

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** OCTOBER 20, 2021

**TO:** MARK JINKS, CITY MANAGER

**FROM:** H. (SKIP) MAGINNISS, CHAIR, AD HOC STORMWATER UTILITY AND FLOOD MITIGATION ADVISORY GROUP

**SUBJECT:** FY2023 BUDGET PRIORITIES

The Ad Hoc Stormwater Utility and Flood Mitigation Advisory Group (Advisory Group) has convened three meetings since its formation during which time we received technical information from staff and input from the residents our advisory group represents. While our work is just commencing, the increased frequency and damage from extreme rain events this past year highlights the need for the City Manager to proceed with the 5% Stormwater Utility Fee increase and the level of funding for FY 2023 outlined in the Stormwater Management Utility Ten-Year Plan for FY 2022 – FY 2031, adopted by City Council on May 5, 2021. We support the 5% Utility Fee increase and related FY 2023 funding to:

- Continue to prioritize stormwater capacity and flood mitigation projects;
- Ensure the sponsoring and managing departments are fully staffed and funded to manage, implement, and accelerate where possible a growing number of projects;
- Evaluate and revise the stormwater program to reflect changing events and conditions;
- Continue ongoing maintenance and spot project improvements of the stormwater system;
- Evaluate ongoing maintenance requirements to ensure sufficient future funding and resources are allocated to meet the demand of ongoing operations and maintenance;
- Evaluate the level of funding for the Flood Mitigation Grant pilot program and possibly expand coverage to better assist condominiums and ensure continued solvency;
- Evaluate, and apply for relevant state and federal grant funding for flood mitigation and resiliency projects, and;
- Evaluate and recommend appropriate annual increases of stormwater utility rates.

As implementation of the Stormwater Management Utility Plan gains momentum the Advisory Group foresees the commensurate necessity to keep informing residents using accessible, clear, concise, and frequent communications regarding the program and its component projects. To support continued investment, residents must also be given the information necessary to understand the projected cost and funding versus benefits of the program in both the short and long term, as well as how the program will affect current and future City Budgets.

Thank you for your consideration. The Advisory Group stands ready to work with City staff to shape the measures and the messages to engage residents in a multi-year program to prepare Alexandria for the climate challenges of the future.

Sincerely,



H. (Skip) Maginniss, Chair, Ad Hoc Stormwater Utility and Flood Mitigation Advisory Group

cc Yon Lambert, Director, T&E  
Terry Suehr, Director, DPI