EXHIBIT NO. 1

23
12-8-03

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: DECEMBER 3, 2003

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER ps

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO RECONSTITUTE THE ALEXANDRIA CITIZEN CORPS COUNCIL TO ENHANCE CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT IN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

ISSUE: Request from Councilmen Ludwig Gaines and Rob Krupicka to increase citizen involvement in the emergency preparedness process.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council approve the reconstitution of the Citizen Corps Council as the vehicle to increase citizen involvement in the emergency preparedness process.

DISCUSSION: Councilmen Gaines and Krupicka have discussed the possibility of expanding the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) to provide for broader citizen representation in the emergency preparedness process, and noted that both of them would be meeting with staff to discuss their proposal and come back to Council with a recommendation.

The LEPC, per federal legislation, is responsible for: devising and distributing emergency plans aimed at addressing hazardous materials; completing emergency plans which include an identification of facilities subject to the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA); a listing of methods and procedures to respond to a release of hazardous materials and other tasks associated with responding to biological, radiological, and chemical events.

Currently, the LEPC has been designated as the local Citizens Corps Council to meet the federal grant requirements for the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) program. Alexandria has received one CERT grant this year for $14,421 and will apply for a second grant this month to address the needs of the Spanish-speaking community. Several jurisdictions, including Arlington County, have a Citizens Corps Council which works in tandem with their LEPC and has a number of citizen groups in its membership.

Because of the LEPC's narrow focus, Councilmen Gaines and Krupicka believe it is more appropriate to reconstitute the Alexandria Citizen Corps Council as a separate entity, apart from the LEPC, to perform the function they envision. This function would include assisting the public in preparing for emergencies by outreaching to the community and obtaining its input in the

City's overall disaster response. Tasks could include public emergency communication and education programs; identification of community groups, agencies and volunteers to participate in disaster relief efforts; and management of community resources for disaster, e.g. Chamber of Commerce and business partnerships, Interfaith Association, United Way, Salvation Army, etc.

Councilmen Gaines and Krupicka propose an 11-member Citizen Corps Council, to be appointed by the City Manager, that will have the following membership: two members of City Council who will serve as co-chairs; one representative from the Commission on Persons With Disabilities; one representative from the Commission on Aging; one representative from the Alexandria Chapter of the Red Cross; two representatives designated by the Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations (one from the east end of the City and one from the west end of the City); one representative from the Alexandria Interfaith Association; one representative from the Chamber of Commerce; one representative from the Alexandria Public Schools; and one representative from the Alexandria Emergency Medical Services Council (EMS). The Citizen Corps Council should submit a report to the City Council within one year of its initial meeting.

FISCAL IMPACT: None

STAFF:
Rose Williams Boyd, Executive Secretary for Boards and Commission