

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: FEBRUARY 26, 2009

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO # 12: REAL ESTATE ASSESSMENT ADMINISTRATION ACTIVITY

This is in response to a query from Councilmember Wilson about why the assessment review rate per 1000 parcels did not rise as quickly as the appeal rate per 1000 parcels.

It is important to note that the review and appeal rate measures for fiscal years 2008, 2009, and 2010 correspond to calendar data for 2007, 2008, and 2009, respectively. Calendar year 2007 and 2008 measures reflect actual data; calendar year 2009 measures are estimates. For calendar year 2009, the total number of reviews is estimated to be 1000; the total number of appeals is estimated to be 800. Those numbers are used to derive the review rate and the appeal rate. No policy change has been implemented that would reduce reviews or increase appeals.

The table below should be referenced in place of the version in the FY 2010 Proposed Budget. The CY 2008 actual data and CY 2009 projections were finalized in January and were not available for use in that document. The table with the revised measures shown below will be used in the FY 2010 Approved Budget.

ASSESSMENT ADMINISTRATION – The goal of Assessment Administration is to assess all real property within the boundaries of the City of Alexandria at 100% of fair market value as of January 1 in a uniform and equitable manner to ensure accurate taxation of real property.	FY 2008 Actual*	FY 2009 Approved*	FY 2010 Proposed
Expenditures	\$556,561	\$471,271	\$462,025
FTE's	5.0	4.4	4.0
# of parcels assessed	43,959	44,511	45,000
Cost per parcel assessed	\$12.66	\$10.59	\$10.27
Parcels assessed per appraiser (FTE)	5,494	4,935	6,429
Review rate per 1000 parcels	10.4	16.4	22.2
Appeal rate per 1000 parcels	5.3	10.6	17.8