

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 20, 2005

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO #83: ECONOMIC PARITY IN THE FUNDING OF MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SPORTS PROGRAMS AND FIELD ALLOCATION AT THE NEW ALL SPORTS FACILITY

This memorandum responds to a request from Councilman Macdonald to 1) provide information on the allocation of resources between men's and women's sports programs; and 2) what the field allocation at the new All Sports facility will be between men and women, and the City's policy on this issue.

**Allocation of resources between men's and women's sports programs.** The Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Activities sponsors basketball and softball leagues for men only, flag football for women only, and soccer, softball and volleyball for coeds. Because the Department operates coed programs, and coed is a mix between men and women, an accurate breakdown of men's funding vs women's funding is difficult to calculate. In FY 2004, the last completed fiscal year, total funding for men's and women's programs was \$212,575 with 70% spent on coed sports (\$148,802) and 30% spent on men's sports alone (\$63,773). The flag football league for women is operated at no cost to the City, in fact, the league pays the City for the use of the field.

**Field allocation at the new all sports facility and the City's policy on this issue.** The City's policy is to address the needs of both sexes in a fair and equitable manner. The overall goal is to encourage participation from a wide spectrum of Alexandrians and this goal would prevail in the programming of fields, gyms, playing areas, etc. The field stadium would be used for a variety of sports, not just football, that have both men and women participants, such as track and field, soccer, lacrosse, and field hockey. As a lit field with artificial turf the allowed play time on this field will be 2.5 times that of a grass field. If any other ball fields are added to the site, they are envisioned at this time to include a field that could be used for girls softball to meet Title IX requirements. Since the All Sports facility is still conceptual, the Department believes interested populations will express their needs and wants on this matter and the City would then use an equitable, balanced approach to allocate the needs of each sex.