City of Alexandria Community Funding Project
DRAFT Proposals[i]

1. **Re-employment and Upskilling Programs and Services** - $2 million; Labor, Employment and Training Administration

The City of Alexandria utilized Cares Act funding to pilot a three-month work-based learning program. The cohort included individuals who were under-employed prior to the pandemic or those who have lost their employment because of the pandemic. Half of the participants secured employment with their host business or at other employers because of the skills they gained in the assignment. In many cases, individuals were able to break into professional jobs that are aligned with their skills and are making significantly higher wages than their under-employment wage or their full-time pre-pandemic jobs.

This proposal would be to scale up this existing program to serve more residents in the Alexandria/Arlington area, where a $2 million investment would allow for 200 individuals to receive work based learning at 40 hours/week, for 6-months at a $20/hour wage. Funds would also be utilized to assist with the procurement of professional certifications as well as pay for ESOL classes at the Northern Virginia Community College for individuals in need of those classes.

The goals of the program are to:
- provide paid work-based learning program to prepare residents for in-demand and well-paying career opportunities in the DC Metro region, including technology, healthcare, hospitality, early childhood development, and education;
- prepare residents for re-employment through comprehensive work readiness and industry certification trainings, which will help with their competitiveness for many of the opportunities available in National Landing and beyond;
- support residents' digital literary needs as well as help underserved populations maintain the operation of their personal internet-connected technology; and
- reduce the student debt burden resulting from for credit ESOL classes at the Northern Virginia Community College.

This proposal is supported by a consortium of education and workforce agencies serving the City of Alexandria and Arlington County.

These initiatives are shovel ready. Given our recent experience with the pilot, we can quickly scale and bring to use the funds to a high return on investment in a short period of time. In other words, these initiatives would not require a very long lead time before they are executed, bear fruit and provide early "wins."

2. **Regional Trauma-Informed Crime Prevention & Intervention through Engagement, Equity, & Asset Development** – $2 million (program can be scaled to amount of funding available), CJS

   With ongoing focus on equity in criminal justice and prevention and intervention services with juveniles, the City of Alexandria's proposal in this area is twofold: expanding the Northern Virginia Gang Task Force efforts related to prevention and intervention and hiring a time-limited juvenile justice regional team. These proposals would include efforts in the City of Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax County, Loudoun County and Prince William County.

   This proposal would expand Northern Virginia Gang Task Force efforts related to prevention and intervention in Northern Virginia. This would affect multiple northern Virginia jurisdictions, including Prince William County, Arlington County, Fairfax County, Loudoun County and Alexandria. The focus would be on strengthening efforts to mitigate the risks of crime, gang involvement, and trafficking. A focus would be placed on family engagement/reunification, trauma, equity, and resource communication. The Task Force (and the City through sole source) has a strong relationship with Northern Virginia Family Service, which is considered an expert in the region.

   In addition, funding from this proposal would including hiring a time-limited juvenile-justice regional team, to include the jurisdictions named above. This team would come under the direction of the Court Service Unit Directors through the Regional Gang Task Force and would be deployed within respective communities to create equity plans or enhance existing equity work to formulate improved systems to work to eliminate disparate treatment within juvenile justice.

3. **Flash Flooding "Spot Improvement" Projects** – $2 million, Homeland Security, Pre-Disaster Mitigation Projects

   Communities across the Commonwealth are facing more frequent severe flooding events. In Alexandria, these events impact our City far beyond our well known Potomac River waterfront area. We are currently working to implement short-range and long-term flood mitigation measures to reduce and resolve the impacts of this recurrent flooding in our community.

   In Alexandria, our residents and business owners are looking to us to do everything we possibly can to deal with the recurring flooding that's impacting our community. We are working on a Flood Mitigation Action Plan which includes more than $150 million in infrastructure investments in our community which will take ten years to complete. Ten years during which the flooding rains won't stop and during which we need to be making as many improvements as we can in areas experiencing these recurring flooding events, including short-range and long-term mitigation projects.

As part of this comprehensive flood mitigation program, the City is working to fund and implement "spot improvements" in particularly impacted areas of our community. These spot improvements are new storm sewer projects such as detention, pipes and other drainage improvements that make neighborhoods more resilient to climate change and flash flooding. Projects are typically $50,000 to $1 million each (depending on project location and scope) and can be delivered in 8-20 months. The City plans to spend a total of $2.5 million in FY 2022 to deliver eight projects. An additional $2 million would allow the City to accelerate up to six projects currently planned for FY 2023.

4. **Seed Funding for Alexandria Arts District Community Development Authority** – $2 million; HUD Economic Development Initiative, EDI

The pandemic has crippled the arts community, with both for profit and nonprofit entities closed down or limited in operation for more than a year. These shutdowns have negatively impacted the balance sheets of these important community-based organizations, and while some financial support through the PPP and EIDL programs has been helpful, they do not qualify for restaurant and hospitality/venue funding provided through more recent federal legislation.

Prior to the pandemic, the City of Alexandria created an arts district in Old Town North and has used planning tools to facilitate the inclusion of arts uses in redevelopment projects. The continued success of realizing the community's vision for the Old Town North Small Area Plan relies on the ability for these arts uses to build out new spaces and take on the role of anchors. While spaces for arts anchors have been identified and are under construction for both performing arts and arts education anchors, those organizations do not have the capital on hand to complete the required build out.

The creation of the Alexandria Arts District Community Development Authority (CDA) would allow for the CDA to fund these improvements utilizing tax exempt bond financing, and structure lease to own arrangements for these nonprofit anchors. Seed funding for the CDA would be used to structure legal and lease agreements and build the legal CDA entity required to manage these assets- two scheduled to come online in FY2022 and up to four additional anticipated in the coming years. Dependent on the amount of federal funding available, some funding could also be used to pay for the actual structure fit out for theatre and visual arts spaces operated by nonprofit arts groups, further reducing occupancy costs over the long term. This model can be replicated in other jurisdictions around the region or country.

5. **Deployment of Body Worn Cameras in Alexandria Police Department** – $2 million (for full first year costs, if federal funding is much less then a pilot program could be initiated), CJS

   The City of Alexandria City Council is currently evaluating implementation of a pilot camera program. City Council has not voted whether or not to approve such a program. Program planning was delayed due to fiscal challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

   Police camera initiatives require significant new funding and policy development, including additional legal and IT staff in the Police Department, City Attorney's Office, and Commonwealth's Attorney's Office. Staff and systems are necessary to supervise and monitor compliance with camera policies; securely maintain an extraordinary volume of data files while maintaining and documenting chain of custody; make files available to authorized users as needed; respond to requests for files from members of the public and private attorneys; redact portions of files that would not be appropriate to release; and other administrative tasks.

   A full Alexandria body worn camera program would cost about $2 million per year and without that funding would be implemented incrementally, with 110 officers getting the cameras in the first year, 110 officers in the second year and a total of 325 officers wearing them by the third year. If much less than $2 million was funded as a community funding priority then a smaller scale pilot program could be implemented.

6. **Early Childhood Education: Aligning Early Childhood Education and School Readiness with Best Practices that Lessen Negative Impacts on Children, Families and the Community** -- $1.5 million, Education

   The overwhelming and compelling consensus of experts shows that accessing quality early learning is a critical factor in determining future success. Unfortunately, too many Virginians go without quality early learning programs. The Alexandria early childhood community continues to explore ways to address equitable access, and quality through building coordinated structures and connections for children 0-5. Forward thinking for economic sustainability would challenge us to develop additional spaces to offer child care programs, support professional development in the field and strengthen child care infrastructure by building family child care networks and shared services alliances at the community level.

   Alexandria has an existing well-developed framework and network of public and private partnerships to respond to critical needs in child care and early childhood education when funding is available. We are positioned for sound stewardship of any funds that support the early childhood and child care community.

   The uses of this funding would be to support the build of a sustainable source of community supports that strategically aligns early childhood education and school readiness with best practices that lessen negative impacts on children and the community. By building a system

of high-quality child care programs that provide environments, experiences, and relationships that promote learning and development to ensure children have a strong start. We would utilize a multi-pronged system of support for children, families and early childhood educators to address identified resource gaps that exist in early childhood and early childhood special education:

- **Access**: Create additional access to quality, equitable learning experiences for children.
- **Pathways to Self-Sufficiency for Families**: Poverty not only limits the resources that parents can provide, but also increases parental stress and impacts parenting practices. Provide case management, financial coaching services and financial incentives for families.
- **Trauma Informed Practices**: Healthy development in the first five years of life provides the building blocks essential to a child's long-term success. Experiences and interactions during this critical time directly impact the learning, health, and behavior of individuals for the remainder of their lives. Implement a mental health consultation model to enhance services for social-emotional health into every program plan. This would include efforts such as additional social-emotional screening for children 0-5, implicit bias and equity training for educators, and trauma informed service linkages for families for employment.
- **Early Childhood Workforce Sustainability**: Address, through advocacy, the long-standing problem of parents who cannot afford to pay more for child care and underpaid early educators who cannot afford to earn any less. As we seek long-term solutions it is important to keep these dual goals in mind to identify public investments and tools that can provide better pay for teachers and supports for the overall system to keep costs down for parents. 2020 dramatically impacted an already strained early learning sector.

The impact of the pandemic will have long-term implications for children as well as the child care sector. Our child care sector has only achieved stability at current levels through additional federal resources.   The recognition that child care is essential for our workforce should change the positioning and prominence of child care on any state and federal policy agenda in the future.

7. **Four Mile Run Restoration: Urban Deck Environmental Remediation and Design** – $2 million, HUD

This project, which is coordinated with Arlington County, focuses on the Four Mile Run area and Short Bridge Park, which straddles the boundary between Arlington County and the City of Alexandria. Planning for this area calls for a park to be located adjacent to the Potomac Yard strip mall. A decommissioned railroad bridge, now fenced off to the public, will connect Short Bridge Park in Arlington County to a future park in the City of Alexandria (Crescent Park). It is envisioned as an "urban deck" similar to New York's High Line Park.

This project supports regional trail connections to the George Washington Parkway/Trail, National Airport, the Potomac River, and areas west along Four Mile Run and creates an park linking Arlington County and the City of Alexandria. The City of Alexandria and Arlington County have been implementing recommendations of the Four Mile Run Restoration Masterplan since 2006.

This project includes environmental remediation of the Four Mile Run former rail bridge between Potomac Avenue and Richmond Highway. This project will provide environmental remediation for the urban deck based on a Site Characterization Report. The remediation will complete the first step to implementing the urban deck recommendation of the 2006 Masterplan and reaffirmed in the North Potomac Yard Small Area Plan, approved by City Council in 2010 and 2020.

The project will also include design of Four Mile Run between Potomac Avenue and Richmond Highway per the Four Mile Run Restoration Masterplan Recommendations. This project would provide conceptual and preliminary design for the urban deck and stream bank improvements. Construction for this project is anticipated to be funded through private contributions by adjacent development. The project has community support and will connect with completed improvements upstream, and the recently approved Virginia Tech Innovation Campus, anticipated to open in fall 2022.

Other Worthy Projects/Ideas That Don't Seem to Fit Accounts Eligible for Community Project Funding but Should Be On Kept on the Radar for Future Funding Opportunities
(*contains vetted and unvetted projects and concepts*)

Broadband Access in Parks: This project is intended to address the digital equity issue by providing digital services in public parks. The project will specifically implement Wi-Fi access at the City's largest parks to provide internet services, including Four Mile Run Park, Simpson Park, Chinquapin Park, Hensley Park, Brenman Park/Boothe, and Fort Ward Park. $600,000-800,000

Alexandria Library Outreach Initiatives: Outreach vehicles and Lend it Kiosks making library services available throughout the community. This project is a joint effort between the Alexandria and Arlington Public Libraries (pending) designed to solidify services to communities often overlooked. Outreach vehicles will serve communities such as ARHA properties, Human Services buildings, Community Lodgings and city parks. The lending kiosks will be located in parts of the city that offer no convenient library services. Primarily located near metro stations, i.e., King Street, Eisenhower, and Potomac Yard. The purchase of a vehicle, supplies, 2 kiosks, and 1.5FTEs are needed for the project for Alexandria at a cost of $422,000 for Alexandria. While partnership agreement from Arlington is pending, this figure would change to $844,000.

USPS Relocation- Agency Efficiency & Cost Savings and Economic Development/Urban Development: TBD to fund site relocation efforts for the USPS to consolidate facilities and relocate its sorting facility from Metro-adjacent site in the Braddock Road neighborhood. In previous conversations, the USPS has recognized the community's desire for a higher and better use at this site, but has identified the unknown relocation costs as a barrier to movement. Funding for this planning project would identify and quantify the costs (which would be substantial),and build the business case for the USPS disposition of this site and relocation to a nearby facility. The Braddock Road Metro Neighborhood Small Area Plan identifies the site for planned redevelopment to include housing and public open space. The City of Alexandria, as the adjacent property owner, is poised to participate in a joint redevelopment project to achieve the community vision from the small area plan.

Affordable, Supportive Housing for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care: Purchase small (5-8 unit) building to provide affordable, supportive housing for children aging out of foster care. Age limit - 18 to 22. College dorm-like setting, adult support supervision. Requirements to live at the facility are enrollment in a job training program or community college. Partnerships with City agencies for volunteering, internships and mentoring. Additional city support includes financial literacy, GED, and language skills, mental health and emotional support treatment. Instead of "aging out" the city would take on the support and investment that these children need to become healthy, successful adults. Here's a link to some data on this subset of kids - https://nfyi.org/51-useful-aging-out-of-foster-care-statistics-social-race-media/

Conservation and Digitization of Historic Records in Alexandria and Arlington: Provide $1.9 Million to fund the preservation of thousands of historic and court records and the digitization of these records. Alexandria and Arlington between them have approximately 3000+ volumes of historic records dating from 1730 to the present, and 7000+ linear feet of paper records files dating to the 1800s. Preservation and digitization of these records would be accomplished by contracting with small business companies with prior experience in performing this function. Other jurisdictions in Virginia have done this in the past so there are existing companies that could start with little or no notice or startup time. The project is scalable, in that partial funding could be effectively used to preserve and digitize some records. Priority would be given to the most valuable and endangered records.

Restoration, Interpretation and Curation of Freedom House: In 2018, the City of Alexandria purchased 1315 Duke Street, the site of the Franklin and Armfield slave trade headquarters, for $1.8 million in order to preserve and protect this site, intending to restore, preserve, interpret and curate the site and open it to the public as the Freedom House Museum. As improving and protecting the building over the next 10 years is anticipated to cost approximately $3 million dollars, the City is working to secure additional funding sources or partnerships beyond the $2.4 million approved in the current State budget for restoration and preservation efforts of the site. While there are some private funds that may be able to be raised to assist with building renovation, restoration and museum exhibit planning and installation it is likely that substantial guaranteed funding will be needed to achieve the vision of a restored 1315 Duke Street with full and informative exhibits. Acquisition of the property by the City ensures the long-term ownership of the building as a public museum house, held for the public trust, accessible to the public (including school students), and preserved to recall a painful but important era of national, Virginia, and City history. There is also the immense opportunity to tell a fuller and more complete story of the site, restoring and curating museum exhibits to the upper floors of the building.

Originally built in the period from 1812 to 1820 for General Robert Young, commander of Alexandria's militia, as a three-story private residence with basement, the nationally registered brick and wood framed building would later become the business office and holding pen for one of the largest domestic slave trading firms in the United States, Franklin & Armfield, from 1828-1836.

Whereas most slave traders during this time, operated on a relatively small scale, Franklin and Armfield were one of the few who became millionaires because of their dealing of enslaved people. Before John Armfield and Isaac Franklin sold the business in 1836, they had control of half of the coastal slave trade from Virginia to New Orleans. Armfield lived above the business, collecting enslaved people brought in by brokers and headhunters, and managing the trade in Alexandria.

While the location of the 1828 Franklin and Armfield slave pen has great significance to Virginia's slave history, its reach is wider stretching to the Deep South.

Knox Box Replacement for a Key Fob System: Knox boxes are a public safety initiative that provide keys to public safety agencies to enter businesses. We currently have Knox boxes which contain the physical keys to business. The Department has been in contact with both Arlington and Fairfax and all three jurisdictions are considering adjustments to this system by moving away from physical keys to the Knox box, and moving to a key fob system to provide more/better security that could be adjusted through an electronic fob system. An estimated cost for just Alexandria is $507k (this has been discussed with a vendor). An approximate estimate for Arlington would be similar cost, and double for Fairfax (these estimates are just based on size and have not been discussed with the vendor). One area we would need to work through is the Procurement method for a purchase of this size.

Signage on Highways Related to Openings Between Highways: This is a follow up recommendation from the Josh Weismann Line of Duty Death (LODD) report in 2012. Paramedic Weismann fell between an opening between the interstates and after sharing the after action report with VDOT, both parties agreed better signage about these gaps is something to improve upon. That project is still in VDOT's court to complete. We continue to follow up with VDOT to see if the issue is a funding issue, or VDOT staff time/capacity. We believe the delay on this is more due to VDOT staff time/capacity as opposed to funding, but we will continue to follow up on this idea.

Swiftwater Tow Vehicles: Arlington, Alexandria and City of Fairfax all have multiple swiftwater boats, but each jurisdiction primarily has one tow vehicle. This can make transport of swiftwater boats and rafts difficult as each Department looks for the proper vehicle to tow additional small boats, rafts, or inflatables. This proposal would purchase tow vehicles for these jurisdictions.

Waterfront Flood Mitigation: The City experiences frequent flooding in the area of lower King Street near the Potomac River from both river water backing up the stormwater system and flooding nearby streets and sidewalks, and from the breaching of the bulkhead by the Potomac River either during high water high tide events or during major storms. The City is working on a plan to reduce the frequency of both of these types of flooding events, as well as to build a more permanent Waterfront Park structures and features. The cost of this project is very large at a range of $100 million to $200 million depending on the breath of the improvements implemented.

Waterfront Parks Improvements: Waterfront Parks Improvements will provide important connections with the regional George Washington Memorial Trail network, and improve regional water access for self-propelled watercraft traffic on the Potomac River. This project includes the construction of the Windmill Hill Park Northern Pier, improvements to the Windmill Hill Water access ramps and trails and improvements to Point Lumley Park. This project will complete the Windmill Hill Park Shoreline Project as approved by City Council in 2015. Design for the pier is complete and funding was removed from the budget in FY2021 as a result of the pandemic shortfall. The water access repairs and trail improvements will address erosion issues from heavy rain events and consist of the installation of pervious materials to

reduce permitting, shorten implementation of repairs and provide consistent access for kayakers and park users. Point Lumley Park will be expanded in the spring of 2021 to include 226 Strand street. The new expanded park will provide residents a visitors with passive recreation options and rental revenue for RPCA. $540,000 - $665,000

Workforce Housing Stipends/Vouchers: Funding for those at a certain level to receive workforce housing vouchers/stipends of some kind to assist without being in the eviction relief program (educators, healthcare workers, public safety professionals who work in Alexandria but pay rent or mortgage at "normal" rates).

Food Insecurity: Programs that continue to alleviate hunger in our City including our college students (NOVA, etc), also in conjunction with public school students and low income families. Also, the bill I discussed with you concerning restaurants and healthy kid menu options.

Mass Transportation Vouchers

Climate Change Actions: reforestation/trees, solar energy funding, implementation of plastic bag tax (except for low income or bottom line of grocery store chains?)

City Parks: Better upkeep of PARKS (more modern playgrounds, fields, trees)

Farmers Markets: Farmers Markets need funding for additional vendors and additional space, and year round scheduling.

Women's Office Measures: Re-organizing an Office for Women to advise, direct, empower and implement Women's events and create awareness and guidance for Women's issues, not just those tied to children and family which is where Women are usually grouped.

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[i] Subject to City Council consideration at their April 27 Legislative meeting

City of Alexandria
April 6, 2021