

*City of Alexandria, Virginia*

---

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 3, 2009

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO # 76: FORT WARD – ESTIMATE OF NEEDED BUDGET RESOURCES FOR HISTORIC/ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

---

In response to requests from the adjacent neighbors to Fort Ward for funding for to-be-determined Fort Ward Park and historic area improvements, the following information is provided (as the deadline for add-delete options of \$50,000 or greater is April 6). A more detailed memorandum on the issues (an update on community and staff discussions and actions to date) will be completed and sent to Council shortly.

Since the January City Council public hearing where Seminary Hill residents expressed their concern about various issues related to Fort Ward Park, a number of public meetings have occurred, new information has come to light, and short-term actions taken.

- Public meetings were held on February 18, March 4 and March 18.
- At these public hearings neighborhood, user and historic/cultural preservation views were expressed.
- During this time period new information on gravesites at Fort Ward (within as well as outside of the horticultural maintenance area) came to light.
- As a result of this new information, parks maintenance equipment and activities have been moved off the horticultural maintenance area, and horticultural activities and use of this site are being phased out and temporary facilities to relocate these functions are being identified.

As a result of these meetings, some residents participating in the discussion about the future and of Fort Ward and its adjacent park area and have advocated for City Council setting aside funds in FY 2010 for Fort Ward capital improvements.

While future capital improvements may be needed, it is too early in the process to identify what those capital improvements and their cost may be. As a result, it would be premature to budget capital funding for Fort Ward for FY 2010.

However, as a precursor to capital funding, it will be necessary to conduct further historical, cultural and archaeological studies and research at Fort Ward. This would help identify and document likely additional grave sites, as well as other potential archaeological areas at Fort Ward. While the scope of studies is in the early stage of development, ***it is likely that the studies would have an initial cost of between \$50,000 and \$75,000 in FY 2010. This could be defined as a capital project and funded in the CIP.*** Once studies in Fort Ward (in at least one or more areas) are complete, then planning for future capital improvements (such as relocation of parks maintenance and/or horticultural activities) in an area(s) away from immediately adjacent residences can occur.