


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: AUGUST 15, 2017

TO: AD HOC JOINT CITY SCHOOLS FACILITY INVESTMENT TASK FORCE

FROM: MARK B. JINKS, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: CITY FIRING RANGE USE SUSPENDED

Given your recent tour of City facilities, I wanted the Task Force to be updated on the firing range's status. The City's firing range has been under ongoing staff and outside expert review, and is in worse condition than thought a year ago with the estimated cost of upgrading/minimally fixing the facility having risen substantially to over \$4 million (or more). Concurrent with the later stages of review, the City has been looking at safety issues with the current facility. General Services is in the process of hiring an independent consultant to look at the current facility in regard to its safety, as well as what temporary mitigation measures may be warranted. In the interim, we have debated whether or not to keep the facility open and based upon subcontractor input, Chief Brown reached the conclusion that the facility should be closed at least temporarily until such time we receive the results of the upcoming independent review. Sheriff Lawhorne whose organization also uses the firing range concurs with the Chief's decision.

After the consultant review is completed (which may take several months), a determination will be made as to whether the current facility can be reopened as is, whether it can be reopened with some reasonable cost effective modifications, or whether the range should not be reopened. Regardless, the City will need to accelerate identification of a permanent long term solution.

Since the range is used to keep our uniformed officers at the skill level they need to protect the public (including required certification), an alternate temporary location in the D.C. region may need to be identified. The cost to use another range both in use costs and in officer travel time will be substantial, as the Police Department works out the details of alternate temporary use, the actual costs will become clearer.

Thank you for volunteering of your time and efforts in participating on the Task Force. I look forward to receiving the Task Force's recommendations this year.