

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 25, 2005

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO # 117 : COMPARISON OF CRIME STATISTICS AND FUNDING

This memorandum is in response to Councilman Gaines' request for regional comparative crime statistics; the revenue jurisdictions spent on public safety in recent years; and how other jurisdictions are faring with public safety and how they are funding public safety.

Comparative Crimes Statistics

The attached schedule (1) displays comparative Part I Crimes statistics for the year ending December 31, 2003 (the most recent year when all comparative data is available). The schedule includes Part I Crimes data for the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Prince William, Montgomery (MD) and Prince Georges (MD) and the cities of Richmond, Roanoke, Norfolk, Newport News and Hampton. The schedule is separated between Violent Crimes (homicide, rape, robbery and aggravated assault); and Property Crimes (burglary, auto theft and larceny).

Per the Washington Council of Governments (COG), the Washington Metropolitan Area experienced an overall decrease in Part I Crimes of 5.6% which included federal agencies. Over the same time period, Virginia as a whole saw an overall decrease of 7.2% in Part I Crimes, while Maryland saw a decrease of 3.1%. The City of Alexandria experienced an overall decrease of 10.4% in Part I Crimes from 2002 to 2003.

Public Safety Expenditures

The attached schedule (2) is based on Comparative Report of Local Government Revenues and Expenditures For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2004 compiled by the Virginia Auditor of Public Accounts. This report provides the General Assembly and governing bodies and officers of Virginia's counties, cities and towns an only somewhat helpful way to review local government fiscal activities. The attached schedule (2) compares the public safety expenditures and revenues of Arlington, Fairfax, and Prince William Counties and the cities of Roanoke, Richmond, Norfolk, Newport News and Hampton. Public Safety as defined by the Auditor of Public Accounts is Law Enforcement and Traffic Control, Fire and Rescue Services, Correction and Detention, Inspections and Other Protection. As local circumstances vary, and local accounting of where costs and revenues

show in the budget also vary greatly, these comparisons have limitations as to their usefulness. Also, the higher cost of living (and resulting higher public employee salaries) in Northern Virginia often make comparisons of costs with down-state localities not at all useful for analysis or decision making.

PART I CRIM. COMPARATIVE JURISDICTIONS
Year Ending 2003

Schedule

TYPE OF CRIME	Alexandria	Arlington	Fairfax	Prince William	Roanoke	Richmond	Montgomery	Prince Georges	Norfolk	Newport News	Hampton
Homicide	4	3	9	13	8	88	21	118	40	27	10
Rape	26	30	80	40	38	96	135	245	86	95	53
Robbery	179	208	540	197	128	1,182	1,004	3,553	719	390	245
Aggravated Assault	192	204	399	270	392	1,017	954	3,003	548	754	287
TOTAL VIOLENT CRIME	401	445	1,028	520	566	2,383	2,114	6,919	1,393	1,266	595
Burglary	497	374	1,713	966	603	2,850	4,095	7,332	1,742	845	855
Auto Theft	640	599	1,989	755	332	2,724	3,489	15,338	1,438	982	565
Larceny	3,754	4,006	16,082	5,563	4,450	9,077	17,875	22,007	11,442	6,318	4,054
TOTAL PROPERTY CRIME	4,891	4,979	19,784	7,284	5,385	14,651	25,459	44,677	14,622	8,145	5,474
TOTAL PART I CRIME	5,292	5,424	20,812	7,804	5,951	17,034	27,573	51,596	16,015	9,411	6,069
Population	137,000	196,925	976,573	321,571	93,500	195,300	918,000	838,716	234,100	180,900	144,400
Violent Crime Per 1,000	2.93	2.26	1.05	1.62	6.05	12.20	2.30	8.25	5.95	7.00	4.12
Property Crime Per 1,000	35.70	25.28	20.26	22.65	57.59	75.02	27.73	53.27	62.46	45.02	37.91
Total Crime Per 1,000	38.63	27.54	21.31	24.27	63.65	87.22	30.04	61.52	68.41	52.02	42.03
Increase/Decrease (%)	-10.4%	-17.0%	-8.0%	-2.8%	63.7%	-11.4%	-3.0%	-2.0%	-9.8%	-10.0%	-13.6%

Source: Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments - Report on Crime and Crime Control in the COG Region in 2002 and 2003
 Virginia State Police - Virginia Uniform Crime Reporting Program January - December, 2003

Expenditures and Revenue Spent on Public Safety
 Period Ending June 30, 2004 /1

Schedule 2

	Law Enforcement	Expenditures Per Capita	All Other Public Safety /2	Total Public Safety	Revenue			Local Charges For Svcs	Total Revenues	Total General Govt Expenditures	Public Safety As A Percent (%) of Total Expenditures
					federal	Pass-thru	State				
Alexandria	\$42,669,691	\$317.96	\$42,798,851	\$85,468,542	\$4,944,073	\$776,359	\$3,522,087	\$893,805	\$10,136,324	\$431,165,574	19.8%
Arlington	47,278,664	244.71	72,396,383	119,675,047	16,661,136	1,179,113	118,265	3,962,328	21,920,842	678,205,586	17.6%
Fairfax	185,817,169	184.45	235,996,083	421,813,252	19,162,614	9,674,165	6,122,895	1,127,856	36,087,330	2,983,102,967	14.1%
Prince William	49,427,000	143.68	93,804,000	143,231,000	9,185,000	830,000	2,249,000	775,000	13,039,000	861,721,000	16.6%
Roanoke	15,874,034	171.43	32,259,201	48,133,235	7,731,325	101,489	478,158	2,570,588	10,881,560	264,377,973	18.2%
Richmond	65,298,047	338.51	70,494,422	135,792,469	18,003,146	1,800,945	1,765,790	10,223,464	31,793,345	685,505,546	19.8%
Norfolk	56,333,546	240.95	80,947,870	137,281,416	17,786,701	502,023	613,797	2,737,862	21,640,383	694,332,000	19.8%
Newport News	36,777,895	201.63	50,482,095	87,259,990	7,742,323	2,370,876	89,413	2,225,928	12,428,540	511,986,822	17.0%
Hampton	22,492,723	157.51	35,840,639	58,333,362	9,188,111	346,820	965,396	1,439,199	11,939,526	401,950,117	14.5%

Notes:

/1 comparative data is not available for the Maryland jurisdictions of Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties

/2 includes fire and rescue services; correction and detention; inspections; and other protection

Source: Comparative Report of Local Government Revenues and Expenditures For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2004 compiled by the Virginia Auditor of Public Accounts.

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