

ORDINANCE NO. 1862

AN ORDINANCE creating an Economic Opportunities Commission to develop and recommend to City Council programs for assisting the poor and disadvantaged, to review and advise the City Council regarding proposed projects in furtherance of such programs, to design, 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, to serve as an advocate for the poor, to perform a community outreach function, and to receive funds available under 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 City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia has been advised that Federal funds will not longer be available for the operation of the City Economic Opportunities Commission as envisioned by Ordinances No. 1376, 1387 and 1443, and has therefore repealed said ordinances; and

WHEREAS, City Council is of the opinion that it is in the public interest to have a locally-oriented City Economic Opportunities Commission; therefore

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. Economic Opportunities Commission; creation, composition and organization.

(a) There is hereby established a commission to be known as the "Economic Opportunities Commission of the City of Alexandria, Virginia," hereinafter sometimes referred to as the Commission.

(b) The Commission shall consist of fifteen members, who shall have resided in Alexandria for at least twelve consecutive months prior to their appointment, and who shall be at least eighteen years of age. The members shall be appointed by the City Council for terms of three years, except that of the members first appointed, five shall be appointed by lot for terms of one year each, five shall be appointed by lot for terms of two years each, and five shall be appointed by lot for terms of three years each. Of the fifteen members, at least five shall be representatives of the poor, and the rest shall be representatives of (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). No member shall serve more than six consecutive years.

(c) 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 keeping and signing of minutes of meetings. A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum for any meeting. In matters concerning the procedure for meetings not covered by this article, the Commission may establish its own rules, provided these are not contrary to the mandate or spirit of this ordinance.

(d) All meetings of the Commission and its committees shall be open to the public to the full extent required by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

Section 2. Designation of coordinator; function of coordinator.

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. Subject to the availability of funds, the Coordinator shall provide staff assistance to the Commission, evaluate the effectiveness of projects, appoint, direct and remove all employees authorized for the work of the Commission in implementing projects; and perform such other duties as may be determined are necessary and proper to accomplish the objectives of the Economic Opportunities Commission.

Section 3. Functions, powers, and duties of the commission.

The functions of the Economic Opportunities Commission shall be to develop and recommend to City Council programs for assisting the poor and disadvantaged; to review proposed projects in furtherance of such programs and to advise City Council regarding such proposed projects; to design, mobilize, and coordinate programs which will develop manpower training and employment opportunities, improve human performance, motivation and productivity; to improve conditions under which people live, learn and work; to serve as an advocate for the poor; and to perform a community outreach function. In furtherance of these functions, the Economic Opportunities Commission is authorized to and shall:

(a) Serve as an advocate for the poor and shall, in this capacity, provide leadership and technical assistance to enable the poor and disadvantaged within the City to achieve equality of opportunity and social justice.

(b) Perform a community outreach function, which function shall include contacting individuals residing in designated areas of the City, identifying their problems, and assisting them to secure needed services from appropriate public and private agencies.

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

(d) Submit to City Council quarterly reports setting forth activities, expenditures, and evaluations of the effectiveness of the program.

(e) Through the press and other media, keep the community informed of progress made toward achieving economic and social justice for all in the City.

(f) Prepare and submit applications to Federal and State agencies for financial assistance, subject to the approval of City Council.

(g) 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 and State governments, subject to the approval of City Council; provided that the City of Alexandria shall be the fiscal agent under such grants.

(2) Contract with any non-municipal agencies, subject to the approval of City Council.

(h) The performance of all functions of the Commission shall be contingent upon the availability of funds.

Section 4. That this ordinance shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation published 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 September 1, 1973.

Charles E. Beatley, Jr.  
Mayor

Final Passage: May 22, 1973