

ORDINANCE NO. 1443

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Ordinance 1376 of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, which ordinance was adopted March 22, 1966, and made effective March 22, 1966; which ordinance created an Economic Opportunities Commission as a public agency to develop and recommend to City Council a comprehensive Economic Opportunities Plan, 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; which ordinance further provided for the membership of an Economic Opportunities Commission, prescribed the powers and duties of the Commission, and provided 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 to work towards the elimination of both the causes and manifestations of poverty; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Economic Opportunity has suggested that the City make certain changes in the composition and organization of the Economic Opportunities Commission of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and has further suggested that the City make certain changes in the powers and duties of said commission and the City Council is willing to make such changes; 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 the following representatives, all of whom shall be persons of good character and in sympathy with the objectives of the Economic Opportunities Plan, shall have resided in Alexandria for at least twelve consecutive months prior to appointment, and who shall be at least twenty-one (21) years of age:

Fifteen (15) representatives of the poor who shall reside in and be nominated through a process of democratic selection by the residents of the target area(s) as determined by the Commission and the City Council. The number of representatives of the poor to be selected from each target area shall be approximately proportionate to the number of poor persons residing in that area in comparison to the total number of poor persons residing in all target areas. Representatives

of the poor shall be appointed by the City Council after certification by the Economic Opportunities Commission as to qualification, provided that upon request by the City Council, the Commission shall hold a hearing to determine if a person so certified meets the qualifications established by this ordinance. If the Commission shall determine that the person meets the qualifications, it shall recertify him to the City Council which shall appoint him to the Commission. If the Commission shall determine that the person does not meet the qualifications, it shall decline to recertify and notify the person of the reasons for its decision.

Up to thirty (30) members representing (1) the general civic and business community and (2) governmental agencies and public and private social agencies concerned with poverty and related problems. It is the intent of this ordinance that there shall be an approximately equal number of representatives from each of the segments of the community listed in this section as (1) and (2). These members shall be appointed by the City Council on the basis of recommendations from the civic and business community or from governmental agencies and public and private social agencies concerned with poverty and related problems. These members may be removed or replaced by the City Council upon the request of the organization or agency which recommended their appointment or upon its own motion.

Any representative group of the poor which may feel itself inadequately represented on the Economic Opportunities Commission may petition the Commission for such representation. The petition shall include at least seventy-five (75) signatures of persons who belong to the group. The Commission, following receipt of the petition, shall hold a hearing, and if it shall determine that the petitioners are inadequately represented, the Commission shall certify to the City Council the name of the representative selected by the petitioners. The City Council shall appoint him to the Commission subject to but not limited to the provisions of this ordinance regarding qualifications, hearings, and certification, and if necessary, the total number of representatives of the poor provided by this ordinance shall be increased to permit this appointment.

Members of the commission representing governmental boards or agencies shall serve until removed or until their term of office with the board or agency they represent shall be terminated.

(b) The Commission shall elect from its own membership a chairman, a vice-chairman who shall serve in the absence of the chairman, and a secretary who shall be responsible for the signing of minutes and meetings. Except during July and August, 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, provided that at least one-third of the membership of any sub-committee shall consist of representatives of the poor.

(d) With the advice of the Commission, the City Manager shall appoint an Economic Opportunities Coordinator who shall serve an indefinite term and who may be removed for cause by the City Manager. The Coordinator shall provide staff assistance to the Commission, evaluate the effectiveness of component projects; appoint, direct, and remove all employees authorized for the work of the Commission in implementing component projects; and perform such other duties as may be determined are necessary and proper to accomplish the objectives of the Economic Opportunities Plan.

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 Plan designed to expedite the delivery of remedial education, employment, health, welfare, and other related services to Alexandria's low income population. The Plan shall promote the coordination and stimulation of existing services of the City of

Alexandria and of private agencies for the purposes of reducing the amount and impact of poverty by attacking its causes as well as its manifestations. The Economic Opportunities Plan shall clearly identify the following for each component project: (1) the need for the project; (2) the present effort by public and private agencies; (3) the goals of the component project; (4) the project approach, and (5) the recommended work program for the component project. Wherever possible, the needs, goals, approach and work program shall be expressed in quantitative terms appropriate for the project. The Economic Opportunities Commission shall recommend to the City Council the order of priority for each of the component projects to be encouraged within the limits of local appropriations and other available funds and shall indicate, to the extent possible, the anticipated annual operating costs and capital outlay necessary for each component project.

In the development of all project components of the Plan, 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 service 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 Plan will operate.

(c) Encourage and assist existing public and private agencies to undertake new or expanded programs and activities consistent with and necessary to achieve the goals of Alexandria's Economic Opportunities Plan.

(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 Plan. 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) Prepare and/or review applications to the Federal, State, or City governments for financial assistance to implement component projects of the Economic Opportunities Plan. All applications for public funds which are approved by the Commission shall be submitted to the City Council for review and advice, and if a City agency other than the Commission is to be the applicant agency or if the application proposes the use of City facilities, employees, or financial contributions which must by law be approved by the City Council, the concurrence of the City Council shall be obtained before the project is implemented or the application submitted to the Federal or State government.

(h) Applications which are submitted to the City Council by the Commission shall be accompanied by a summary report which shall indicate the following: (1) the information relating to the project as specified under section 2 (a) of this ordinance; (2) the estimated number of persons to be served by the project; (3) the duration of the project; (4) the total cost of the project and the recommended sources of funds to finance the project; (5) the basis for the Commission's determination that the agency proposed to administer the project will be able to do so effectively and efficiently; (6) and the number of votes for and against the project.

(i) Subject to the provisions of this ordinance and except as may otherwise be provided by law, the Commission may:

1. Enter into contracts with and receive grants from the Federal government, provided that the City of Alexandria shall be the fiscal agent under such grants.
2. Contract with any non-municipal agencies for the development and execution of such project components of the Plan as the Commission shall authorize.
3. Authorize, with the approval of City Council, municipal agencies to administer and execute, subject to specified terms and conditions, such project components of the Plan as the Commission shall determine can best be handled by such agencies.

4. Perform such other functions and activities as may be necessary to develop, conduct, administer, and coordinate the City's Economic Opportunities Plan provided, however, that the Commission's major functions shall be to plan, develop, evaluate, and secure the participation of public and private agencies in implementing the Plan.

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: 6-27-67