

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 5, 2019

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: BUDGET AND FISCAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BFAAC)

SUBJECT: MEMO #4: STATUS UPDATE ON BFAAC'S EXAMINATION OF CITY AFFORDABLE HOUSING FINANCE CHALLENGES

In this year's work plan, BFAAC acknowledged the negative impact of a dwindling supply of affordable housing on quality of life for residents, economic development, and our ability to house providers of key City services within Alexandria. The work plan also noted an upcoming report assessing the budget's readiness to support affordable housing goals and exploring opportunities to maximize resources for affordable housing including creative or alternative approaches to housing.

While this report remains under development, it will be provided to Council following this year's budget cycle, instead of during the first quarter of 2019 as anticipated. To the extent that particular findings relevant to the report are available more quickly, these additional materials will be communicated to the City Council in a timely manner.

As part of this effort, we are in the process of contacting a number of city experts and stakeholders to obtain their input. The following general questions are guiding this work:

1. Does the city's housing affordability challenge impose costs on the people you serve and consequently, on your agency or program (e.g. students, clients, residents)? Have you attempted to quantify these costs in some way?
2. Does the city's housing affordability challenge affect your ability to recruit or retain qualified staff for your agency or program?
3. What are areas that [your jurisdiction/your program] does well to address housing affordability? In what areas do you see room for improvement?
4. What approaches that other jurisdictions are pursuing would be potentially valuable for Alexandria? What are the roadblocks for implementing these approaches?
5. What additional research by the city or other entities would be helpful to better target housing affordability needs and strategies?

These consultations include multiple city agencies, city boards and commissions, and regional entities such as the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. We anticipate providing a report by the end of 2019.