



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

<p>County Board Agenda Item Meeting of January 24, 2009</p>
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DATE: January 24, 2009

SUBJECT: Declaration of a Local Emergency for the 2009 Presidential Inauguration pursuant to the Code of Virginia § 44-146.21.

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

Consent to the County Manager's Declaration of a Local Emergency for the period January 17, 2009 through midnight on January 21, 2009.

ISSUES: An extensive planning and deployment of resources for the Presidential Inauguration on January 20, 2009 was undertaken to ensure the protection and safety of unprecedented numbers of people. The consent of the County Manager's Declaration of a Local Emergency is mandated by the Code of Virginia § 44-146.21 to validate the declaration. If the County Board does not approve the consent and thereby validates the declaration, no emergency will have been declared and thus no opportunity for reimbursement exists. With the approved declaration and existing mutual aid agreements, Arlington County is eligible for reimbursement of expenses incurred as a result of the 2009 Presidential Inauguration.

SUMMARY: County Board consent to a County Manager's Declaration of a Local Emergency is required pursuant to the Code of Virginia § 44-146.21.

BACKGROUND: The 2009 Presidential Inauguration involved an unprecedented amount of planning and commitment of County resources in support of a national event to ensure inter-agency and inter-governmental coordination to protect against the threat of substantial injury and harm to the public. Declarations of Emergency were issued by the State of Maryland, Commonwealth of Virginia, and ten Northern Virginia localities for the period beginning January 17 through January 21, 2009. The President declared an emergency in the District of Columbia for the same period.

Northern Virginia local governments and other jurisdictions in the region have a long history of working cooperatively to prepare for disasters collaboratively across jurisdictional boundaries, bringing together elected officials, chief administrative officers, emergency management, law enforcement, fire and public health personnel. A new level of cooperation was achieved in the event due to the extreme impact that any number of scenarios could have had at this national

<p>County Manager: _____</p>

<p>County Attorney: _____</p>

<p>Staff: _____</p>

security event. With the approved declaration and existing mutual aid agreements, Arlington County is eligible for reimbursement of expenses incurred as a result of the 2009 Presidential Inauguration.

DISCUSSION: As preparations for the 2009 Presidential Inauguration progressed, it became increasingly evident that Arlington County would need to plan, mobilize and deploy adequate resources to ensure the safe and efficient movement of residents and an unprecedented number of attendees who would be traveling around and through the County to the events prior to and on January 20, 2009.

These unique circumstances, which have already resulted in an unprecedented requirement for inter-agency and inter-governmental coordination, warrant coordinated local government action to prevent or alleviate the threat of injury and harm to the public and damage or loss of property. Threats included terrorism, severe weather, and massive disruption of the transportation system. The coordination, enabled by various mutual aide agreements with the District of Columbia and the federal government, was in support of national security, local and regional transportation management plans, traffic mitigation, and unpredictable winter weather during this period.

The County Board's consent (see attachment B) to the County Manager's Declaration of a Local Emergency (see attachment A) is required to validate the emergency declaration and, coupled with existing mutual aid agreements, positions the County for reimbursement.

This action also recognizes the critical role that local governments play in planning for an emergency and ensuring public safety. Using the Arlington County Emergency Operations Plan as a guide, County staff prepared detailed plans involving multiple contingencies addressing transportation, technological, communications, and public safety issues. An extensive public outreach campaign was initiated to keep Arlington residents and visitors informed of how best to cope with transportation congestion and stay safe during this period. These plans required personnel from many departments to work in the weeks up to the Inauguration and in extended shifts from 4:00 a.m. on January 20 through as late as 8:00 p.m. staffing the Emergency Operations Center, Emergency Communications Center as well as positions in the operational departments primarily supporting transportation and public safety.

FISCAL IMPACT: The initial anticipated cost to adequately provide support to the 2009 Presidential Inauguration was estimated to be \$1,126,000. The incurred costs are currently being calculated based on reports from the departments involved. The County is aggressively pursuing federal reimbursement for all costs associated with this massive regional and national effort.