



Legislation Text

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City of Alexandria, Virginia

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MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** DECEMBER 6, 2017

**TO:** THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** MARK B. JINKS, CITY MANAGER /s/

**DOCKET TITLE:**

Receipt of the Community Action Plan from North End Quality of Life Work Group.

**ISSUE:** Receive the Community Action Plan from North End Quality of Life Work Group.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the City Council receive the final report from North End Quality of Life Work Group.

**BACKGROUND:** The North End Quality of Life Work Group (the “Work Group”) was established by City Council as a resident-comprised Ad Hoc Work Group to meet over the course of one year to identify problems that negatively impact the safety and overall quality of life of public and private housing residents and local businesses in the North End neighborhood. The group was charged with exploring the root causes of issues in the area that lead to violence and lack of self-sufficiency, as well as identify ways to address those problems. Alexandria’s “North End” generally encompasses the areas South of First Street, East of the Braddock Metro, West of North Washington Street and North of Oronoco Street. Members of the group were appointed by the City Manager, and the group met monthly beginning in December 2016. Representatives from the community and City departments were invited to these meetings to provide information to the group on different topic areas.

**DISCUSSION:** After exploring the issues facing the neighborhood and discussing the root causes of these problems, it became clear to the group that the overarching need is for an established sense of community. This neighborhood includes residents from a full spectrum of economic and demographic groups as well as local business owners who all have invested personal time and money into seeking to make the neighborhood a true community. However, there still remains a lack of connection between people of different ages, race, ethnicities and economic levels and therefore, the all-encompassing goal is to remove the lines that separate people from each other. People feel safe in a community where they know their neighbors, have access to vital services and

where law enforcement officers are known and well integrated in the community. Children succeed when they have families and role models in their community to help them grow, learn and become contributing members of society. Local businesses thrive when the people who live in the neighborhood can afford to utilize the services provided as well as work in the jobs created by these businesses. The community benefits from residents who have a strong sense of ownership and respect for their surroundings as well as a connection with their neighbors.

The goals and strategies set out in this report (Attachment) are designed to achieve a unified and cohesive community with knowledge and access to essential services that supports every member of the community allowing them to thrive and excel. Staff will begin to track and implement these actions over the course of the next year.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The action items outlined in the work plan are within the existing day-to-day bandwidth of the City government's programs and services and will not require additional funding at this time.

**ATTACHMENT:** North End Quality of Work Group Community Action Plan

**STAFF:**

Debra Collins, Deputy City Manager

Hillary Orr, Special Assistant to the City Manager