly changing dashboards. Published documents or reports referenced by the dashboard displays, however, may be retained.

- **Interns & volunteers:** ARC retained several interns throughout the year. It has become the policy of ARC that interns and volunteers could only come on behalf of a university or other accountable program.
- **Staffing:** Annette Morris, Records Manager, and Jackie Cohan, Records Administrator & Archivist, both have plans to retire in the near-future. PRAC has discussed possible succession plans.
- **FOIAs/requests:** ARC received 172 requests for records this year, whether from FOIA, Alex 311, or from other City staff. ARC has spent about 390 hours fulfilling these requests and performed about 2100 search actions—a decline from last year, partly attributable to increased digitization.
- **Strategic vision and public access to documents:** PRAC has continually discussed the continued digitization of records, how that fits within the City’s Open Data plans, and ARC’s place and purpose in ensuring public access to City records. Dennis McDonald, our liaison to the IT Committee, has kept PRAC abreast of that committee’s activities and ensured that PRAC remains part of the conversation. PRAC also discussed our own goals and decided to continue moving forward with digitization and access efforts independent of the IT Commission.

As PRAC continued digitizing records, we investigated options to make those records more accessible to the public, especially given that SharePoint was determined to be not an appropriate way to do that. The current “Content Manager” software system, which support’s ARC processing and retention of City records, does have a web browser interface that might be linked to ARC city website pages, and we are investigating that option.

Jackie Cohan has been working closely with ITS to figure out what kind of accessibility options were available and the potential cost. In May 2024, the departmental ITS coordinator put in an official FY 2025 funding request to provide more records online. A bulk of the funding would go to Info First/Content Manager for upgrades and license cost. We hope that this will be a big step in our mission to have public records easily accessible online.

- **Grant opportunities:** In January 2024, Gov. Youngkin signed an executive order outlining how Virginia will be allowed to use artificial intelligence (AI) inside government agencies and education institutions. Given this state-level interest in AI technology, PRAC investigated whether it was possible to pursue a grant to study AI applications for archival work, but it did not appear the executive order provided for such.
- **Partnerships:** PRAC signed a HARC-led letter of support to the City Council in support a National Endowment for the Humanities grant to conduct a study of the storage needs of the City’s historic records.
- **Alexandria Historical Society records:** Alexandria Historical Society records that had been previously housed at ARC were de-accessioned to the Society.

Goals for 2024-2025

- **Strategic vision:** We aim to continue our mission of making public City records accessible to the general public, whether by increased digitization, more options for sharing records online, or otherwise—regardless of the pace of the City’s Open Data plans or IT Commission activities. The goals stated below also support this mission.
- **Staffing:** Given that ARC is set to lose its two longest-serving staff members, a clear succession plan must be developed. Although PRAC cannot be privy to all of these plans, this is something PRAC needs to continue to stay on top—not only to ensure continuity and smooth transitions for ARC, but also so that the City can continue to fulfil its statutory FOIA duties.
- **Digitization/FOIAs:** We will continue to prioritize digitization of Planning Commission records, permits, and other property-related records as these make up the bulk of FOIA requests. It may be advisable to hire someone to handle digitization of those records, since it’s such a huge project, and may require a grant to cover the costs of doing so. If those records would be readily accessible, that would also help with whoever replaces Jackie and Annette, since that new person wouldn’t have as much familiarity with the records.

We additionally hope that the official FY2025 ITS funding request for getting digitized collections online will be granted. This will not only help actualize our mission but also help relieve the FOIA fulfillment burden from ARC staff. Should that request be fulfilled, Jackie Cohan would be doing the indexing to make records public-facing.

Jackie has noticed that some Planning Commission minutes (about 2 boxes worth) need to be digitized again due to poor quality of the scanner at the time. The new scanner is more advanced and will produce higher-quality copies.

- **Staff training:** ARC used to hold an annual training every year for City departments; this is something we hope to implement in the coming year.

Leadership

- Lynn Jordan remained Chair for the 2023/2024 year.
- During the course of the year, membership included the following individuals:
 - Cameron Cook
 - Lynn Jordan
 - Allan Krinsman
 - Sean Ferguson
 - Dennis McDonald
 - David Kovalik

- Carl Rohde
 - Emma Parsons
- Jackie Cohan acted as the staff liaison to PRAC during the course of the 2023/2024 year.

Attachments

1. HARC letter in support of NEH grant

ADVISORY GROUP ANNUAL ATTENDANCE REPORT

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
Public Records Advisory Commission
MEETING ATTENDANCE REPORT**

JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024

CHAIRPERSON: Lynn Jorden

MEMBER'S NAME	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct*	No v	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Lynn Jorden	X	-	X		X	-	X	X	X	X	E	X
Cam Cook	X	-	X		X	-	X	X	X	E	X	X
Sean Ferguson	X	-	X		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dennis McDonald	X	-	X		X	-	X	X	X	E	X	X
Allan Krinsman	X	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
David Kovalik	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	E	X	X	X
Carl Rohde	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X
Emma Parsons	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X

* We cannot locate the minutes for October 2023, therefore attendance is unknown

INDICATE: X - FOR PRESENT E - FOR EXCUSED U - FOR UNEXCUSED

LIST OF THOSE WHO DID NOT ATTEND 75% OF MEETINGS:

- None

FORM MUST BE SIGNED BY CHAIRPERSON

**Board of Equalization and Assessment Review
Annual Report
July 2022– June 2023**

Summary of Accomplishments

The Board of Equalization and Assessment Review's primary and foremost concern is the equalization of real estate assessments to ensure that the real estate tax is borne equally by all.

A Board of Equalization **must**:

- Hear or receive appeals concerning the fair market value or uniformity of real estate assessments from any taxpayer or his agent, (the taxpayer may be the owner or a lessee of the property).
- Hear or receive all appeals concerning objections to the real estate assessment of any taxpayer or his duly appointed representative or any county or city through its appointed representative or attorney.
- Post public advertisement of its meetings; Conduct its meetings in public.
- Keep minutes of its meetings and notify the property owner, the commissioner of the revenue or director of finance or real estate assessor of any assessment change.
- Correct any known duplication or omissions in the assessment roll.
- Hear appeals concerning special assessment for agricultural, horticultural, forest and open space land use assessment (use values are set by the commissioner of the revenue or permanent assessor, rather than by a board of assessors).
- Prepare an annual written report of their actions and make such report available, upon request, to the public, the local governing body of the respective county, city, or town and to the Tax Commissioner.

Within these guidelines, the Board of Equalization and Assessment Review membership completed the following activities during the 2022-2023 period.

Board of Equalization and Assessment Review Policy and Membership Accomplishments

- The Board of Equalization and Assessment Review (BOE) is a State-mandated Board, tasked with hearing complaints and equalizing assessments. Members serve for a period of three years and are appointed by City Council or the Circuit Court.
- The BOE met 24 times during the 2022-2023 period. The board conducted two meetings for organizational purposes. The remaining meeting dates were for the purpose of hearing the appeals of assessment of real estate parcels. The following table will provide further details of submitted BOE appeals.

2022-2023 Submitted Appeals of Assessment	
Appeals of Assessment Hearings Held	43
Appeals of Assessment Withdrawn Without a Hearing	99
Total Appeals Submitted	142

- Membership remained steady and a quorum was met during each meeting throughout the year. A sustained effort was made to equalize real estate assessments within the City Of Alexandria.
- There were no changes in policy for the 2022-2023 period.

Leadership

- Officers for the upcoming year were elected at the June 1, 2022 Organizational Meeting: David Chitlik will serve as Chair, Alan Anderson as Vice-Chair. Anne Rector was elected as Board Secretary.
- During the course of the year, membership included the following individuals:
 - David Chitlik
 - Alan Anderson
 - Janet Coldsmith
 - Stephen Kindrick
 - John Quinn
 - Anne Rector
 - Gregory Wade
 - Vann Van Diepen
 - Joshua Bushman

- There were no term expirations or new members appointed during the 2022-2023 period.
- Daria Johnson (Office of Real Estate Assessments) acted as the staff liaison to Board of Equalization and Assessment Review during the course of the 2022/2023 year.

Attachments

1. Appendix F - 2022-2023 Attendance Report

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND ASSESSMENT REVIEW
MEETING ATTENDANCE REPORT**

JULY 1, 2022 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2023

CHAIRPERSON: DAVID CHITLIK

	Org. Mtg (June 1, 2022)	Jul 1	Jul 2	Jul 18	Jul 19	Jul 20	Jul 26	Jul 27	Aug 1	Aug 9	Aug 15	Aug 17	Aug 23	Aug 24	Aug 30	Aug 31	Sep 7	Sep 12	Sep 13	Sep 19	Sep 26	Nov 14	Nov 22	Wrap-up Mtg. (Mar 7, 2023)	Total
Alan Anderson	X	X	X	E	E	E	E	E	X	E	E	E	E	X	X	X	X	E	X	X	X	X	X	X	14
David Chitlik	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	E	X	E	X	X	X	X	X	X	E	X	X	X	21
Janet Coldsmith	X	E	E	E	E	E	X	X	X	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	X	X	X	X	X	E	E	X	10
Stephen Kindrick	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	E	X	X	X	23
John Quinn	X	E	E	E	E	X	X	X	X	E	X	X	E	E	X	X	X	X	X	E	E	X	X	X	15
Anne Rector	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	E	X	X	X	X	X	X	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	X	16
Gregory Wade	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	E	E	E	E	E	E	X	X	19
Vann Van Diepen	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	24
Joshua Bushman	X	E	E	X	X	E	X	E	E	X	E	E	X	E	X	E	E	E	E	X	E	E	E	X	10

INDICATE: X - FOR PRESENT

E - FOR EXCUSED

U - FOR UNEXCUSED

LIST OF THOSE WHO DID NOT ATTEND 75% OF MEETINGS:

- Alan Anderson
- Janet Coldsmith
- John Quinn
- Anne Rector
- Joshua Bushman

FORM MUST BE SIGNED BY CHAIRPERSON

(APPROVED)  (Chairperson)

**Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority Board of Commissioners
Annual Report
July 2023 – June 2024**

Summary of Accomplishments

The Alexandria redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA) was created as a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia and established by the City of Alexandria to provide and manage public housing for low- and moderate-income persons in the City of Alexandria. Within these guidelines, the ARHA Board’s activities during its 2023-24 year are summarized below.

ARHA Policy and Membership Accomplishments

- Former CEO, Keith Pettigrew, resigned in October 2023 and the Board undertook a nationwide search for a replacement. Rickie Maddox was appointed as the Interim CEO on November 1, 2023, and served until the Board named Erik Johnson as the new CEO effective September 9, 2024.
- The Board approved the purchase of 901 N. Alfred Street, a 1.2 acre site for future development.
- The Board approved the James Bland I, James Bland II, and Old Dominion repositioning plans from ACC (HUD annual payments) to RAD (HCVP/Section 8 voucher payments) in January 2024.
- The Board Chair and Vice Chair regularly briefed City Council on the Board’s activities via the City Council/ARHA Subcommittee meetings where program initiatives and development plans are discussed.

ARHA Board Member Activities

- List any member activities, if relevant, pertaining to members N/A

Program and/or Legislative Accomplishments

- Santa’s Winter Wonderland – This event was again presented in a hybrid (walk up/drive thru in the parking lot at the Charles Houston Recreation Center. Toys for 901 children from 361 families were prepackaged by age group. Staff delivered toys to the families that were unable to utilize one of the other two options.

- Coat and backpack distribution events were held in partnership with the Firefighters and Friends organization.

Goals for 2024-2025

List goals of the Advisory Group – N/A

Leadership

- Officers for the upcoming year are Anitra Androh, Chair, and Willie Bailey is the Vice-Chair. ARHA CEO Erik Johnson serves as Secretary.
- Current Board Member term expirations, with month they were appointed, are listed below.

Anitra Androh
 Current Term: Feb. 9, 2021 – Feb. 28, 2025
 Office/Role: CHAIRWOMAN/CITIZEN

Willie F. Bailey, Jr.
 Current Term: Mar. 10, 2020 – Mar. 31, 2024
 Office/Role: VICE CHAIRMAN/CITIZEN

Peter Kleeblatt
 Current Term: Jan. 10, 2023 – Jan. 31, 2027
 Office/Role: CITIZEN

Christopher Ballard
 Current Term: Oct. 12, 2021 – Oct. 31, 2025
 Office/Role: CITIZEN

Daniel Bauman
 Current Term: Jan. 12, 2021 – Jan. 31, 2025
 Office/Role: CITIZEN (Resigned Jun. 20, 2024)

Kevin Harris
 Current Term: Jun. 13, 2023 – Jun. 30, 2027
 Office/Role: Alexandria Resident Council Representative

Michelle Krockner
 Current Term: Sept. 13, 2022 – Sept. 30, 2026
 Office/Role: CITIZEN

Merrick Malone
 Current Term: Apr. 5, 2022 – Apr. 30, 2025
 Office/Role: CITIZEN

Bradley Duncan
Current Term: Oct. 1, 2024 – 9/30/2028
Office/Role: CITIZEN

- During the 2023 - 2024 year, membership included the following individuals:

Peter Kleeblatt
Anitra Androh
Willie Bailey, Sr.
Christopher Ballard
Daniel Bauman
Kevin Harris
Merrick Malone
Tracy Jefferson
Michelle Krockner

- Erik Johnson is the staff liaison to the ARHA Board of Commissioners.

ADVISORY GROUP ANNUAL ATTENDANCE REPORT

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
Alexandria Redevelopment & Housing Authority Board of Commissioners
MEETING ATTENDANCE REPORT

JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024

CHAIRPERSON: Anitra Androh

MEMBER'S NAME	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Anitra Androh	n/a	X	X	X	X	n/a	X	X	X	X	X	X
Willie F. Bailey, Sr.	n/a	X	X	X	X	n/a	X	X	E	X	X	X
Peter Kleeblatt	n/a	X	X	X	X	n/a	E	X	X	X	X	X
Michelle Krockner	n/a	X	X	X	X	n/a	X	X	X	X	X	X
Kevin Harris	n/a	X	X	X	E	n/a	E	X	X	X	E	X
Merrick T. Malone	n/a	X	X	X	X	n/a	X	X	X	X	X	X
Christopher Ballard	n/a	E	E	X	X	n/a	E	X	X	X	E	X
Tracy Jefferson (resigned 4/26/24)	n/a	X	X	X	X	n/a	E	E	E	-	-	-
Daniel Bauman (resigned 6/20/24)	n/a	E	E	E	U	n/a	E	E	E	E	E	E

INDICATE: X - FOR PRESENT E - FOR EXCUSED U - FOR UNEXCUSED

LIST OF THOSE WHO DID NOT ATTEND 75% OF MEETINGS:

- Daniel Bauman

FORM MUST BE SIGNED BY CHAIRPERSON

(APPROVED) Anitra Androh (Chairperson)

ALEXANDRIA SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE
Annual Report
July 2023 – June 2024

Summary of Accomplishments

The Alexandria Sister Cities Committee develops, encourages and promoted educational and cultural exchanges between the Cities of Dundee, Scotland; Helsingborg, Sweden and the City of Alexandria; and coordinates activities within the City relating to these exchanges. Within these guidelines, the Alexandria Sister Cities Committee membership completed the following activities during its 2023/24 year.

Alexandria Sister Cities Committee Key Activities and Events

- TransAtlantic Book Club (with Alexandria Public Library) – This is a (virtual) book club collaboration between the Alexandria and Dundee Public Libraries. Ongoing program; prior events over this period: November 16, 2023 (Ali Smith's short story "The Universal Story"); April 25, 2024 (Langston Hughes' short story "Courage.").
- Scotland v. Norway EEFA Euro 2024 Soccer Game Watch Party – November 19, 2023. We held a watch party for the match at O'Connell's in Old Town. The head of the Scottish Government in U.S. attended and gave brief remarks.
- Scottish Christmas Walk – December 1, 2023. Our Committee marched in the parade as we have done many times over the years. (Typically, the Lord Provost of Dundee, Scotland, and members of the Dundee Alexandria Twinning Association, our counterpart committee in Dundee, come over for the festivities and are VIPs for the Walk. Later in the evening, the mayor and city council usually throw a city dinner for them. This year no one from Dundee came over, so there was not a city dinner for the Walk.)
- Scotland v. England Six Nations Rugby Game Watch Party – February 24, 2024. We held a watch party for the match at O'Connell's in Old Town. The head of the Scottish Government in U.S. attended and gave brief remarks.
- Helsingborg Student Visit – March 13, 2024. A group of 12 students and 2 adults from *ProCivitas Privata Gymnasium*, a high school in Helsingborg, travelled to Alexandria and Washington, DC. They also visited Alexandria City High School. We held a dinner at the Lloyd House that evening for them. Students from ACHS' Key Club were also invited and attended. Office of Historic Alexandria give a short history lecture.
- Craig Weir Concert – April 1, 2024. We planned a concert with renowned bagpiper Craig Weir from Dundee at the Lyceum. Craig told stories from his biographical book "Weir's World: Mapping My Musical Memoirs" and played some tunes on the bagpipes.
- Annual Whisky Tasting – April 13, 2024. This is our biggest event of the year. Participants enjoyed a flight of five Scottish whiskies and two optional ones while learning about the finer points of whisky and Scottish culture from a whisky expert. A representative from the Scottish Government in US gave opening remarks. Held at the Lyceum.
- 80th D-Day Commemoration – June 2, 2024. During the event, we had a booth. We had posters and articles highlight Dundee's and Helsingborg's connections to WWII and D-Day.

- Participation/Coordination with other advisory groups as relevant:
 - Alexandria-Caen Sister City Committee: we joined the other sister city for the 80th D-Day Commemoration.
 - Alexandria Public Library: we helped coordinate and promote the TransAtlantic Book Club (virtual) meetings.
- Policy changes:
 - Implemented procedures to handle new Virginia FOIA law changes.

Alexandria Sister Cities Committee Member Activities

- Relevant member outside activities:
 - Diana Price (Alexandria Public Library) – She helped to established the TransAtlantic Book Club, a virtual book club hosted by the Alexandria Public Library and the Dundee Public Library. The Book Club will be expanding to do events with Helsingborg Library too shortly.
 - Martha Davis (Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria Campus). She is a liaison for NoVa Community College.
 - Dale Medearis (Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC)). NVRC is regional council of 13 local governments in the Virginia suburbs of Washington DC. It provides information, performs professional and technical services for its members, and serves as a mechanism for regional coordination.

Program and/or Legislative Accomplishments

- Accomplishments of the Committee or notable accomplishments:
 - In April, OHA recognized Chair Eric Compton for his years of service on Committee

Goals for 2024-2025

- Upcoming goals of the Committee:
 - Expanding TransAtlantic Book Club to do events with Helsingborg Library too
 - Seeking a student representative to the Committee from Alexandria City High School
 - Planning additional Helsingborg student visits
 - Facilitating renewed NoVa Community college exchanges with Dundee area universities/colleges post-Covid; support from committee
 - Planning more events
 - Increasing Social Media

Leadership

- Officers as of July 1, 2024. They were elected at the February meeting, and their position became effective April 1, 2024:
 - Eric Compton – Chair
 - Paul Andersen– Vice Chair
 - Karen Parsons – Secretary
 - Phil Dawit– Treasurer

- Term expirations and new members:
 - Expirations:
 - Lauren Bealore – Left Committee, October 2023
 - Sarah Ramsey – Term Expired, September 2023 (did not renew)
 - Stacie Anderson – Termed-Out, March 2023
 - Esther Petrilli-Massey – Tendered Resignation, January 2024
 - Kathryn Schalow – Tendered Resignation, February 2024
 - Kurt Eberle – Tendered Resignation, February 2024

 - New Members:
 - Jose Mandujano – Joined Committee, January 2024
 - Jennifer Eidemiller – Joined Committee, January 2024
 - Dale Medearis– Joined Committee, March 2024
 - Mikke Norton– Joined Committee, March 2024
 - Erin Rauner – Joined Committee, March 2024

 - Members for the entire annual reporting period:
 - Paul Andersen
 - Eric Compton
 - Phil Dawit
 - Kathryn Johnson
 - James Morrison
 - Karen Parsons
 - Diane Price
 - David Vondle

- Whitney Umarov, Office of Historic Alexandria, served as the staff liaison to the Alexandria Sister Cities Committee during the course of the 2023/2024 year

- Honorable John Chapman, Councilman

Attachments

1. 2023-34 Annual Attendance Report

ADVISORY GROUP ANNUAL ATTENDANCE REPORT

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
ALEXANDRIA SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE
MEETING ATTENDANCE REPORT**

JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024

CHAIRPERSON: ___Stacie Butler (through March 31) and Eric Compton (after April 1) ___

MEMBER'S NAME	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Stacie Andersen	X	--	X	X	X	--	X	X	X	■	■	■
Paul Anderson	X	--	X	U	X	--	X	X	X	X	X	E
Lauren Bealore	U	--	U	■	■	--	■	■	■	■	■	■
Eric Compton	X	--	X	X	X	--	X	X	X	X	X	X
Phil Dawit	X	--	X	X	X	--	X	X	X	X	X	E
Kurt Eberle	X	--	X	E	X	--	X	■	■	■	■	■
Jennifer Eidemiller	■	--	■	■	■	--	■	U	X	X	X	X
Kathryn Johnson	X	--	X	E	X	--	E	X	X	U	X	X
Jose Mandujano	■	--	■	■	■	--	X	X	X	E	X	X
Esther Petrilli-Massey	X	--	X	X	R	--	■	■	■	■	■	■
Dale Medearis	■	--	■	■	■	--	■	■	X	X	X	X
James Morrison	X	--	E	X	E	--	X	X	X	U	X	X
Mikke Norton	■	--	■	■	■	--	■	■	X	X	U	X
Karen Parsons	X	--	X	X	X	--	X	X	X	X	X	X
Diana Price	X	--	X	U	X	--	X	X	X	R	U	X
Sarah Ramsey	X	--	■	■	■	--	■	■	■	■	■	■
Erin Rauner	■	--	■	■	■	--	■	■	X	X	X	X
Kathryn Schalow	E	--	X	X	X	--	E	■	■	■	■	■
David Vondle	X	--	X	X	X	--	X	E	E	X	X	X
Martha Davis (NOVA CC Liaison)	■	--	X	X	X	--	X	X		X		

Key : **X - FOR PRESENT** **E - FOR EXCUSED** **U - FOR UNEXCUSED**
 R- Remote (Dialed-in) **■ - Not on Committee** **-- Meeting not held**

FORM MUST BE SIGNED BY CHAIRPERSON

(APPROVED) ___/Eric Compton/ ___24 Sept 2024_____ (Chair)

**Stormwater Utility and Flood Mitigation Advisory Committee
Annual Report
July 2023 – June 2024**

Summary of Accomplishments

The mission of the Stormwater Advisory Committee is to review and advise the City Council regarding the plans, design, and implementation of Alexandria’s flood mitigation activities. The Committee completed the following activities during its 2023-24 year.

Activities and Accomplishments

- **Advising City Council.** The committee provided to Council a detailed analysis of the 10-year capital budget for stormwater. This advice took the form of a presentation by the Committee chairperson at a public hearing on the FY2025 city budget. In addition, the Committee’s detailed analysis of the FY2025 capital budget confirmed the adequacy of the city’s plans for stormwater. Both the hearing presentation and budget analysis is performed by the committee every year as Alexandria’s stormwater program advances over the next decade.
- **Informing the Alexandria community.** The Committee’s analysis of the stormwater budget was well-received by local media. The analysis translated the complexity of the city’s budget in terms that were relatable to residents concerned about stormwater and was picked up by “ALXNow” and “Patch.” In addition, the Committee’s members increased neighborhood attendance at City-sponsored events related to flood mitigation, such as the design review of the Commonwealth/Ashby/Glebe project (in May) and the King Street Corridor (in October).
- **Establishing a permanent Stormwater committee.** City Council has acknowledged the committee’s contribution in monitoring the Flood Action Program. In December 2023, Council established the committee as a permanent advisory committee.

Goals for 2024-2025

- The multi-year workplan approved at the October 2022 meeting remains in place. Specifically:
 1. During the budget season every year, the Committee will provide City Council with a detailed analysis of the stormwater capital budget for its adequacy and focus on the most urgent flooding problems. The analysis will also measure progress relative to plans.
 2. Throughout the year, the Committee will use its network of connections with Alexandria civic associations and the Chamber of Commerce to make residents and businesses more aware and involved in the City’s flood mitigation activities – especially the large multi-million-dollar projects at Four Mile Run, Hooff’s Run and Pitt and Gibbon that begin design activities in 2024-25.

Leadership

- Officers for the upcoming year were elected at the March meeting of the newly established permanent committee.
- John Hill will serve as Chair, Katie Waynick as Vice-Chair.

Attachments

The Committee’s report to City Council on the Stormwater capital budget for FY2025-34 is attached.

Annual Report
To
Alexandria City Council

April 15, 2024



Homes along Commonwealth Avenue, August 14, 2023

Stormwater Utility and Flood Mitigation

Advisory Group

Council Member John Chapman

Mr. John Hill, Chair

Ms. Katherine Waynick, Vice Chair

Mr. Brian Sands

Ms. Cheryl Leonard

Mr. Chris Ferrara

Ms. Christine Thuot

Mr. Dino Drudi

Mr. Howard "Skip" Maginniss

Ms. Janette Shew

Question 1: Is the City's investment in stormwater mitigation directed to the most urgent problems?

The Facts



On July 29, 2023, Alexandria received one inch of rain in 15 minutes. On August 14, 1.6 inches fell in 20 minutes*. These storms flooded the areas around the intersection of Glebe Road and Commonwealth Avenue and along Hooff's Run between Linden and Duke streets.

The majority of 311 assistance calls during the two storms came from homes along Hooff's Run. In addition, the flooding along Four Mile Run, at the intersection of Glebe Road and Commonwealth Avenue (seen at left) received considerable media attention.

Major capacity-building projects are well underway in these two areas. The Commonwealth/Ashby/Glebe project is nearing the completion of its 60% design; the Hooff's Run Culvert Bypass project is assessing multiple design alternatives. Both projects are fully funded for FY 2025 and their out-year costs are included in the 10-year Stormwater Capital Improvement Plan.

Opinion of the Committee

The Committee agrees that the Flood Action Program is starting with the most urgent flooding problems facing Alexandria. The CASSCA study of 2016 identified the Four Mile Run (East) and Hooff's Run watersheds as the city's most flood-prone areas. That was evident during the severe rainstorms of 2020 and 2021; the storms of last summer confirmed that yet again.

The Committee members from these watersheds acknowledged that the Flood Action Program is making visible progress in their neighborhoods. They cited the public meetings on the Commonwealth/Ashby/Glebe project in the Lynnhaven neighborhood. In Rosemont, residents approve of the considerable maintenance improvements to the existing culvert.

The Committee did, however, suggest that city engineers look beyond the CASSCA Study to identify the next set of large capacity-building projects. The Committee noted that the 2016 study focused solely on sewer pipe diameters and not actual flooding patterns. In identifying future projects, the City should evaluate areas that were not included in the CASSCA Study, such as the area around the Braddock Metro Station and in the Combined Sewer Area.

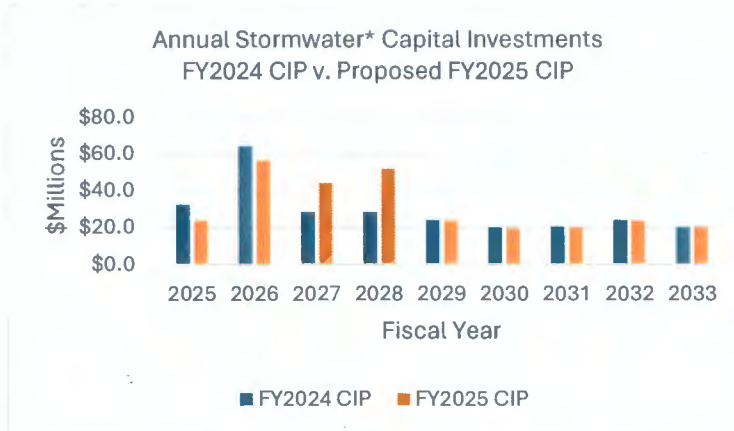
In addition, the impact of the most recent projects such as Commonwealth/Asby/Glebe, Hooff's Run, and the River Renew tunnel will invariably change how stormwater drains in Alexandria. The impact of the entire program should also be monitored to ensure that fixing the flooding in one area does not produce unintended consequences in other areas nearby.

*Rainfall measured at the Mt Vernon School weather station.

Question 2: Are the planned expenditures adequate to address the stormwater flooding problem?

The Facts

The proposed budget for FY 2025 includes an increase in Alexandria's investment in stormwater infrastructure over last year's ten-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP).



*includes Wet Weather projects from the Sanitary Sewer CIP

The CIP in the FY 2024 budget called for a total of \$262 million in stormwater capital projects for the period FY 2025 through FY 2033. The proposed CIP in the FY 2025 budget calls for a total of \$286 million over the same period.

This \$24 million increase is due to the inclusion of a new stormwater mitigation project at the intersection of Pitt and Gibbon in the Combined Sewer Area.

Opinion of the Committee

When the Flood Action Alexandria Program was launched in 2021, it proposed a ten-year \$260 million investment in stormwater infrastructure. The Committee acknowledges that the proposed budget for FY 2025, together with the previously planned yearly fee, continues to honor that commitment. In fact, the Committee applauds the addition of funding for the project at Pitt and Gibbon in the ten-year Sanitary Sewer CIP, as well as the City's use of federal funds from the American Rescue Plan for stormwater projects.

At this stage of the Flood Action program, the Committee believes that Alexandria is adequately funding the correct level of construction activity. The large projects, especially, are disruptive to the neighborhoods and traffic of Alexandria. More than two concurrent large projects may be more disruptive than Alexandria residents are willing to accommodate.

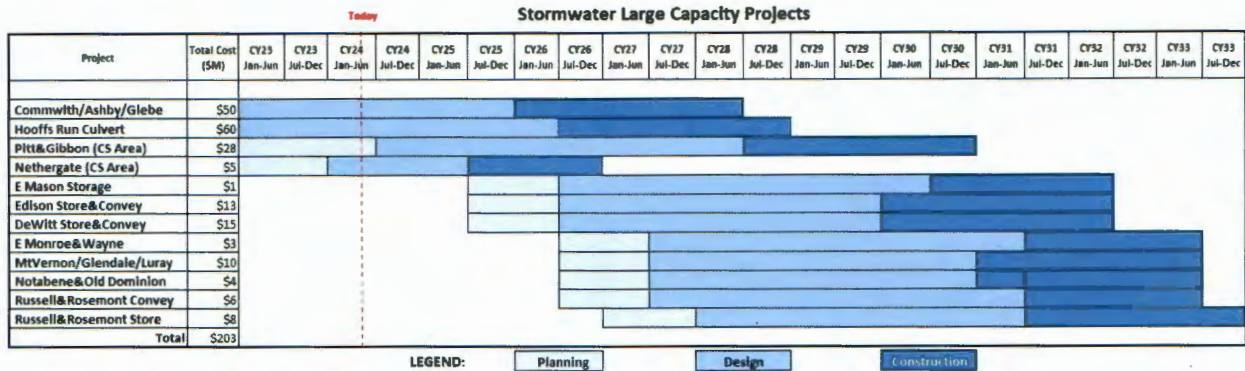
The Committee acknowledges, however, that the ten-year CIP is based on estimates of the future cost of large stormwater projects. As such, the Committee understands that the total cost of these projects may increase as designs are further developed and total construction costs are better understood.

Question 3: Is the City making sufficient progress in addressing the problem?

The Facts

The City has made considerable progress in addressing the backlog of smaller “spot improvement” projects. At the start of the Flood Action Program, twenty-seven spot improvements were identified. As of March 2024, eight of these have been completed and eleven are actively under design and construction.

Two of the longer-term large capacity projects are currently being designed. The Commonwealth/Ashby/Glebe project will reach its “60% design” milestone later this spring. The Hooff’s Run Bypass project will reach “30% design” later this summer. The two large projects in the combined sewer area, at the intersection of Pitt and Gibbon and at Nethergate, are in the planning stage, with design contracts to be awarded later this year.



Opinion of the Committee

The Committee recognizes that the Flood Action Program is at a critical juncture in the way that it engages Alexandria residents. The orderly completion of the smaller “spot improvement” projects over the past three years gave residents tangible evidence of progress. We are now entering a period where progress will be less visible.

The large capacity projects are slow-moving. Actual construction for the first large project will not begin until April 2026 – a full two years from now. And, unlike the smaller spot improvements, the large projects bring with them traffic disruption and noise – making community engagement essential.

The Committee strongly urges the City to incorporate a comprehensive public outreach program with the large capacity projects. Using the Commonwealth/Ashby/Glebe project as the prototype for best practice communication, the City should:

- Conduct widely publicized and multi-channel public engagement around the critical design reviews to inform residents of the reasons for, and impact of, the large projects that will disrupt their neighborhoods;
- Establish an easy-to-follow method of reporting progress so that public support does not wane in the long periods between the start of design and project completion.

The Committee stands ready to assist the City in designing an outreach program and engaging the residents in the neighborhoods most impacted by the construction of the large capacity projects.

ADVISORY GROUP ANNUAL ATTENDANCE REPORT

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
STORMWATER UTILITY AND FLOOD MITIGATION ADVISORY GROUP
MEETING ATTENDANCE REPORT**

JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024

CHAIRPERSON: John B. Hill

Note:

During 2023, meetings were held in September and November

The Committee was made permanent (and reconstituted) in January 2024

During 2024, meetings were held in March and May

MEMBER'S NAME	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
John Chapman			E		P				P		E	
John Hill			P		P				P		P	
Katie Waynick			E		E				P		P	
Dino Drudi			P		P				P		P	
Brian Sands			E		P				P		P	
Christine Thuot			P		P				E		P	
Janette Shew			P		P				P		P	
Howard "Skip" Maginnis			E		P				P		E	
Cheryl Leonard			P		E				P		P	
Chris Ferrara			N/A		P				E		P	

INDICATE: P - FOR PRESENT

E - FOR EXCUSED

U - FOR UNEXCUSED

LIST OF THOSE WHO DID NOT ATTEND 75% OF MEETINGS:

- **John Chapman***
- **Skip Maginnis***
- **Katherine Waynick***

** These are excused absences where the member notified the Chair well in advance of the meetings. The members contributed to committee work products by submitting thoughtful input before and after the meetings.*

FORM MUST BE SIGNED BY CHAIRPERSON

APPROVED - John B. Hill /s/ (Chairperson)

ADVISORY GROUP ANNUAL ATTENDANCE REPORT

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
TOWING ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING ATTENDANCE REPORT**

JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024

CHAIRPERSON: Dwight Gochenour (July 1, 2023- March 25, 2024); George Randolph (March 26, 2024-present)

MEMBER'S NAME	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
George Randolph								X					
James Young		NO QUORUM							X				
Brad Fleming								X					
Dwight Gochenour								X					
Kevin Mc Court								U					
George Randolph									X				
James Young									X				
Brad Fleming									X				
Dwight Gochenour									X				
Kevin Mc Court									X				
George Randolph												X	
James Young												X	
Brad Fleming				NO QUORUM									U
Dwight Gochenour													U
Kevin Mc Court													X

INDICATE: X - FOR PRESENT

E - FOR EXCUSED

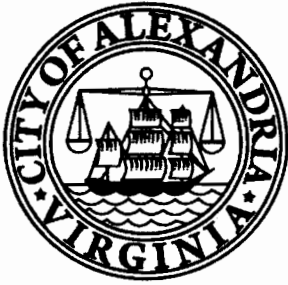
U - FOR UNEXCUSED

LIST OF THOSE WHO DID NOT ATTEND 75% OF MEETINGS:

•

FORM MUST BE SIGNED BY CHAIRPERSON

(APPROVED) _____ (Chairperson)



Towing Advisory Board

Alexandria City Hall, 301 King Street

Sister Cities Conference Room 1101

Meeting Minutes

March 26, 2024; 6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: James Young, Alexandria Police (Law Enforcement member #1); George Randolph, Alexandria Police (Law Enforcement member #2); Brad Fleming, A's Affordable Towing & Recovery (Licensed Towing & Recovery Operator member #1); Dwight Gochenour, Dominion Towing (Licensed Towing & Recovery Operator member #2); Kevin McCourt, Citizen member; Darryl Syler, City of Alexandria (Staff Liaison); Christopher Bedwell, City of Alexandria (Secretary Pro Tempore).

- 1.0 WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER: At 6:01, Mr. Syler called the meeting to order.
- 2.0 INTRODUCTIONS: Members and staff briefly introduced themselves.
- 3.0 ALEXANDRIA TOWING LIAISON REPORT: Mr. Syler indicated that since this is the first meeting of the Towing Advisory Board (Board), no report is available. Moving forward, reports will be rolled into Board meeting minutes.
- 4.0 DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

4-A: Appointment of Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary: Mr. Syler read the pertinent City Code sections aloud for members and attendees. Dwight Gochenour is the current Chair, and assignment rotates among the three member categories. The next rotation will be to a member of law enforcement. George Randolph was nominated for Chair by James Young; the motion was seconded and approved unanimously. Dwight Gochenour was nominated as Vice Chair, with the motion seconded and approved unanimously. Kevin McCourt was nominated for Secretary, with that motion seconded and approved unanimously. All officers will serve a twelve-month term (NOTE: This is differentiated from general Towing Advisory Board membership, which is three years per City Code).

4-B: Discussion and Establishment of Bylaws: Mr. Syler outlined the general Bylaws structure, including meeting requirements (frequency), quorum requirements, filling vacancies, and administering resignations and terminations (the latter due to excessive absences), and meeting notices. Ms. Lindsay Dubin, Assistant City Attorney, was asked for clarification of Article IV, Section 9, specifically, if e-mailing is a permissible substitute for a conventional mailing postmark. Ms. Dubin briefly researched and responded that this can be a Bylaws amendment "postmarked by mail or otherwise by e-mail as allowed by law." Mr. Randolph motioned to adopt the Bylaws, including this amendment; the motion was seconded by Mr. McCourt. The motion was adopted unanimously.

4-C: Discussion of and Recommendations on Rates and Policies Related to the Towing of Vehicles Towed from Private Property by the Property Owner or their Authorized Agent: Mr. Randolph, upon consultation with the City Attorney's Office as to his qualification as an objective party (approved by City Attorney's Office; this will also apply to

Sections 4-D, 4-E), with similar qualification for Mr. Fleming. Mr. McCourt asked if the private property provision includes condominium associations (yes). Can private property fees be less? Does this change any contracts a condo association may have with a towing company? Condo associations may have lower fees if they choose. The current fee for towing is \$135. At a prior meeting, members recommended this fee be increased to \$150, which is the Commonwealth of Virginia maximum. Other fees: After-Hours is currently \$25, with State maximum at \$30. The Board last voted on these recommendations in 2019, but Council did not act at that time. Mr. Gochenour had a copy of the Board's recommendations, which appear to not have been docketed. Mr. Tarrence Moorer, T&ES Assistant Director, read aloud State Code(s) that regulated fees, with Board items *recommended* for Council action, but docketing and approving are at City Manager's Office and Council's discretion, respectively. There was discussion and disagreement between Board members and City staff as to whether Council must consider and vote on Board recommendations. Mr. Moorer will ascertain and distribute response. The Board will update the last draft item and re-submit for docketing and Council consideration.

Mr. Gochenour motioned to discuss increasing various towing and storage rates/fees. Mr. McCourt abstained from voting on this matter. Question: How does abstention by members of any representation group affect meeting and policy recommendation/adoption quorum? Mr. Moorer requested the Office of the City Attorney to research and clarify. UPDATE: In a March 27 e-mail to all members, Mr. Syler wrote, "While a quorum must be present to transact business, there is nothing in the bylaws, City Code, or Virginia law that states a vote cannot be valid if the quorum-setting member of the Board abstains from a particular vote." (see full copy of this e-mail as Addendum #1 to these minutes).

4-D: Discussion of and Recommendations on the Rates and Policies Related to the Storage of Vehicles Towed from Private Property by the Property owner or their Authorized Agent; and 4-E: Discussion of and Recommendations on the Rates and Policies Related to the Retrieval of Vehicles Towed from Private Property by the Property owner or their Authorized Agent: Mr. Moorer read Section 9-13 of the City Code (minimum & maximum rates). There is the question as to the time gap/interval from Board's recommendation to Council docketing (reportedly September 22, 2022 meeting).

The Board next considered a recommended change to the allowable radius outside City limits, which is 3 Miles. There were no motions to change the recommended radius.

Next, the Board reviewed current policies relative to payment methods for towing and related fees. There were no motions to recommend policy changes.

4-F: Discussion of Adopting Electronic Participation Policy for Remote Participation and Virtual Public Meetings: Mr. Syler recommended this item be tabled, due to pending legislation in the Virginia General Assembly. Mr. Moorer summarized the legislation. The Board voted unanimously to table discussions and recommendations.

5.0 OTHER BUSINESS: Members requested clarification if Council is required by law to consider Board recommendations. Ms. Dubin indicated Council is not required to vote. Mr. McCourt recommended correspondence to Council expressly requesting receipt acknowledgement, and that item be docketed and considered/voted upon. Mr. McCourt motioned for the Board to draft a memo or letter to Council. City staff will not be involved with composing this letter, except to provide data/information to the Board as subject matter experts.

Lindsay Dubin clarified that at its option, the Board members may reach out directly to Council; however, she reminded them of Virginia FOIA and Open Meeting policies. As more information was needed prior to Board action, Mr. McCourt's motion was tabled. UPDATE: Ms. Dubin sent a March 28 e-mail to board members and support staff, relative to Mr. McCourt's recommendation, as well as other related Board concerns. This e-mail is included as Addendum #2 to the minutes.

6.0 NEW BUSINESS: No new business was brought before the Board.

7.0 PUBLIC COMMENT: One member of the public asked if there are any other governing regulations. Does the City have the statutory authority to adopt Commonwealth maximums by default, thereby nullifying the need for a Towing Advisory Board?

Another member of the public asked about the time lapse between the last Board recommendations, and Council consideration. What is to prevent a recurrence?

8.0 ADJOURNMENT: Mr. McCourt motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded. Upon unanimous agreement, Chairman Randolph adjourned the meeting at 7:30 P.M.

The next meeting of the Towing Advisory Board will be Thursday, June 6 at 6:00 P.M. (location to be determined)



**Traffic and Parking Board
Annual Report
July 2023 – June 2024**

The mission of the Traffic and Parking Board is to consider matters concerning substantial changes to traffic and on-street parking regulations, and taxicabs prior to action by the Director of TES, the City Manager or City Council. When reviewing these matters, the Board shall prioritize safety of all users when making recommendations. The Traffic and Parking Board held hybrid public meetings where the meetings were held in person in the City Council Chambers at City Hall with electronic access provided to the public who preferred to participate online. The Traffic and Parking Board membership completed the following activities during its 2023/24 year.

Membership: During the year, membership included the following individuals:

- Lavonda Bonnard
- Annie Ebbers
- Casey Kane
- James Lewis
- Ashley Mihalik
- Jason Osborne
- Kursten Phelps
- Ann Tucker

Leadership: James Lewis served as Chair and Ann Tucker served as Vice-Chair.

Membership: Jason Osborne served on the Board through January 2024. Kursten Phelps was appointed to the Board and participated in her first meeting in February 2024.

City Liaison: Sheila McGraw, Principal Planner with the Mobility Services Division of the Department of Transportation & Environmental Services served as the Staff Liaison to the Board.

Meetings: The Board met ten times in the 2023-24 year. The ten meetings from July 2023 to June 2024 were conducted in-person in the Council Chambers at City Hall except for the June

meeting which was held in the Sister Cities Conference room. All meetings had an electronic Zoom option for public participation.

Member Activities: The following Board members participated in these groups:

- Transportation Commission: Casey Kane

Sub-Committee Activities:

- The Board established a sub-committee on taxicab regulations comprised of three Board members, Lavonda Bonnard, Annie Ebbers, and James Lewis. The sub-committee held three meetings and presented their recommendation to the rest of the Board at the March meeting. The recommendations from the Board were brought before City Council at their May 18, 2024 meeting which resulted in increased fares including raising the initial meter charge to \$5.00 and raising the per mile charge to \$2.60 per mile.

Program and/or Legislative Accomplishments: In total, the Board reviewed 48 docket items this past year. The more significant issues the Board approved and rendered recommendations on are as follows:

- Recommended design elements for segments of the Duke Street in Motion project including signal changes, traffic flow changes, and one-way conversions.
- Recommend changes to the taxicab regulations to City Council including raising the initial meter charge to \$5.00 and raising the per mile charge to \$2.56 per mile, eliminating the vehicle age requirement, and to remove the City from the dispute resolution process.
- Approved the administrative process for pickup and drop-off loading zone procedure.
- Recommended parking and traffic changes on Mount Vernon Avenue at the intersections of Glebe Road, Russel Road, and Executive Avenue
- Recommended roundabouts at the intersections of Hickory Street and Kennedy Street and the Glebe Road, Montrose Avenue, and Ashby Street Intersection.
- Recommend a City Code Amendment for Residential Parking Permit (RPP) Restrictions for In-home Childcare Providers.
- Recommended changes to traffic patterns to allow for bicycle lanes on East Abingdon Drive.

Goals for July 2024 – June 2025:

- Engage in Vision Zero implementation by providing feedback on related proposals and support staff in implementation.
- Participate in Alexandria Mobility Plan implementation by providing feedback on projects and support staff in implementation.
- Work toward better aligning efforts with the Planning Commission, Transportation Commission and other City Boards and Commissions, including coordination directly with those Boards.
- Work to identify City departments to address Maintenance of Traffic plans as they related to accommodations in plans for people walking and biking and how these plans are enforced.
- Continue to consider equity in the Board's decision-making and ensure the Board is using a consistent approach in recommending changes to City streets.
- Continue to receive regular briefs on the overall transportation goals of the City to enable the Board to contextualize the Board's work and provide better guidance to the Director.

- Provide feedback to the Council and staff on broader traffic and parking issues, including dockless mobility, Alexandria Mobility Plan, and Duke Street In Motion.

Attachments: None

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: AUGUST 20, 2024

TO: GLORIA SITTON
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK AND CLERK OF COUNCIL

THRU: KARL W. MORITZ, DIRECTOR
PLANNING & ZONING

FROM: STEPHEN W. KULINSKI, CHAIR
OLD TOWN NORTH URBAN DESIGN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: URBAN DESIGN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (UDAC)
FY 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

This is the annual report for the Old Town North Urban Design Advisory Committee (UDAC) for Fiscal Year 2024, as required by City Code Section 2-4-7(i)(l).

UDAC “review[s] applications to the City for Site Plan approval and Special Use Permits for compliance with the urban design guidelines for Old Town North when such guidelines are adopted by City Council” per section 6-505 of the Zoning Ordinance. UDAC provides guidance to staff and makes formal recommendations to the Planning Commission and City Council on new development proposals that are located within the Old Town North Small Area Plan boundary for project sites that are not also within the City’s Old and Historic Alexandria District.

The guiding document for UDAC is the Urban Standards & Guidelines for Old Town North (UDSG), adopted by Ordinance on September 16, 2017 by City Council. The standards and guidelines in the UDSG are “intended to provide requirements and guidance in written and graphic form to implement the vision” of the Old Town North Small Area Plan. Additional guiding documents for the Potomac River Generating Station (PRGS) site, the PRGS Urban Design Standards and Guidelines addendum and PRGS Design Excellence Prerequisites and Criteria addendum, were approved by City Council on July 5, 2022.

Website:

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/boards-and-commissions/urban-design-advisory-committee-serving-old-town-north>

SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Policy and Membership Accomplishments

The Committee is comprised of five (5) members, each permitted to serve two (2)-year terms. Membership of UDAC consists of the following categories:

- Two (2) representatives of the Old Town North business community
- Two (2) residents representing the Old Town North residential community
- One (1) qualified professional skilled in urban design, architecture or landscape architecture

FY2022 Committee Members:

Member	Representation	First Appointed	Term End
Katherine Bingler	Resident	04.09.19	04.30.25
Thomas Soapes (Vice Chair)	Resident	10.05.18	10.31.24
Stephen Kulinski, AIA (Chair)	Business Community	02.10.15	02.28.25
Abbey Oklak, AIA, AICP, LEED AP (Secretary)	Design Professional	09.13.16	12.31.24
Zaira Suarez	Business Community	11.09.22	11.30.24

Staff Liaison:

Daniel Welles, Planning and Zoning, served as the staff liaison to UDAC for the entirety of the Fiscal Year 2024.

Membership and Leadership

Committee membership was remained unchanged over the course of the year. Stephen Kulinski, Thomas Soapes and Abbey Oklak were re-elected as Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary, respectively, at the April 11, 2023 City Council Legislative Meeting.

Meetings

UDAC meets monthly at its most frequent, but only meets as needed if no applications have been submitted for review. Additionally, extra meetings may be scheduled as needed. Meetings are generally scheduled for the first or second Wednesday of a given month at 9:00 a.m. in the City Hall Chet and Sabra Avery Conference Room, Room 2000.

UDAC held seven (7) meetings in FY2024, which includes a walking tour of the Old Town North on November 8, 2023. The meetings were scheduled as “hybrid” meetings in City Hall, with most members attending in person but also providing a virtual option to facilitate online viewing and participation in the meetings. Steve Kulinski was excused from the July 2023 meeting, where Tom Soapes acted as Chair of the Committee. Tom Soapes had an excused absence for the September 2023 meeting. Abbey Oklak attended virtually at the July 2023 meeting via Zoom.

The proceedings are summarized below. The full meeting notes for each meeting are located on the UDAC website:

July 26, 2023:

- The applicant for the Ladrey Apartments redevelopment site presented to UDAC for the first time. The applicant and design teamed introduced the components of the proposal to the Committee and emphasized that the current residents of the existing building which includes a mix of affordable units and senior affordable units were not to be displaced from the new project. The Committee and applicant discussion focused on the proposed pocket park and maintaining sufficient plantings on site to reduce the heat island effect.

September 6, 2023:

- The applicant for the Ladrey Apartments redevelopment site presented to UDAC for the second time. The Committee and applicant discussion focused on how the project has evolved, with more detailed street sections and architectural drawings which were praised by the Committee. The applicant provided additional feedback, requesting that a pickup and drop-off layby be incorporated into the site design.

October 11, 2023:

- The applicant for the Ladrey Apartments redevelopment presented to UDAC for the third time. The Committee and applicant discussion focused on refinements to the South building along North Fairfax Street as well as the accessibility features on Wythe Street and in the parking garage. The Committee endorsed the project on a 5-0 vote in support.
- The applicant for the redevelopment at PRGS site presented the overview and design approach for the DSUPs for Blocks A, B, and C to the Committee. For Block A, the Committee provided feedback requesting the design be revised to include better variation in height and design of the overall façade plane.
- For Block B, the Committee and applicant discussion focused on open space and site design. The Committee requested that revise the site design to create more of an urban feel and provide more information on the proposed open space areas.
- For Block C, the Committee and applicant discussion focused on how the proposed buildings for Block C interact with the surrounding context of Old Town North and the Waterfront.
- The Committee and Staff reviewed the walking tour route for the annual UDAC walking tour scheduled on November 8, 2023.

November 8, 2023:

- The November 2023 UDAC meeting was when the annual walking tour of Old Town North took place. Staff, the Committee, and members of the public met at St. Elmo's Coffee. Development sites visited included the Gables, 500 Montgomery Street, the Muse, the Venue, and the Alexan Florence.

February 7, 2024:

- The applicant for the Robinson Terminal North redevelopment presented to UDAC for the first time. The Committee and applicant discussion focused on the inclusion of historic

interpretive elements within the proposal as well as how the proposal will meet the Old Town North Urban Design Standards and Guidelines (OTNUDSG) as it develops.

March 6, 2024:

- The applicant for the Potomac River Generating Station (PRGS) Open Space DSUP to UDAC for the first time. The Committee and applicant discussion focused on incorporating open space elements related to the waterfront, such as a kayak launch area and elements for fishing. The applicant received additional input from the Committee requesting the inclusion of more spaces for recreational activity and urged the applicant not to make the open space areas too similar to the nearby waterfront parks.
- UDAC held its annual election, where all five members reprised their current role for another term.

June 12, 2024:

- The applicant for the Potomac River Generating Station (PRGS) Open Space DSUP to UDAC for the second time. The Committee and applicant discussion focused on how the proposal addresses flood mitigation issues, refinements to the proposed open space and drop-off area at the east end of the site near Oronoco Street, and if the applicant has coordinated with AlexRenew.

GOALS FOR THE COMING YEAR

1. Continue to standardize the UDAC process for hybrid meetings that prioritize in-person meetings but allow for an adequate virtual participation option.
2. Prepare UDAC members for review of projects tied to the PRGS site, including the utilization of the UDSG Addendum and Design Excellence Standards for each project as applicable.
3. Continue to plan a yearly walking tour of previous UDAC-reviewed development sites.
4. Discuss, present and share ideas on urban design principles with UDAC members, including at Committee meetings.

ATTACHMENTS

1. FY2024 Attendance Sheet

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
URBAN DESIGN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING ATTENDANCE REPORT**

JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024

CHAIRPERSON: _____ **STEPHEN W. KULINSKI, AIA** _____

MEMBER'S NAME	July 2023	September 2023	October 2023	November 2023	February 2024	March 2024	June 2024
Abbey Oklak	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Zaira Suarez	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Thomas Soapes	X	E	X	X	X	X	X
Katherine Auth Bingler	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Stephen Kulinski	E	X	X	X	X	X	X

INDICATE: X - FOR PRESENT

E - FOR EXCUSED

U - FOR UNEXCUSED

LIST OF THOSE WHO DID NOT ATTEND 75% OF MEETINGS:

N/A

**FORM MUST BE SIGNED BY CHAIRPERSON
(APPROVED)**

Stephen Kulinski _____ **(Chairperson)**

VISIT
alexandria

FISCAL YEAR 2024
ANNUAL REPORT

TOP 3
BEST
SMALL CITIES

Condé Nast Traveler





FISCAL YEAR 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Friends and Members:

As we complete Fiscal Year 2024 and begin Fiscal 2025, Visit Alexandria enters a key moment of transition and opportunity. Over the past 12 years, under the leadership of Patricia Washington, Visit Alexandria has achieved progress that we could never have imagined at the start of her tenure. Patricia led us to national recognition in major travel publications. And this recognition was no “flash in the pan.” We have sustained Top 5 Small City rankings in *Condé Nast Traveler* for 6 straight years, top U.S. city inclusion in *Travel + Leisure* for three years in a row and generated over 1,000 media hits 8 years in a row. Alexandria is no longer a surprise—we are on the map.

That reputational success transcends travel—the economic development “halo effect” of our coverage increases the public perception that Alexandria is a great place to live, work, play and locate a business. Tax revenues from sales, meals and lodging receipts generated record revenues again this year. With an estimated 70% of them coming from non-residents, the hospitality sector supports City services and saves the average Alexandria household \$820/year in taxes.

And Alexandria’s 160,000 residents also appreciate the amenities that come along with a vibrant visitor economy. Thriving main streets and neighborhoods are at the heart of enthusiastic resident responses describing what *they* appreciate most about their hometown.

But, make no mistake, we are just getting started. A new chapter begins this year with the arrival of President & CEO Todd O’Leary. Todd brings to Alexandria 25+ years of marketing, communications and partnership experience from Sonoma County, San Francisco and Milwaukee. His national network and renown within the destination management organization (DMO) industry offers a new opportunity to inject cutting-edge strategies and expertise to elevate Alexandria to the next level.

In FY 2025 the Board of Governors and I are excited to work with Todd and his team to undertake a strategic planning initiative that will engage members, partners, and stakeholders in charting a course for the next 5-10 years. This is Alexandria’s inflection point, as we embrace change and move forward together. On behalf of all 160,000 residents, thank you for your partnership as, together, we write the next exciting chapter of Alexandria’s story.

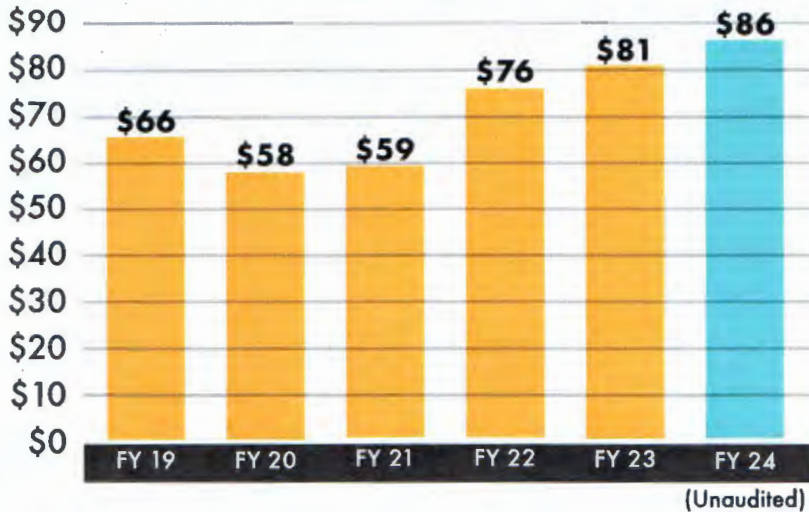


Kate Ellis
Board Chair

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC IMPACT

ALEXANDRIA CONSUMPTION TAX RECEIPTS

Sales, Meals & Lodging Receipts (\$ Million)



Spending by visitors contributes to consumption tax revenues for the City of Alexandria. These revenues support core City services and minimize the tax rate for residents. In Fiscal Year 2024, those receipts reached \$86 million, surpassing the previous record set in FY 2023, and up 30% from pre-pandemic levels.

Source: FY 19-24, City of Alexandria Revenue Dept.

REVENUE PER AVAILABLE ROOM (REVPAR)



Source: STR

Revenue per Available Room (RevPAR) is the most closely watched performance indicator of the hospitality sector. It incorporates both hotel occupancy and average daily rate to show the economic performance of regional hotels. In FY 2024, Alexandria's collective RevPAR reached \$118, up 6% from the prior year.

DIRECT SPENDING (\$ Million)



Each Fall, the Commonwealth of Virginia releases data for all municipalities measuring the economic impact of visitor spending in the prior calendar year by travelers (residing 50+ miles away). The graph below demonstrates the completion of Alexandria's pandemic recovery with record spending now exceeding the prior pre-pandemic high.

Source: 2023 Economic Impact of Domestic Travel on Virginia and Localities, Virginia Tourism Corporation". Data is based on macroeconomic modeling and provides an estimate of receipts of actual taxes and receipts from visitors traveling from a radius 50+ miles outside of Alexandria. Note: because of the change in VTC's research partner in 2021, data reported in prior Visit Alexandria Annual Reports is not directly comparable to data reported here.



National Reputation

Visit Alexandria continues to strengthen the city's reputation and awareness regionally, nationally and internationally through savvy media relations strategies and press relationships. National accolades and top-tier media coverage influence travel decisions and lift Alexandria's reputation as a place to visit, live, work and start a business.

In FY 2024, the PR team increased national coverage by 8% year-over-year and maintained our standing on accolade lists in *Condé Nast Traveler*, *Travel + Leisure*, *Southern Living* and more. Hosted press trips yielded feature coverage exploring Alexandria's black history and culture in *Fodor's Travel*, *Garden & Gun* and *Wanderlust* (UK), plus a foothold in the national Spanish-language media landscape from a dedicated group press tour for Hispanic media.



1,000+ MEDIA STORIES FOR 8 YEARS IN A ROW



”

Alexandria, Virginia, located just outside of Washington, D.C., is a destination in its own right. The waterfront town, which has also been highlighted as one of the best places to live in Virginia and one of the best cities in the U.S., is a perfect blend of modern conveniences and historic charm.

– *Travel + Leisure*

El Diario NY:
“**Alexandria en Virginia tiene mucho que ofrecer**”
[Alexandria in Virginia has a lot to offer]

Southern Living
“**South’s Best Cities**”



The Weather Channel
“**The Best Christmas Towns to Visit This Holiday Season**”



Fodor’s
“**The Quaintest Christmas Villages Across the U.S.**”

Garden & Gun:
“**Seven Southern Places to Uncover Black History and Culture**”

AARP:
“**5 Small Towns That Will Bring Your Hallmark Christmas Movie Dreams to Life**”

Travel + Leisure:
“**Best Cities in the United States**”

Architectural Digest
“**Most Beautiful Streets in the World**”
(King Street)



Wanderlust (UK):
“**Marching On: Where to Learn About African American History in the US Capital Region**”

La Prensa:
“**Alexandria, lugar ideal para el desarrollo cultural y económico de los hispanos**”
[Alexandria, the ideal place for the cultural and economic growth of Hispanics]

”

Just across the Potomac River from D.C., Alexandria may feel like a small town when compared to our nation’s capital, but there’s tons to explore in this historic city. Walk the cobblestoned streets that are lined with locally owned boutiques, delicious restaurants, and charming storefronts. When the riverfront is sparkling and there’s a nice breeze in the air, you’ll forget why you ever wanted to endure the hustle and bustle of D.C. in the first place.

– *Southern Living*

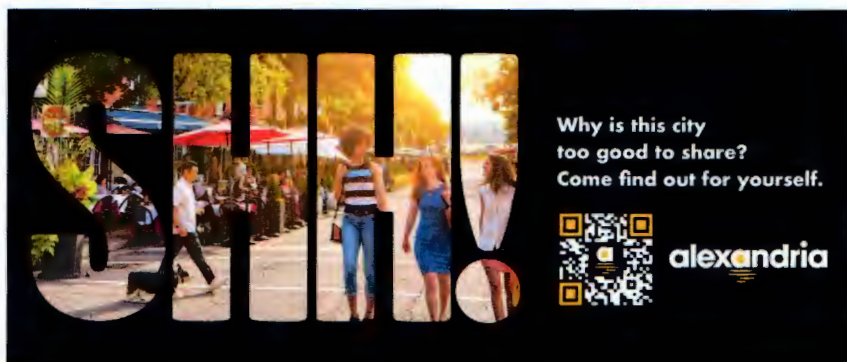
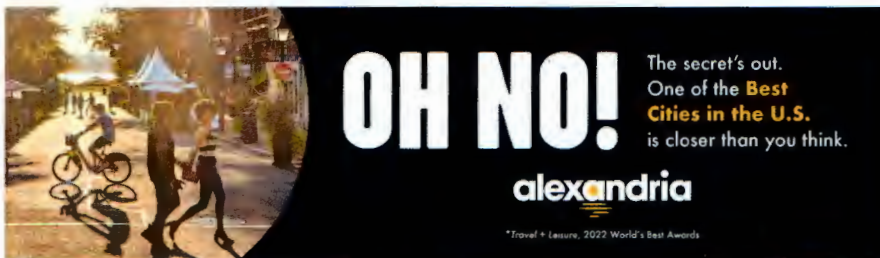
National Reputation

FY 2024 Highlights

MARKETING AT THE NEXT LEVEL

Adapting to changing consumer preferences, Visit Alexandria radically expanded our video content across all media in FY 2024. Our "Best Kept Shh!" ad campaign expanded to incorporate and leverage Alexandria's national accolades. We made each advertising dollar go farther by deploying new research tools to refine our targeting and hiring premier data-driven media buying agency, Love Communications. Our sales team's aggressive efforts on the meetings side delivered record business volume to match our leisure growth. Collectively, this integrated approach of communications, marketing and sales produced record results.

"BEST KEPT SHH!" ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS NATIONAL ACCOLADES IN YEAR TWO





**MULTI-PLATFORM
VIDEO STRATEGY
INCREASED
CONSUMER VIEWS
BY 47%**



**NEW AGENCY,
LOVE COMMUNICATIONS,
BRINGS STATE-OF-THE-ART DATA
EXPERTISE TO MEDIA BUYING**



**PR TEAM WINS TOP
NATIONAL AWARD FOR
"BEST
IN-HOUSE
TEAM—
NONPROFIT/ASSOCIATION"**

**\$500K IN AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (ARPA) HELPS DRIVE
OVER 200 MILLION
DIGITAL IMPRESSIONS**



**NEW PRESIDENT & CEO,
TODD
O'LEARY
RECRUITED FROM
SONOMA COUNTY**



**MEETINGS BOOKED JUMP 30%
TO RECORD \$14 MILLION**



Key Performance Indicators

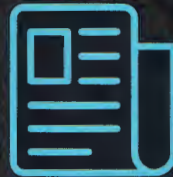
Visit Alexandria updated our Key Performance Indicators in FY 2024 to reflect a strategic emphasis on quality over quantity. Visit Alexandria's ultimate goal is a thriving community with growing revenues that support small business and City services. The new measures below are designed to better capture the controllable outputs that yield those results.

JULY 2023–JUNE 2024

FISCAL YEAR 2024 PERFORMANCE



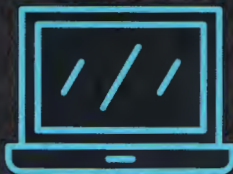
**Meeting Leads
Converted:**
\$13.5 million
+36%



National Press Hits:
151
+8%
(1,004 total press hits)



Web Users:
2.2 million
+12%



**Engaged Web
Sessions:**
1.5 million
+6%



Video Views:
25.4 million
+47%



**Digital Marketing
Impressions:**
219 million
+16%



Total Members:
456
even



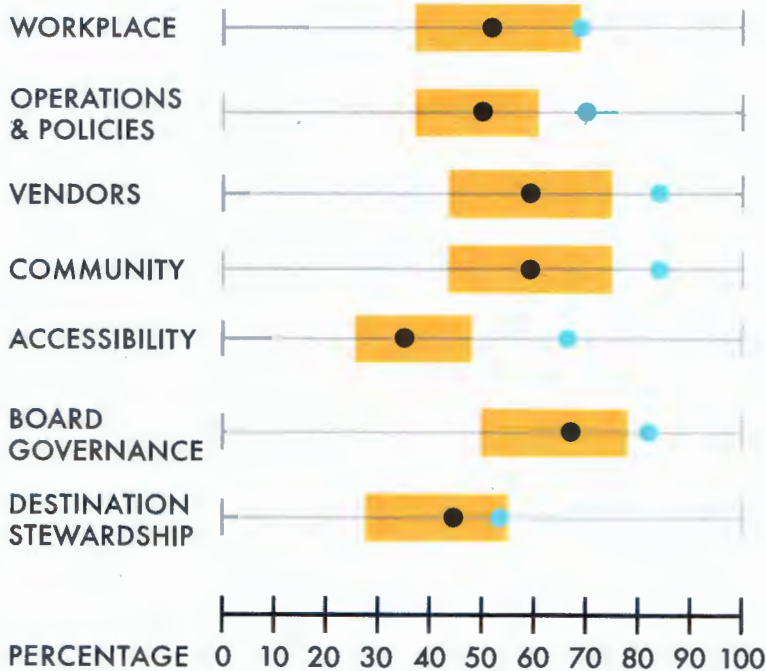
**Visitor Center
Traffic:**
67,000
+12%



DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) is a core value, reflecting Visit Alexandria’s commitment to set the highest standard of social impact, and be an exemplar to our community and our industry. Our advertising, digital and social media actively incorporate the diversity of Alexandria’s residents and visitors to reinforce a message of welcome and inclusion. We launched our accessibility initiative this year to include the roughly one quarter of Americans with some form of disability. In FY 2024, our management composition also reflected DEI values, with people of color comprising half of Visit Alexandria’s staff and one third of the board.

INDUSTRY LEADERSHIP:



We continue to participate in our industry’s premier Social Impact assessment tool, from Destinations International. In FY 2024 Visit Alexandria scored at or above the “best practices” level for all 7 criteria.

- BEST PRACTICE RANGE
- OUR SCORE
- MEDIAN SCORE



Visit Alexandria has an ambitious agenda for Fiscal Year 2025. We understand that a variety of external and internal factors will shape the year ahead, and we embrace the change that is required to stay at the forefront of our industry.

We appreciate the strong support of City Council, who recently demonstrated their confidence in and appreciation for the hospitality sector's economic impact and ROI. With \$86 million in consumption taxes (over two-thirds paid by non-residents), Council pledged incremental marketing support in FY 2025. This will enable Visit Alexandria to sustain the gains we made over the prior three years with American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funding, which has now expired. We appreciate the City's confidence and are focused on demonstrated revenue growth that justifies expanded investment in the hospitality sector as a driver of residential quality of life and tax base diversification.

We're also excited that the City is planning to initiate an Economic Summit in FY 2025 facilitated by our partners at Alexandria Economic Development Partnership. We look forward to joining that vital planning and visioning discussion to maximize our collective economic impact for all residents and businesses. This community-wide economic planning will work hand-in-glove with Visit Alexandria's own strategic planning initiative. Combining these two critical elements at the same time will establish a foundation for the strategies and tactics that guide us into 2026 and beyond.

In the more immediate term, there are multiple opportunities before us in FY 2025. A presidential inauguration in January offers its quadrennial opportunity to drive incremental revenues in an identified priority period. May 23 to June 8, the Washington, DC metro area will host WorldPride, a global-level event forecast to attract 3 million participants over two weeks. This will also be the year that we work with local, regional and statewide partners to plan for the nation's 250th birthday, which will take place in 2026.

FY 2025 will also feature deeper integration of marketing, communications and sales that will coordinate and consolidate our work with agencies and staff. We'll also expand the "Best Kept Shh!" campaign to encompass meetings advertising as that team leverages Alexandria's unique position in the small and midsize meetings segment. As part of Visit Alexandria's priority to be welcoming and inclusive to all travelers, our accessibility initiative expands in year 2.

In FY 2025, our advertising will introduce a new holiday campaign, "Merry Me", filmed last winter, and built around the Hallmark-style theme and warmth. We'll also expand our neighborhood program, including Spanish-language video content that builds on last year's successes. This local content enhances our authenticity and community sustainability, ensuring that the benefits of the hospitality sector are felt throughout all parts of our great city.

Sustainability also remains a key human resources priority. Over the last decade we have recruited and cultivated a high-performing team—their retention, compensation and career development are essential to sustaining Visit Alexandria's long-term performance.

In summary, FY 2025 will be a pivotal year for Visit Alexandria. We embrace this transition, and embark on it with confidence, grounded in the strength of our partnerships with you—our members, City, Commonwealth, board and community. Thank you!



**WELCOME
WORLDPRIDE DC,
MAY 23-JUNE 8**



**LAUNCH "MERRY ME"
HOLIDAY CAMPAIGN**

AUTOGRAPH
COLLECTION



**DEVELOP STRATEGIC PLAN
FOR VISIT ALEXANDRIA**



**LEVERAGE JANUARY
PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION**



**PREPARE FOR
AMERICA 250**



**EXPAND NEIGHBORHOOD
PROGRAM AND SPANISH
LANGUAGE CONTENT**

VISIT ALEXANDRIA MEMBERS: WORKING TOGETHER

THANKS TO OUR CHARTER MEMBERS:

Alexandria Hotel Association
Burke & Herbert Bank
George Washington's
Mount Vernon

Bold: New Member

1799 Prime Steak & Seafood
1823 Restaurant
219 Restaurant
3 Sisters
A Galerie - Antiques and Fine Art
A la Lucia
a.lounge+bar
Abyssinia Market & Coffee House
Ada's on the River
African American Hall of Fame
Aldo's Italian Kitchen
Alexandria African-American
Heritage Park
Alexandria Archaeology Museum
Alexandria Arts Forum
Alexandria Bier Garden
Alexandria Black History Museum
Alexandria Chamber of Commerce
Alexandria City Council
Alexandria Colonial Tours
Alexandria Cupcake
Alexandria Department of
Recreation, Parks and Cultural
Activities
Alexandria Economic Development
Partnership
Alexandria Economic Development
Partnership - Small Business
Alexandria Film Festival
Alexandria Food Tours
Alexandria Ghosts
Alexandria Harmonizers
Alexandria History Museum at The
Lyceum
Alexandria History Tours
Alexandria Library
Alexandria Living Magazine
Alexandria Seaport Foundation
Alexandria Singers
Alexandria Symphony Orchestra
Alexandria the Great Tours
Alexandria Transit Company
Alexandria Visitor Center
Alice Cocktail Bar
Alliance Nationwide Exposition
Ally Charter Bus Washington, D.C.

ALX Community - Atrium
ALX Community - Waterfront
American Horticultural Society's
River Farm
American in Paris Boutique
Amtrak Alexandria Union Station
Andy's Pizza Old Town
Annex - Old Town
AR Workshop Alexandria
Archer Old Town Alexandria
Arlandria Chirilagua Business
Association
Art League, Inc.
Art on the Avenue
Artistic Artifacts
Aslin Beer Company
Atlas Brew Works
Augie's Mussel House
Bad Ass Coffee of Hawaii
Ballyshoners
BARCA Pier & Wine Bar
Bashford & Pitt
Bastille Brasserie & Bar
BATHUS
Beeliner Diner
Bellacara
Benny Diferza's Pizza
Beulah Baptist Church
Birchmere
Bishop's Terrace
Bistro Eighteen90
Bistro Sancerre
Blackwall Hitch
Bloomers
Blue Fern Travel - Fork & Fizz Tours
Bollywood Masala
Boxwood
Brabo Brasserie
Brockett House
Bugsy's Pizza Restaurant & Sports
Bar
Building Momentum
Burke & Herbert Bank
Buzz Bakeshop
By Asa Photography
Cafe Pizzaiolo
Cameron Cafe
Cameron Run Regional Park
Canal Center Events
Capo Italian Deli
Captain Gregory's
Captain Rocky Versace Plaza and

Vietnam Veterans' Memorial
Carlyle Council
Carlyle House
Carr Hospitality
Casa Luna
Casa Rosada Artisan Gelato
Cedar Knoll
Chadwicks
Chart House Restaurant
Cheesetique
Chewish Deli
Chinquapin Park Recreation Center
Chop Shop Taco
Christ Church
Citrus & Sage
City Cruises
City Kitchen
Climb UPTon
Clyde's at Mark Center
**Colonial Parking Garage
(Embassy Suites)**
Comfort One Shoes
Commonwealth Academy
Conklyn's Florist
Contrabands and Freedmen
Cemetery Memorial
Courtyard by Marriott - Alexandria
Pentagon South
Courtyard by Marriott Alexandria
Old Town/Southwest
Cowo & Crêche
Cuatzin Salon
Dairy Godmother Frozen
Custard & Nostalgic Treats
Daniel O'Connell's Irish
Restaurant & Pub
DC Livery
Dejan Studio Jewelry
Del Ray Artisans
Del Ray Business Association
Del Ray Cafe
**Del Ray Pizzeria & Draft
House**
Delia's
Derek Lamar Studios
Destination DC
Discovery Map
Dishes of India
Dolci Gelati
Don Taco
Donna Lewis
East West Audio Visual
Eddie's Little Shop & Deli
Eisenhower Partnership
El Pulgarcita

Elaine's
Electric Cafe
Embassy Suites by Hilton
Alexandria Old Town
Emmy Squared Pizza
Encore Consignment Boutique
Envy Us Beauty Supply
ePIQ Creative Group
Era Boutique
ERP Resources
Escape Room Live
ESP Tea & Coffee
E'terie Bar and Grill
Evening Star Cafe
Fantastical Glass
fibre space
Fiscus Glassworks
Fish Market
Fleet Transportation
Fontaine
Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site
Foster's Grille
Fountains Day Spa
Frances Valentine
**Frank Pepe Pizzeria
Napoletana**
**Frankie's Kitchen
& Cocktail Bar**
Fraternal Order of Eagles
Freedom House Museum
Freeman
Friendship Firehouse Museum
Gadsby's Tavern Museum
Gadsby's Tavern Restaurant
Galactic Panther Art Gallery
George Katsos Music
George Washington Birthday
Celebration Committee
George Washington Town House
George Washington's Distillery
& Gristmill
George Washington's Mount Vernon
Get Fit Studio
Glory Days Grill
GOGO Charters Washington, D.C.
Gold Works
Gossypia
Gravestone Stories
Greenstreet Gardens
Gunston Hall
Hampton Inn & Suites - Alexandria
Old Town Area South
Handover by the Slice
Hank's Oyster Bar

Happy Place
Harambee Books & Artworks
Hard Times Cafe
Haute Dogs & Fries
Hen Quarter
Hi/Fi Tex-Mex BBQ
Hilton Alexandria Mark Center
Hilton Alexandria Old Town
Hilton Garden Inn Alexandria
Old Town National Harbor
Historic Garden Week's Alexandria
Tour
Hobson Hall
Holiday Inn Alexandria Carlyle
Holistic Hair Studio
Hollin Hall & the Meeting House
at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church
Holy Cow
Hooray for Books!
Hops N Shine
Hotel AKA Alexandria
Hotel Heron
Hotel Indigo Old Town Alexandria
Hummingbird
Hyatt Centric Old Town Alexandria
Hypergoat Cafe
Il Porto
Imagine Artwear
Indochean
Indus Imports
Intertribal Creatives
Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams
JJ&T Entertainment
Josephine Brasserie & Bar
Joyous Events
Jula's on the Potomac
Julian Tours
Junction Bakery & Bistro
Kelly Loss Photography
Kiln
Kilwins
King & Rye
King Street Souvenirs
King Street Spa
King Street Tavern
King's Jewelry
King's Ransom
Kismet Modern Indian
Kisso Asian Bistro
KungFu Kitchen
Kyo Gallery
La'Baik
Lady Camellia Pastry & Tearoom

Landini Brothers
 Laporta's Restaurant
 Laura Hatcher Photography
 Lavender Moon Cupcakery
 Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden
LEGO® Discovery Center Washington, D.C.
 Lena's Wood-Fired Pizza & Tap
 Little Theatre of Alexandria
 Lloyd House
Local Motion Project
Look Again Resale Shop
 Los Cuates
 Lost Boy Cider
 Lost Dog Cafe
 Lotus Blooms
 Lowery's Dial
Madame Coco Emporium & Everything Chocolate
 Made in ALX
 Mae's Market and Cafe
 Mai Thai Restaurant
 Makeda Ethiopian Restaurant
 Manumission Tour Company
 Market 2 Market
 Martz Bus
 Mary M. Gates Learning Center at United Way Worldwide
 Mason and Greens
 Mason Social
 Matt & Tony's
 McChrystal Group
 McNearney Associates Inc.
 Meadowlark Botanical Gardens
 MGM National Harbor
 Mia's Italian Kitchen
 Michael's on King
Mieza Blendery
 Misha's Coffee - King Street
 Misha's Coffee - Prince Street
 Momo Sushi & Cafe
 Morrison House Old Town Alexandria, Autograph Collection
 Mount Purrnon Cat Café & Wine Bar
 Mount Vernon Inn
 Ms. Moxie's Moon Shop

MSP AMC
 Murphy's Irish Pub
 Murray-Dick-Fawcett House
 Museum of the Bible
 Myron Mixon's Pitmaster Barbeque
Mystic BBQ & Grill
 Mystique Jewelers
 Nando's Peri-Peri
 National Charter Bus Alexandria
 National Harbor
 National Industries for the Blind
 National Inventors Hall of Fame
 National Law Enforcement Museum
 National Museum of the United States Army
Negus Winery and Meadery Tasting Room
 Neighborhood Provisions
 Nightly Spirits Haunted Tours
 Northside 10
Nothing Bundt Cakes Bakery
Nothing in Between
 Oak Steakhouse
 Occoquan Regional Park
 Office of Historic Alexandria
 Old House Cosmopolitan Grill
 Old Town Books
 Old Town Business
 Old Town Deli
 Old Town Farmers Market
 Old Town Trolley Tours
 Old Virginia Tobacco Co.
Orkney Springs Distillery
 Pacers Running
 Pasara Thai Restaurant
 Patina Polished Living
 Pedego Electric Bikes
 Penny Post
 Picnic & Peonies
 Piece Out
 PIES Fitness Yoga Studio
 Pink & Brown Boutique
Pippin Toy Co.
 Planet Wine
 Pohick Bay Golf Course
 Pohick Bay Regional Park

Pap's Old Fashioned Ice Cream Co.
 Park Barrel BBQ
 Port City Brewing Company
 Pride on the Avenue
 Prince of Wales House
 Principle Gallery
 Railbird Kitchen
 Ramparts Tavern & Grill
RDSL Audiovisual
 Red Barn Mercantile
 Residence Inn by Marriott Alexandria Old Town/Duke Street
 Racket Fizz Alexandria
 Rocklands Barbeque and Grilling Company
Roha Ethiopian Restaurant
 Rosemont Cellar
 Route 66 Ventures, LLC
 Row House
 Royal Nepal
 Royal Restaurant
 RT's Restaurant
 Rus Uz - Alexandria
 Rustico Restaurant
 Sacred Circle
 Salon deZEN
 Salon Monte
San Antonio Bar & Grill
 Scott's Music Place
 Scramble
 Serafino Fine Italian Leather & Accessories
 ShadowLand Family Entertainment Center
 Sheraton Suites Old Town Alexandria
 She's Unique
 Shiloh Baptist Church
 Shooter McGee's
 Shop Made in VA
 Silverman Galleries Antiques & Antique Jewelry
 Simon Pearce
 Sisters Thai and the Magnolia Dessert Bar
 Sonoma Cellar
 Southside 815
 Spice Kraft Indian Bistro

SpringHill Suites Alexandria Old Town/Southwest
 St. Elmo's Coffee Pub - Del Ray
 St. Elmo's Coffee Pub - Old Town North
 Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum
 Strictly Ebikes
 String Quartet of Northern Virginia
 Stylists at North
 Sugar House Day Spa and Salon
 Sunrise of Old Town
 Sweet Fire Donna's
 Swing's Coffee
 T.J. Stone's Grill House & Tap Room
 Table Talk
 Tall Ship Providence
 Taqueria Picoso
 Taverna Cretekou
 Ted's Montana Grill
 Ten Thousand Villages
 Tequila & Taco
 Thai Signature
 The Alexandrian Old Town Alexandria, Autograph Collection
 The Antique Guild
 The Athenaeum
 The BEST Gift Shop
 The Campagna Center
The Crazy Mason Milkshake Bar
 The Creamery
 The Dog Park
 The Executive Cafe
 The Executive Diner
 The Garden Del Ray
The Genius Genus
 The George of Old Town
 The George Washington Masonic National Memorial
The Greenery by TLC
 The Hour Shop
 The Italian Place
 The Light Horse
 The Lucky Knot
The MacMillon Spirit House
 The Majestic
 The Old Town Shop
 The Peoples Drug
 The Pita House
 The Rectory on Princess
 The Rub Chicken & Beer
 The Shoe Hive
 The Spice & Tea Exchange of Alexandria
The St. James
 The Study
 The Tasting Room
 The Twig

The Warehouse
The Washington Tattoo
 The Westin Alexandria Old Town
 The Wharf
 Theismann's Restaurant & Bar
 Thompson Italian
 Threadleaf & Company
 Toastique
 Today's Cargo
Together We Bake
Top Shelf Stays
 Topgolf National Harbor
 Torpedo Factory Art Center
 Trademark Drink and Eat
 Trice Alley Flat
 Turkish Coffee Lady
 Twist Boutique
 Umbrella Dry Drinks
Union Sandwich Co.
 Union Square
 Union Street Public House
 Unlimited Biking: Alexandria
 Urbano 116
 USA Guided Tours DC
 Vamoose Bus
 Van Dorn Diner
 Vaso's Kitchen
 Vaso's Mediterranean Bistro
 Vermilion
 Veronica's Bakery
 Vintage Mirage
 Virginia Theological Seminary
 Virginia's Darling
 Virtue Feed & Grain
 Visit Alexandria
 Vola's Dockside Grill and Hi-Tide Lounge
 Volunteer Alexandria
VSD Photography
Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association
 Washington Sailing Marina
 Wear Ever Jewelry
 Wegmans
 West End Business Association
 Whiskey & Oyster
White Lily Shoppe
 Windows Catering Company
 Wine Gallery 108
 Winkler Botanical Preserve
 Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House
 Yunnan by Potomac - a Noodle House
Zen Press Juice
Zuki Moon



VISIT ALEXANDRIA BOARD OF GOVERNORS



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

BOARD CHAIR

Kate Ellis

GM, Hotel Indigo Old Town Alexandria

VICE CHAIR

Denise Jackson

Senior Vice President, Management Solutions Plus

TREASURER

Stuart Fox

C.F.O., Route 66 Ventures

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AT-LARGE

Emily Baker (incoming)

Deputy City Manager, City of Alexandria

Phillip Blane

General Manager, Hotel Heron

Sarah Taylor (outgoing)

Assistant City Manager, City of Alexandria

SECRETARY (non-voting)

Todd O'Leary (incoming)

President & CEO, Visit Alexandria

Patricia Washington (outgoing)

President & CEO, Visit Alexandria

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Julie Almayc (incoming)

Vice President of Media

& Communications, George Washington's Mount Vernon

Ken Abrom (outgoing)

General Manager, Holiday Inn, Alexandria-Carlyle

Katya Ananieva (incoming)

She's Unique

Tobias Arff (incoming)

Area General Manager, Sage Hospitality Group

Chad Barth (incoming)

Vice President Mid-Atlantic, City Cruises

Martha Beckford (outgoing)

Associate Director of Sales, City Cruises

C.J. Cross

Founder, Hops N Shine

Shawn Halifax (outgoing)

Executive Director, Woodlawn and Pope-Leighey House

Amy Jackson

Vice Mayor, City of Alexandria

Jason Longfellow

Director, Kyo Gallery

Nicole McGrew

Owner, Threadleaf

Marilyn Patterson (incoming)

Chief Experience Organizer, Joyous Events

Stacey Price (outgoing)

Founder, Shop Made in Virginia

Jahmond Quander

Founder, 1799 Prime Steak & Seafood

Merrone Teklu (outgoing)

Director, ERP Resources

VIRGINIA
IS FOR
LOVERS



WASHINGTON, DC
MARYLAND
VIRGINIA
CAPITAL REGION USA

Burke
& Herbert
Bank

VISIT ALEXANDRIA TEAM

STAFF

Todd O’Leary
President & CEO (*incoming*)

Patricia Washington
President & CEO (*outgoing*)

Carla Bascope-Hebble
Vice President of Sales

Rebecca Doser
Director of Communications

Misha Enriquez
Director of Marketing

Melanie Fallon
Vice President of Member & Visitor Services

Vito Fiore
Vice President of Marketing & Research

Rhiannon From
Manager of Administration

Tom Kaiden
Chief Operating Officer

Trisha Meisner
Director of Member Relations

Lilly Mitchell
Senior Business Development Manager

Claire Mouledoux
Senior Vice President of Communications

Allison O’Keefe
PR and Communications Manager

Kim Olsen
Destination Sales Manager

Caroline Secrest
Senior Digital Content Manager

Suzanne Thibeault
Destination Sales Manager

VISITOR CENTER STAFF & VOLUNTEERS:

Jacquelyn Austin
Kristie Bryson
Clay Clarke

Nancy Elder
Nana Essien
Jeff Herre

Nate Jones
Finn McBride
Lisa McClure

Jay Middleton
Steve Posner
Avery Turnage

Yuri Villacorta

FINANCIAL RESULTS

REVENUE:

City Allocation \$4,695,800

Earned Income \$625,029

TOTAL \$5,320,829

EXPENSE:

Marketing & Programs \$4,950,678

General & Admin \$403,642

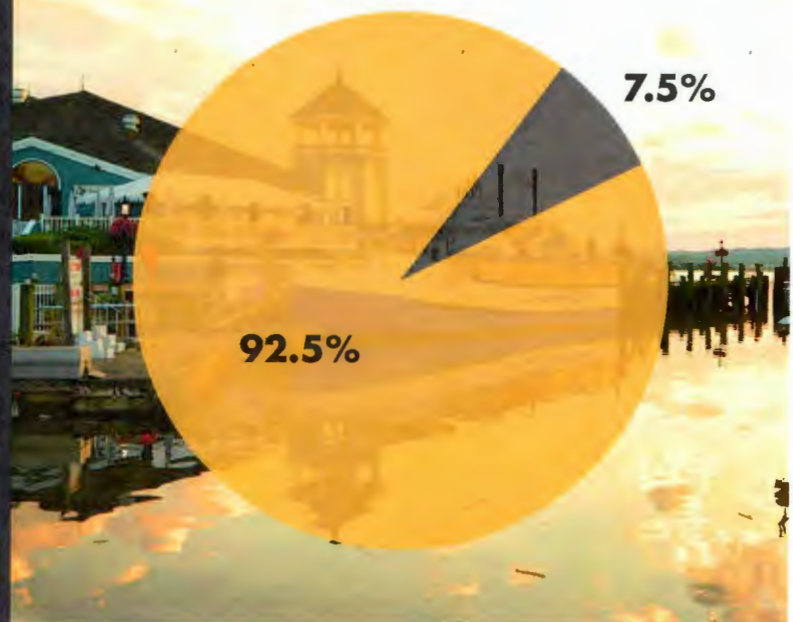
TOTAL \$5,354,320

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS:

TOTAL (\$33,491)

EXPENSE BREAKDOWN

● Marketing & Programs
● General & Admin



*Note: Financial results are preliminary internally generated reports, and subject to final modification with the completion of our annual external audit by the Han Group, LLC.



alexandria

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Visit Alexandria | 277 South Washington Street, Suite 210, Alexandria, VA 22314 | 703-652-5369

ADVISORY GROUP ANNUAL ATTENDANCE REPORT

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
VISIT ALEXANDRIA
MEETING ATTENDANCE REPORT**

JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024

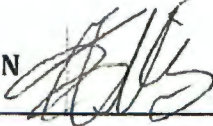
CHAIRPERSON: KATE ELLIS

MEMBER'S NAME	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Kate Ellis	X		X		X		X		X	X	X	X
Denise Jackson	X		X		X		X		X	X	X	X
Stuart Fox	X		X		X		E		X	E	X	X
Patricia Washington	X		X		X		X		X	-	X	X
David President	X		-		-		-		-	-	-	-
Stacey Price	X		U		U		U		U	U	U	U
Meronne Teklu	X		E		X		X		E	U	X	X
Amy Jackson	X		X		X		U		U	X	U	U
Sarah Taylor	X		X		X		E		X	X	X	-
Martha Beckford	X		X		X		U		-	-	-	-
Phillip Blane	X		X		X		X		X	X	X	E
C.J. Cross	X		E		X		U		U	X	X	E
Jahmond Quander	X		X		X		X		E	X	X	E
Shawn Halifax	X		X		X		E		X	-	-	-
Mark Mathews	E		-		-		-		-	-	-	-
Nicole McGrew	E		X		X		X		X	X	X	E
Jason Longfellow	-		-		-		X		X	X	X	X
Ken Abrom	-		-		-		X		X	X	X	X
Emily Baker	-		-		-		-		-	-	-	X

INDICATE: X - FOR PRESENT E - FOR EXCUSED U - FOR UNEXCUSED

LIST OF THOSE WHO DID NOT ATTEND 75% OF MEETINGS:

- Stacey Price
- Amy Jackson

FORM MUST BE SIGNED BY CHAIRPERSON
(APPROVED) Kate Ellis  (Chairperson)

Alexandria Waterfront Commission Annual Report
July 2023 – June 2024
Summary of Accomplishments

The mission of the Waterfront Commission is to advise the City Council and staff on issues related to Alexandria's Marina and advises on implementation of the Waterfront Small Area Plan. Within these guidelines, the Waterfront Commission membership completed the following activities during its 2023-2024 year.

**Waterfront Commission Policy and
Membership Accomplishments**

- Membership remained consistent through the year. The Commission held all meetings in-person from September 2023 through June 2024 and maintained at quorum during the year. The Commission also held its annual waterfront walk in June 2024. Although the Commission continues to be successful in vacancy recruitment, the Commission will consider avenues to increase diversity of the membership in future recruitment opportunities.
- List participation/Coordination with other advisory groups as relevant:
 - Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission
 - Historic Alexandria Foundation
 - Alexandria Commission for the Arts
 - Park and Recreation Commission
 - Trae Lamond, Representative, Old Town Business
 - Alexandria Planning Commission
 - Alexandria Archaeological Commission
- List any policy changes
 - None.

Waterfront Commission Member Activities

- List any member activities, if relevant, pertaining to members
 - One member continued to serve on the Public Art Task Force responsible for the recommendation for the installation of temporary public art in Waterfront Park.
 - Two members continued to monitor RiverRenew stakeholder meetings to ensure the Waterfront Commission is informed and participates in the planning activities associated with the Combined Sewer Outfall (CSO) remediation projects.
 - Two members continued to monitor development activities specific to the Potomac River Generating Station (PRGS) site.

Program and/or Legislative Accomplishments

- The Commission continues to support and provide recommendations to City Council on the implementation of the Waterfront Plan. Notable legislative accomplishments include:
 - The Commission provided comments on FY 2025 Proposed Budget and Capital Improvement Program reaffirming the City's commitment to funding planned capital expenditures, operations, and maintenance of the waterfront, and consider creative funding to ensure the future and continued success of the implementation of the Waterfront Plan. Priority Letter attached
 - The Waterfront Commission endorses enactment of an Old Town Business Improvement Service District (BISD) to provide enhanced services to businesses, residents, and visitors at the waterfront and along the King Street Corridor. The Commission long encouraged the City Council to find long-term and sustainable ways to fund investment in waterfront infrastructure, maintenance, and management through mechanisms such as a business improvement district. This recommendation has been a feature of the Commission's annual budget recommendation for many years now.
 - The Commission continued to monitor and provided recommendations regarding the Action Plan for Vibrancy & Sustainability at Torpedo Factory Art Center (TFAC). The Commission appointed a member to the Task Force to provide further study and community engagement.
 - The Commission reinstated a review committee to study the Robinson Terminal North Development project. This site is recognized as the last large parcel to be developed within the Waterfront Small Area Plan. Publicly accessible and well-maintained public spaces are a high priority and ensuring the waterfront walk is completed.
 - The Commission received regular updates and provides recommendations in the City's continued planning for the Flood Mitigation Project. In coordination with the Park & Recreation Commission, the Waterfront Commission (1) This project is urgent and commend the City and its team for their continued efforts to move this project forward within the budget available; (2) The City should plan for and prioritize park improvements in Waterfront Park; (3) Encourage bathrooms be added to the Waterfront Park pumping station;

Commission activities and addition work accomplished may be found by visiting <https://www.alexandriava.gov/25562>.

Goals for 2023-2024

- Continue to evaluate and review public and private development activities to ensure compliance with Waterfront Plan goals and objectives; and

- Continue to advocate for additional funding to implement and maintain activities in support of realization Waterfront Plan goals and objectives

Leadership

- List term expirations and new members, with month they were appointed
 - **Claire Mouledoux, VISIT ALEXANDRIA (appointed 9/2023)**
 - **Jan Abraham, REP WHO RESIDES EAST OF WASHINGTON AND SOUTH OF KING, (appointed 10.2023)**
 - **Sydney Smith, FOUNDERS PARK COMM ASSOCIATION. Appointed 11/2023)**
 - **Lawrence Gillespie, CITIZEN EAST OF WASHINGTON AND NORTH OF KING STREET, (appointed 11/2023)**
 - **Esther White, ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE, (appointed 03/2024)**
 - **William Vesilind, OLD TOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION (06/2024)**
- During the course of the year, membership included the following individuals:
 - Agnes Artemel, Citizen, East of Washington St. and North of Pendleton St.
 - Sarah Bagley, Member, Alexandria City Council
 - Eldon Boes, Representative, Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission
 - Robert Cvejanovich, Representative, Old Town Civic Association
 - Maureen Cooney, Historic Alexandria Foundation
 - Marcee Craighill, Representative, Alexandria Commission for the Arts
 - Stuart Fox, Representative, Park and Recreation Commission
 - Kristina Hagman, Representative, Founders Park Community Association
 - Charlotte Hall, Representative, Old Town Business
 - Nathan Macek, Representative, Alexandria Planning Commission, Vice-Chair
 - Claire Mouledoux, Representative, VisitAlexandria
 - Brian McPherson, Citizen, Park Planning District III
 - Lebaron Reid, Commissioner At-Large
 - David Robbins, Alexandria Marina Pleasure Boat Owners
 - Deb Roepke, Alexandria Seaport Foundation
 - Louise Roseman, Citizen, Park Planning District I
 - Barbara Saperstone, Citizen, East of Washington St. and South of King St.
 - Clair Sassin, Representative, Alexandria Chamber of Commerce
 - Stephen Thayer, Citizen, East of Washington St. and north of King St., Chair
 - Patricia Webb, Citizen, Park Planning District II
 - Esther White, Representative, Alexandria Archaeological Commission

Jack Browand, RPCA, Staff Liaison during FY 2024.

Attachments

1. FY 2025 Budget Letter to City Manager



Alexandria Waterfront Commission

Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

1108 Jefferson Street

Alexandria, Virginia 22314

November 3, 2023

James F. Parajon, City Manager
City of Alexandria
301 King Street
Alexandria VA 22314

Re: FY 2025-FY 2034 Operating and Capital Improvement Budget Planning

Mr. City Manager:

This letter summarizes the Waterfront Commission's fiscal year (FY) 2025 budget priorities, in response to your recent request for recommendations from commissions to help inform City of Alexandria budget priorities and decision making.

The Waterfront Commission, charged with overseeing implementation of the Waterfront Small Area Plan, continues to focus on analysis, planning and implementation of the capital improvements necessary to implement park improvements and flood mitigation projects, as well as ongoing maintenance and operation of high-quality parks and public spaces along the waterfront. The citizens of Alexandria made clear during the Waterfront planning process and ongoing implementation period that they supported private development efforts but valued most highly the improvement and maintenance of waterfront public areas controlled by the City. In addition, an attractive Waterfront—from Jones Point Park, through the core area of the Waterfront, northward to Old Town North and Daingerfield Island supports the City's aims to be a tourist destination, which sustains the economic health of the City.

This letter summarizes the Waterfront Commission's recommendations for the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) followed by the Operating Budget.

Capital Improvement Program

Waterfront Flood Mitigation and Park Improvements

With climate change moving at a visibly rapid pace, including the amount of flooding observed along our waterfront, we recommend that decisions for implementing flood mitigation and park improvements be based on current and realistic estimates of the needs and perils of the waterfront. In addition, improvements should be engineered to be reasonably afforded by the City, including both up-front capital and ongoing maintenance and operations costs.

In May 2022, the Waterfront Commission offered recommendations on the progressive design -

build procurement for the implementation of flood mitigation and park features of the Waterfront Small Area Plan. With the award of a progressive design-build contract to Skanska/JMT, the Waterfront Flood Mitigation Project is now moving forward. We continue to encourage the City to consider additional designs and technologies that will further the City's climate change goals, maximize recreational opportunities, and optimize our capital investment, and will provide further input as designs for improvements evolve. We also look forward to planning and implementation of park uses on lands affected by the flood mitigation project following completion of the capital project.

Operating and Maintenance Budget

Priority Waterfront Operations

The City's FY 2025 Operating Budget should sustain funding for priority waterfront operations and maintenance functions, including the marina, parks, policing, security, public restrooms, and debris removal. We encourage investment in the Torpedo Factor, to ensure it remains a welcoming place. The budget should also support endeavors such as the Tall Ship Providence and special events—including landmark celebrations for the City in 2024 (275th anniversary of Alexandria's founding) and the nation in 2026 (250th year of American independence).

The City should commit necessary funding for operations and maintenance as public spaces along the waterfront continue to be activated and improved. Increased activity in waterfront areas requires higher standards of attention to effectively manage those spaces.

Staffing and Employee Compensation

We note that improving the City's competitive position in attracting and retaining employees will be an ongoing focus of the City budget in FY25. In September, the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities was able to successfully hire five (5) full time staff members. The hiring of these new staff members will help to improve maintenance and operations in the Waterfront area.

Continuing to improve compensation of hourly and salaried employees across City government will help to improve the competitiveness of the City in attracting and retaining employees key to supporting Waterfront maintenance and operations, inclusive of public safety (police and fire), marina, and Waterfront parks and recreation positions.

Waterfront Transportation Access

We continue to encourage investment in transit, bicycling, pedestrian and disabled access along the Waterfront. including continued support of the King Street Trolley to Old Town and **fare-free** DASH Bus service throughout Alexandria. And we look forward to the continued support of the water taxi. This mitigates the impact of changes in parking supply and helps to provide green and healthy means of transportation to enjoy the Waterfront.

Waterfront Funding Streams

The Commission continues to encourage the City to find long-term and sustainable ways to fund investment in waterfront infrastructure, maintenance, and management through mechanisms such as a business improvement service district, public/private partnerships, bonding, or

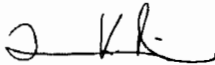
application of incremental revenue from the waterfront's completed new private development. Programs that address equitability like the Seaport Foundation's program for at risk and disadvantaged youth should continue to be supported.

Conclusions

In summary, the Waterfront Commission recommends that the City Manager's proposed FY 2025 Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Plan reaffirm the City's commitment to funding planned capital expenditures, operations, and maintenance of the Waterfront, and consider creative funding to ensure the future and continued success of the implementation of the Waterfront Plan.

We look forward to providing constructive feedback on the City's budget proposals over the coming months.

Sincerely,



Lebaron K. Reid, Chair
Alexandria Waterfront Commission

cc: Alexandria Waterfront Commission members
Emily Baker, Deputy City Manager
James Spengler, Director, Recreation Parks & Cultural Activities
Terry Suehr, Director, Project Implementation
Jack Browand, Deputy Director, Commission Staff Liaison