

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 8, 2019

TO: MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: MAYOR JUSTIN M. WILSON & COUNCILWOMAN AMY B. JACKSON

SUBJECT: HEALTH & SAFETY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

The City Manager's Quality of Life Committee was originally formed as an internal staff group designed to coordinate activities impacting neighborhood quality of life. Today the group has evolved into a comprehensive committee impacting several critical policy areas: public safety, housing, and public works.

The committee meets every other month (excluding the summer) and receives reports from the Police Department, Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority, Court Services Unit, Sheriff's Department, Commonwealth's Attorney, Probation and Parole, Alexandria Health Department, Department of Code Administration, Department of Transportation and Environmental Services, Department of Community and Human Services and the Alexandria City Public Schools.

The Committee does not exist in City Code and its function has evolved a bit over the past few decades. Additional departments are now represented and the committee has transitioned from an internal staff forum into a public body.

We believe there is value in a regular convening of these agencies and departments, but the function of the committee today is primarily as a reporting entity, while the considerable value to explore policy reform and innovation is largely ignored.

As such, we believe the Council should rethink the purpose, function and composition of the group. We would suggest that City Council create the "Alexandria Health and Safety Coordinating Committee." This committee will be charged with:

- 1) Defining, reviewing and ensuring public dissemination of reports and metrics that reflect the health and safety of people and property in the City of Alexandria.
- 2) Reviewing effectiveness of ongoing policy and programs designed to improve the health and safety of people and property in the City of Alexandria.
- 3) Considering new policy proposals and providing recommendations to the City Council to assist in consideration of such proposals.

The Committee shall consist of two members of the City Council designated by the Council, the City Manager or his or her designee as well as representatives from:

- Alexandria Police Department
- Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority
- Alexandria Court Services Unit
- Alexandria Sheriff's Department
- Alexandria Fire Department
- Alexandria Commonwealth's Attorney's Office
- Alexandria Probation and Parole
- Alexandria Health Department
- Alexandria Housing Department
- Alexandria Department of Code Administration
- Alexandria Department of Transportation and Environmental Services
- Alexandria Department of Community and Human Services
- Alexandria Indigent Defense Office
- Alexandria City Public Schools

Meetings will be scheduled every other month (excluding July and August) and occur on the first Friday of each month at 8 AM.

In 2019, the meeting dates will be: February 1st, April 5th, June 7th, September 6th and November 1st.

The Committee will develop and approve an inventory of required reports that shall be delivered in advance of each regularly scheduled meeting. Such reporting shall be published on the City's website and available in advance of the meeting.

Each meeting shall feature a policy area for discussion that is determined by the two members of Council and the City Manager.

The Council representatives shall provide on-going updates to the remainder of City Council on the activities and recommendations of the new committee.

Cc: Mark Jinks, City Manager; Debra Collins, Deputy City Manager; Joanna Anderson, City Attorney; Gloria Sitton, City Clerk