

City of Alexandria, Virginia

ResilientALX

Project Proposal



Purpose



- The City of Alexandria's Fiscal Year (FY)2017 – FY2022 Strategic Plan highlights the importance of a **Safe and Resilient Community**.
- Alexandria's **Citizen Corps Council (CCC)** is designed to advise the City on how to enhance community resilience.

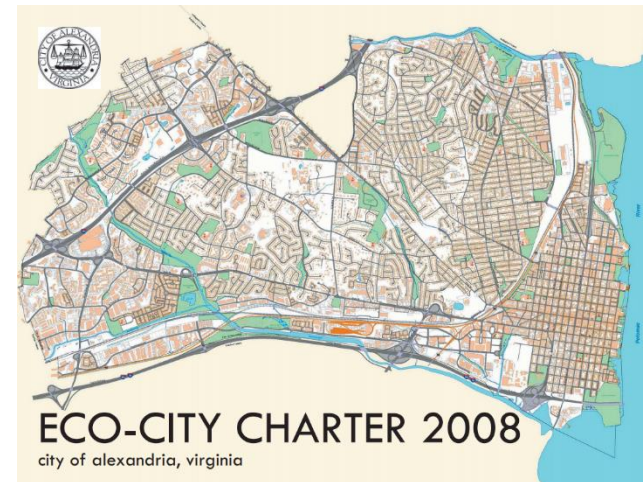


Building a Safe and Resilient Community is one of 10 thematic areas highlighted in the City of Alexandria's FY2017 – FY 2022 Strategic Plan.

Introduction



- The CCC seeks appointment from Council to conduct the ***ResilientALX project***.
- The project will include creating a **Charter** and **Assessment and Report**.
 - The **Charter** will authorize the ResilientALX project to supplement the goal of Alexandria's Strategic Plan in the area of creating a *Safe and Resilient Community*.
 - The **Assessment and Report** will help the City better understand its preparedness posture and provide recommendations on how the City can effectively reach its strategic goal.



In 2008, the City of Alexandria demonstrated its commitment to sustainability by signing the Eco-City Charter.

Charter



- Through the **Charter**, CCC will identify how the City can improve resilience.
- CCC will work collaboratively with related advisory and stakeholder groups to create a **sound** and **unifying** vision for the City.
- CCC's goal is to **draft** and **socialize** the Charter by **September 2020**.

Example Focus Areas



WHOLE
COMMUNITY
PREPAREDNESS



STORM WATER
INFRASTRUCTURE



TRANSPORTATION



ENERGY

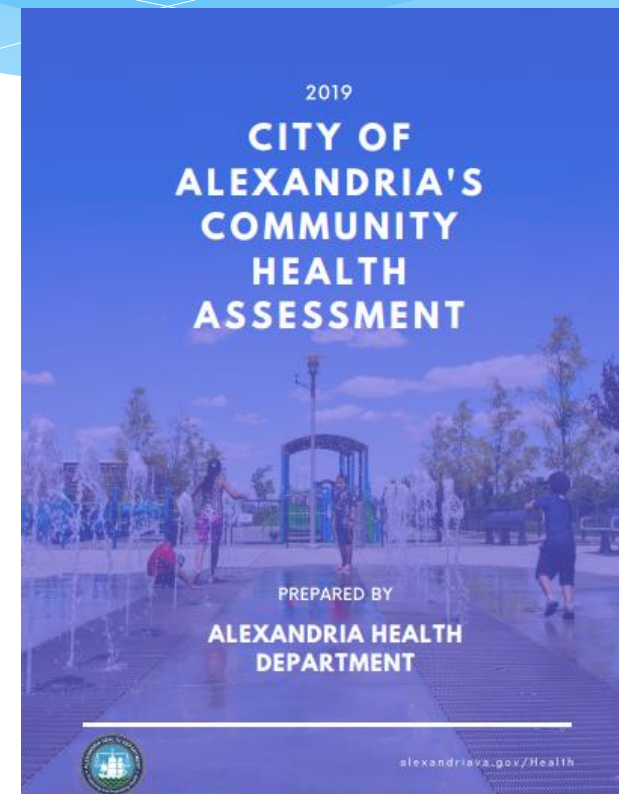


COMMUNICATIONS

Assessment and Report



- Once the Charter is signed by City Council, CCC will start its **Assessment and Reporting** process.
- To conduct the **Assessment**, CCC proposes that its members, partners, and stakeholders, with aid from research assistants, will:
 - Analyze existing preparedness data; and
 - Solicit community input through surveys.
- CCC will use its findings to develop a **Report** that identifies perceived strengths and weaknesses in Alexandria's preparedness posture, along with recommended actions.

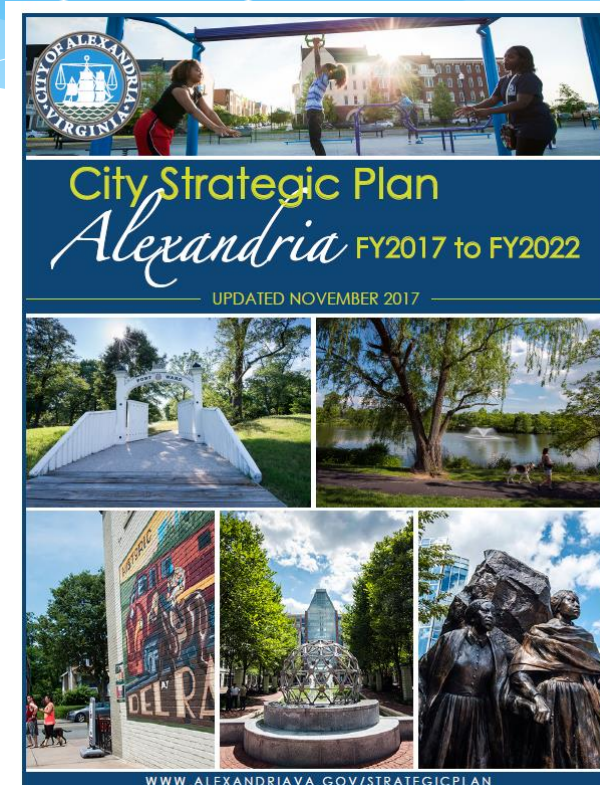


In 2019, the Alexandria Health Department conducted a Community Health Assessment to understand how healthy the City of Alexandria is.



Integration Into Strategic Plan

- Change begins with a **data-driven, comprehensive** understanding of the issues—the **Assessment** will bring clarity.
- With a sensitivity to budget considerations, CCC will further explore **cost effective options** for improving resilience, as well as grant and other funding opportunities to help the City realize its goals.
- The resulting **Report** will then serve as a powerful tool to inform current and future Strategic Plans—particularly for the thematic area, *Safe and Resilient Community*.

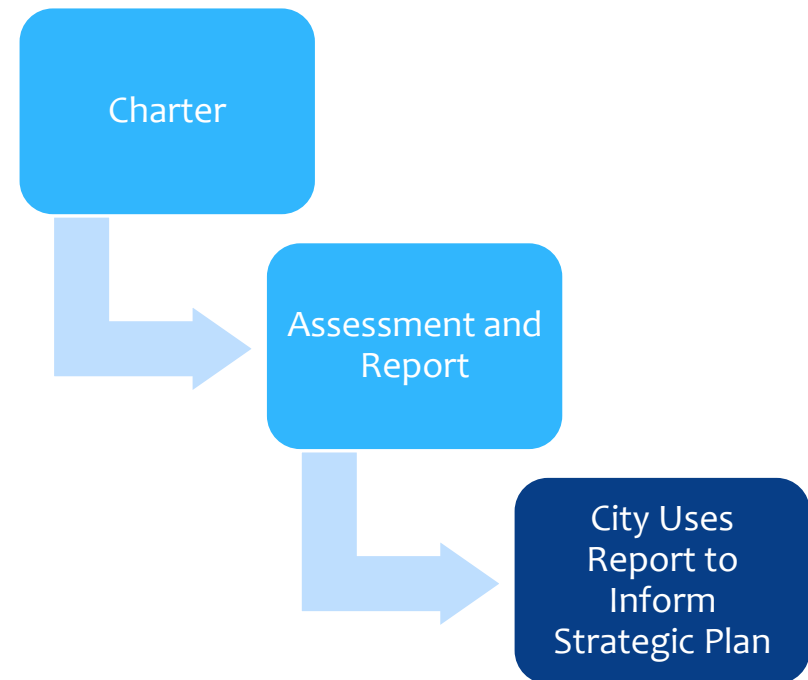


CCC's Assessment and Report may serve as an invaluable resource to inform the FY2023 – FY 2028 Strategic Plan.

Approach



- For the **ResilientALX project**, CCC will adopt a **Gate Review** process.
- At the end of each phase, Council can decide whether CCC should continue to the next phase.
- CCC predicts that the **Charter** will take about **one year** to complete.
- The **Assessment and Report** will take approximately **two years**.



The ResilientALX project will be phase-driven, with two points to measure, adjust, or proceed.

Outcomes



- Anticipated **ResilientALX** project outcomes include:
 - **Clearer vision** for preparedness planning in the City.
 - **Reduced impact** of disasters and emergencies to individuals, households, businesses, non-profit organizations, and local government agencies.
 - **Improved individual preparedness** to reduce burdens on public safety groups such as Alexandria's first responders and volunteer organizations during a disaster.
 - **Faster recovery** from disasters across factors including: 1) physical; 2) financial and economic; 3) psycho-social and; 4) governmental.

Considerations



- The **Charter** simply provides a **vision** for creating a more resilient community—it will not capture specific projects for the City to consider.
- The **Assessment and Report** will rely heavily on volunteers to collect, consolidate, and analyze data and to write the draft and final report.
 - CCC, in partnership with the Office of Emergency Management, will seek support from university research students.
- In the **Report**, CCC may **recommend specific projects** with estimated costs.
- The CCC's goal is to deliver a report that can inform or supplement the City's **Strategic Plan**. CCC may recommend projects or activities, beyond the Strategic Plan, where it makes sense.