



Alexandria Taxpayers United

December 19, 2006

Mayor and City Council
City of Alexandria
301 King Street,
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Alexandria City Council,

On behalf of the members of Alexandria Taxpayers United, I would like to share a policy proposal that could greatly improve the transparency surrounding the grants and contracts given out by the City of Alexandria and funded by the local taxpayer.

Essentially, I propose that you implement a local version of a bill (S. 2590, the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act) cosponsored by Senator Tom Coburn, Senator John McCain, Senator Barack Obama, and Senator Tom Carper in the 109th Congress that **created a publicly-available website listing every entity receiving federal grants or contracts and the totals awarded for the last ten fiscal years.** We believe that creating a similar website on a local scale would entail very little cost and would greatly increase transparency in the distribution of Alexandria's precious tax dollars.

Advocates from across the opinion spectrum share the common notion that transparency of and public access to government information is vital to the health of our political system. As Senator Obama noted, "whether you're on the left or right, there is no worthy argument against transparency." We also agree with Senator Carper when he said "If we're going to hold the federal government accountable for its performance, then we need to empower the public with basic information about who's receiving federal dollars and what they're doing with them."

As you may know, a bipartisan majority in both the Senate and the House passed this common-sense bill, and the President signed it into law. Starting next year, Americans will not be forced to navigate the treacherous waters of bureaucracy just to find out who is receiving their tax dollars. Alexandria residents deserve the same. Please consider creating a "google-government" website that will allow Alexandrians easy access to information on grant and contract spending. I look forward to working with you on this important proposal.

Sincerely,

Bud Miller
President