

RESOLUTION NO. 171

WHEREAS, consumer protection is an urgent problem confronting our society and our City and;

WHEREAS, there has been mounting concern over the increase of illegal, fraudulent and deceptive practices in connection with sales of merchandise and services, and the extension of credit; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that Federal and State laws do exist which offer some protection in these areas but such laws and their administration frequently have not been sufficient to adequately protect the consumer; and;

WHEREAS, the need for consumer protection agencies at a local level has been demonstrated by the emergence of, and notable response to, such agencies in Arlington, Fairfax, Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties; and

WHEREAS, Alexandrians often turn to these agencies, but their services are frequently not available or are insufficient for citizens outside these jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the City conducts a number of activities designed to protect consumers and these activities should be reviewed from time to time to assess their scope and effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, City Council has demonstrated interest in improving the welfare of all segments of the community; and

WHEREAS, it is acknowledged that local consumer protection agencies aid the consumers at all socio-economic levels; and

WHEREAS, most local businesses operate with integrity, City Council believes that consumer confidence is undermined by the few marginal business activities that do not operate with sincere regard for the consumer; and

WHEREAS, Council wishes to have the benefit of an objective review of the problem by concerned citizens.

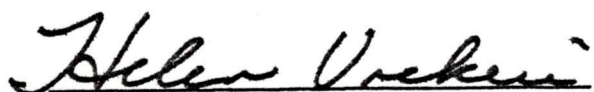
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of Alexandria, that an ad hoc Consumer Protection Committee is created to be composed of eleven members, representative of a broad spectrum of the community and including at least one representative of the Board of Trade, Economic Opportunities Commission, the Virginia Citizens Consumer Council, the Alexandria Branch of the American Association of University Women, the Tenant's Council, the Landlord-Tenant Board, the National Automobile Dealers Association, and citizens at large. The Council shall appoint the chairman.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee study and make recommendations to Council on how best to respond to the need for consumer protection in Alexandria, by means of conducting interviews, reviewing reports, studying legislation and other such activities as may be appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager provide the Committee with clerical and administrative support, the City Attorney provide legal advice, and other City Departments and agencies provide such additional assistance as may be required.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee shall submit an interim report to City Council by June 4, 1973, and a final report within one year after the appointment of the Committee.

Adopted December 13, 1972



Mrs. Helen Vickers, City Clerk and
Clerk of Council