

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 16, 2009

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO # 110: REDUCED SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE
IMPACT ON RETAIL DISTRICTS

This memorandum is in response to Councilman Krupicka's question, "How will reduced sidewalk maintenance impact the retail districts in the City where there is heavy sidewalk traffic?" The proposed sidewalk maintenance budget for FY 2010 totals \$397,333 which is \$547,379 less than FY 2009.

Presently, there are two three-person crews maintaining brick sidewalks. T&ES also uses an on-call contractor to assist with repairs during most of the year and nearly daily during the summer. Approximately seventy percent of the brick sidewalk crews' time is spent maintaining the sidewalks in the Old Town business area. This area has the oldest brick sidewalks and requires considerable maintenance. Staff receives requests to repair brick sidewalks on a weekly basis, and sometimes in the summer months, daily. These requests come from the business owners, general public, and our own routine inspections.

To minimize the City's legal liability due to trip hazards, staff responds to a sidewalk repair request within twenty-four hours. With the proposed \$547,379 reduction in funding, staff will continue to respond to the requests in the business districts where trip hazards have been identified. With the addition of large new areas of brick sidewalks, such as the Carlyle and Cameron Station developments, these two crews only respond to requests or immediate needs without the ability to address larger maintenance or replacements of sidewalks.

With reduced funding for sidewalk maintenance, necessary repairs that are not imminent trip hazards may be deferred. This will not likely affect the retail districts where brick sidewalks needing repair are usually associated with a trip hazard. The impact will more likely affect residential areas in the City which had concrete sidewalk.