

*City of Alexandria, Virginia*

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**MEMORANDUM**

DATE: APRIL 7, 2008

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO # 72: FY 2009 BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING OF INCREASE OF \$50,000 TO THE MAYOR'S SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

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This memorandum is in response to Mayor Euille's concerns about the impact of the slow economy on employment opportunities for Alexandria's youth and recommendation to increase funding by \$50,000 for the Summer Youth Employment Program to provide additional subsidized work experience for youth this summer.

Funding to maintain the FY 2009 Summer Youth Employment Program at the FY 2008 service level is included in the City Manager's Proposed Budget. This level of funding subsidizes the wages for 120 youth in the six-week public program and provides support services. These funds also support seasonal Youth Advisors who provide case management for the youth and perform job development for private sector jobs which serve an additional 135 youth. Thus, 255 youth will be served through the existing Summer Youth Employment Program.

An increase of \$50,000 will enable the program to serve an additional 33 youth above the existing service level. These youth will be ages 14-21, low income, and at risk. These youth will be placed in subsidized jobs with City Departments and non-profit agencies. The youth will work 30 hours/week for the six-week program, July 7—August 15, 2008, and earn the minimum wage (\$5.85/hour to start, later increased to \$6.55/hour due to the increase in the federal minimum wage). The funds will also provide support services which include transportation and clothing assistance. An additional seasonal Youth Advisor will be hired at \$16.04 for nine weeks to provide counseling, job readiness, and worksite monitoring and follow-up. Thus, an increase of \$50,000 will enable the program to serve 288 youth this summer.