

*City Of Alexandria, Virginia*

**MEMORANDUM**

DATE: APRIL 3 , 2008

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO # 63 : RESPONSE TO HOPKINS HOUSE LETTER RE:  
CHILDCARE ASSISTANCE

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City Council members received a letter from a Hopkins House representative dated March 24, 2008 that expressed concern that the proposed FY 2009 City Operating Budget does not include funding similar to the \$877,000 included in the FY 2008 budget for child day care assistance to clear the list of children from low income families waiting for government childcare assistance.

An accompanying budget memo #54, "FY 2009 BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE ALEXANDRIA EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMISSION" describes in more detail various issues surrounding early childhood, including child day care assistance.

City Council had provided \$877,000 in contingent reserves in FY 2008 to clear the waiting list. \$577,000 of that amount was allocated by City Council at the beginning of the fiscal year -- \$500,000 for child day care fee subsidies and \$77,000 for a position to help clear the backlog. As Budget Memorandum #54 notes, at this time all families seeking early childhood care are being served. The additional \$577,000 of funding appears sufficient to meet the current needs of the community.

While the proposed budget did not contain a continuation of this funding added in FY 2008, \$591,000 was included in the FY 2009 Alternative Budget for this purpose -- \$500,000 for subsidies and \$91,000 for the continuation of the position. City Council also could elect to carryover the \$300,000 in unused contingent reserves into FY 2009 to provide an extra measure of assurance that sufficient funds are available to keep the wait list cleared.

**ATTACHMENT:** March 24, 2008 letter from Kevin Bergen, Chair, Community Outreach & Public Advocacy Committee, Hopkins House