

City of Alexandria, Virginia
MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 27, 2022
TO: James Parajon, City Manager
FROM: John Hill, Chair
Ad Hoc Stormwater Utility and Flood Mitigation Advisory Group
SUBJECT: Proposed Stormwater Fee for FY2024

The Ad Hoc Stormwater Utility and Flood Mitigation Advisory Group has held eight meetings since its formation. In our first year, we have analyzed the ten-year Capital Improvement Program for Stormwater (attached). Although preliminary, our analysis suggests that the first phase of the City's stormwater mitigation plans appear to be properly focused on the most urgent stormwater flooding challenges facing Alexandria.

For this reason, the Advisory Group supports the 5% Stormwater Utility Fee increase and related FY 2024 funding to:

- Construct the large stormwater capacity-building and flood mitigation projects that are currently being designed;
- Continue the vigorous program of spot improvements and maintenance that is already underway;
- Ensure the relevant City departments are fully staffed and funded to implement a growing number of projects;
- Apply sufficient resources to meet the future maintenance requirements of a growing stormwater system;
- Maintain the solvency of the Flood Mitigation Grant pilot program;
- Apply for relevant state and federal grant funding for flood mitigation and resiliency projects, and;
- Continually evaluate and revise the stormwater program to reflect changing events and climate conditions.

As Alexandria's stormwater program becomes more visible to residents, there is a growing need for accessible and concise communication regarding the program and its component projects. To maintain Alexandrians' support for continued investment, the City should not waiver in its efforts to inform residents of projects in their neighborhoods and the availability of flood mitigation resources.

Thank you for your consideration. The Advisory Group stands ready to work with City staff to shape the measures and the messages to engage residents in a multi-year program to prepare Alexandria for the climate challenges of the future.

