

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

---

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 14, 2009

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO # 102 : SEWER CLEANING DUE TO FATS, OIL, AND GREASE

---

This memorandum is in response to Councilman Krupicka's question, "How much do we spend cleaning out sewer lines in business districts to remove fat, greases, etc.?"

T&ES is responsible for cleaning the grease spots in Old Town, Arlandria and on the West End. The service is provided by a contractor under T&ES management. The cost to maintain these areas is approximately \$128,346 per year. Approximately half of the sewer cleaning contractor's time is spent in high fats, oil and grease (FOG) areas.

Any savings to the City would be dependent on the businesses installing FOG separators in their business sewer systems. The amount of savings would depend on the quality of the businesses' systems. Even with the FOG system, the City would still be required to flush the lines on a periodic basis. This could be a monthly, quarterly or yearly basis, depending upon the systems installed by the businesses. Therefore, while some portion of the \$128,346 could be saved through business-installed systems, the entire amount could not be eliminated due to the need for periodic line flushing, and would either need to be covered by a FOG fee paid by restaurants or the General Fund. The Matrix Performance Audit and Best Practice study of T&ES recommended that the City enact a FOG program.