

Ordinance No. 1376

AN ORDINANCE creating an Economic Opportunities Commission as a public agency to develop and recommend to City Council a comprehensive Economic Opportunities Program, to review and advise the City Council regarding proposed economic opportunity projects, to mobilize the resources of the City to combat poverty at the neighborhood level, and to receive Federal aid under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 and other relevant Federal and State legislation; providing for the membership of an Economic Opportunities Commission, prescribing the powers and duties of the Commission, and providing for the appointment of an Economic Opportunities Coordinator.

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the City of Alexandria appointed a War on Poverty Organizing Committee to study and report on the existence and location of poverty in the City, the needs of the poverty areas, and the type of organization best suited to carry out an effective anti-poverty program in Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, the said Committee has submitted to City Council its report, and the City Manager has also submitted to City Council a report entitled "Organizing Effective Community Action For The War On Poverty"; and

WHEREAS, the said reports indicate that poverty and conditions creating poverty exist in the City of Alexandria, and that the best interests of the City of Alexandria will be served by creating a public agency to utilize Federal assistance in a comprehensive program to combat poverty, its causes and effects; and

WHEREAS, under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 (Public Law 88-452), Federal financial assistance can be obtained by cities for this purpose through the vehicle of a public agency created to develop, coordinate and mobilize a community action program, and the City Council is of the opinion that such an agency should be created; therefore

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. The Economic Opportunities Commission; composition and organization.

There shall be a community action agency for the City of Alexandria, the function of which shall be, with maximum participation and involvement of individuals and groups representing all segments of the community, to develop, mobilize and coordinate programs which will develop employment opportunities, improve human performance, motivation and productivity, and improve conditions under which people live, learn and work. This agency shall be called "Economic Opportunities Commission of the City of Alexandria, Virginia."

(a) The Commission shall consist of:

One representative of the Mayor, to be appointed by the Mayor.

Two representatives of City Council, to be appointed by the Council.

Three members representing the local business and

financial communities, to be appointed by City Council on the basis of recommendations from business and financial groups.

Two members representing labor, to be appointed by City Council on the basis of labor group recommendations.

Two members representing religious groups, to be appointed by City Council on the basis of recommendations from the religious groups.

Two members representing each census tract in the target areas, to be appointed by City Council on the basis of nominations from residents of those census tracts.

One representative of the Department of Public Welfare, to be appointed by City Council on the basis of the City Manager's recommendation.

One representative of the Department of Recreation, to be appointed by City Council on the basis of the City Manager's recommendation.

One representative of the Department of Public Health, to be appointed by City Council on the basis of the City Manager's recommendation.

One representative of the School Board, to be appointed by the City Council on the basis of recommendations from the School Board.

Two representatives of the Community Welfare Council, to be appointed by City Council on the basis of recommendations from the Community Welfare Council.

One representative of the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority, to be appointed by City Council on the basis of recommendations from the Authority.

One representative of non-public schools located in or serving the target areas, to be appointed by City Council on the basis of recommendations from those schools.

One representative of each private social service agency that is located in a target area, to be appointed by City Council on the basis of recommendations from such agencies.

One representative of the local State Employment Office, to be appointed by City Council on the basis of recommendations from that office.

One practicing attorney representing the legal profession, to be appointed by City Council on the basis of recommendations from the Alexandria Bar Association.

One practicing physician representing the medical pro-

fession, to be appointed by City Council on the basis of recommendations from the Alexandria Medical Association.

One representative of any active citizens associations located in each target area, to be appointed by City Council on the basis of recommendations from such associations. If there be more than one active citizens association in any target area, each such association may submit its recommendations, on the basis of which Council shall appoint one representative for all.

One representative of each civil rights and minority group organization actively operating in a target area, to be appointed by City Council on the basis of recommendations from such groups.

Such other members as City Council may from time to time deem appropriate to appoint, but at no time shall members appointed by Council otherwise than upon the recommendation of the bodies listed above exceed one-third of the total membership of the Commission.

Except for the Mayor's representative and those members designated by the City Manager, the members of the Commission shall serve for a period of three (3) years, except that in the case of those first appointed, the terms of one-third of the members shall expire one year from the effective date of this ordinance; and the terms of one-third of the members shall expire two years from the effective date of this ordinance; and the terms of one-third of the members shall expire three years from the effective date of this ordinance. At their first meeting after the effective date of this ordinance, the members of the Commission shall draw lots to determine when their respective terms shall expire. The Mayor's representative shall serve at the will of the Mayor. Those members designated by the City Manager may be removed by him at any time. City Council may at any time remove members for cause.

(b) The Mayor shall appoint a temporary chairman who shall serve from the effective date of this ordinance until the Economic Opportunities Commission shall notify the City Council that the Commission is organized and prepared to elect a chairman, provided that the Commission shall not hold such election earlier than sixty (60) days from the effective date of this ordinance. After such notification to the City Council, the Commission shall elect from its own membership a chairman, a vice-chairman who shall serve in the absence of the chairman, and secretary who shall be responsible for the signing of minutes of meetings. The Commission shall have a minimum of one (1) meeting each month, and a majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum for any meeting.

(c) The Economic Opportunities Commission may appoint subcommittees from its own membership or advisory committees from the various areas to be studied or served. Each subcommittee of the Economic Opportunities Commission shall include

at least one representative of the citizens to be served by the program or project which is the focus of that subcommittee.

(d) After consultation with the Commission regarding duties and desirable qualifications, the City Manager shall appoint an Economic Opportunities Coordinator and such additional employees as may be authorized by City Council for the work of the Economic Opportunities Commission. The function of the Coordinator shall be to provide staff assistance to the Commission, provide technical assistance and coordination to public and private agencies, and to facilitate coordination of projects. He shall be responsible for auditing or having audited all expenditures of public moneys, for evaluating the effectiveness of projects, and for the submission of monthly fiscal reports as required by the Director of Finance. He shall administer and execute such project components of the Economic Opportunities Program as the Commission shall determine proper and necessary, subject to the approval of City Council.

Section 2. Powers and duties of the Commission.

The Economic Opportunities Commission is authorized to and shall:

(a) Formulate, develop and recommend to City Council a comprehensive Economic Opportunities Program designed to expedite the delivery of remedial education, employment, health, welfare, and other related services to Alexandria's low income population. The Program shall promote the coordination and stimulation of existing services of the City of Alexandria and of private agencies for the purpose of reducing the amount and impact of poverty by attacking its causes as well as its manifestations. In the development of all projects components of the Program, there shall be maximum feasible participation of residents of the target area or areas, and of all appropriate public and private agencies in both planning and conducting the programs of services to be provided.

(b) Designate, with the approval of City Council, specific areas in Alexandria to be known as Target Areas within which the Economic Opportunities program will operate.

(c) Determine, with the approval of City Council, priorities for the component projects to be encouraged within the limits of local appropriations and other funds available.

(d) Hold such public hearings as it deems necessary or as City Council shall request.

(e) Submit to City Council quarterly reports setting forth activities, expenditures, and evaluations of the effectiveness of project components of the Economic Opportunities Program. Expenditure reports shall be submitted as required by the Director of Finance.

(f) Through the press and other media, keep the community informed of progress made toward achieving the goals herein set forth.

(g) Employ, subject to approval of funds by City Council, such persons as may be required to assist it in preparing correspondence and minutes.

(h) Review and make recommendations to City Council as to the application for, receipt and utilization of all fiscal assistance from the Federal, State and City governments for the purpose of implementing the Economic Opportunities Program in the target areas. In recommending to City Council the approval or denial of any application for public funds, the Commission's report shall indicate the vote for and against the project, and, if the vote was not unanimous, both majority and minority reports shall be submitted. The majority report for each approved project application shall indicate: (1) the relationship of the project application to the comprehensive Economic Opportunities Program and to similar projects, if any, being carried out by public or private agencies in Alexandria; (2) the specific objectives of the project application; (3) the estimated number of persons to be served by the project; (4) the duration of the project; (5) the total cost of the project and the recommended sources of funds to finance the project; and (6) the recommended method of accounting for expenditures of the project. All applications for public funds for component projects of the Economic Opportunities Program must be approved by City Council. In the allocation and expenditure of funds for the Economic Opportunities Program, the Commission may, subject to the approval of City Council:

1. Enter into contracts with and receive grants from the Federal government.

2. Contract with any non-municipal agencies for the development and execution of such project components of the Program as the Commission shall authorize.

3. Authorize municipal agencies to administer and execute, subject to specified terms and conditions, such project components of the program as the Commission shall determine can best be handled by such agencies.

Section 3. This ordinance shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the City not later than five days following its introduction together with a notice containing the time and place for a public hearing. The Clerk of the Council shall note the date of introduction and first reading, the date of publication, the date of the public hearing, and the date of the second reading and final passage in the minutes of the meeting. This ordinance shall become effective the date of its final passage.

FRANK E. MANN
Mayor

Final Passage: March 22, 1966