



Executive Branch
Executive Order No. JMR2007-2

Accountability and Objective Criteria Assessment for Development

WHEREAS, the Executive Branch of government has determined the need for articulated annexation and planning policies to be placed in written form; and

WHEREAS, policies related to annexation and expansion of services provided by the City of Alexandria to new developments should follow an objective process; and

WHEREAS, in order that the City promotes and encourages future growth and orderly development of the City, the metropolitan area and region, the City and its planning apparatus should adhere to stated policies with clearly-defined goals; and

WHEREAS, the Operations Chief, Division of Planning and Office of Economic Development shall ensure planning and code enforcement are uniform and work together. Model, comprehensive codes to govern zoning, planning, and enforcement shall be completed, scheduled for periodic reassessment, and made uniform and easily accessible and understandable; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Planning and Office of Economic Development of Operations Chief shall engage in impact analysis relative to its planning and approvals, or any similar process of examining a particular land use or development proposal and its impact on the community before committing to new developments or annexation; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Planning, Office of Economic Development, and Operations Chief shall ensure, however, that new developments are not needlessly stymied or hampered for failure to meet absolutist interpretations of codes when, in the discretion of the Planning Director, and in cases when administrative variance authority is authorized, the Director can facilitate development, maintaining a liberal construction supporting progress.

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NOW THEREFORE I, Jacques M. Roy, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

§1 The Division of Planning, Office of Economic Development, and Operations Chief shall ensure shall recognize and implement objective policies for permitting and developments which inform consumers of the division regarding said projects at the outset of development proposals, not after consumers make investment into developments. The Division of Planning shall create orderly processes for permitting which are readily determinable and exhaustive, to the extent practicable.

§2 The Division of Planning shall recognize the legal principle that zoning restrictions are in derogation of the basic rights of private ownership. Zoning restrictions and procedures should permit the maximum freedom of use of property which does not damage the rights of others and is consistent with the encouragement of the orderly growth and development of the city and the metropolitan area—subject to the following exceptions and understandings:

Annexation

- The Planning Director will consider certain questions, in the following order, before annexation is recommended, and seek to avoid creation of “islands” or piecemeal annexation except when economic opportunities to aid in-need communities demand the action and following policy findings of same by the administration. The DOP will therefore generally adhere to and consider whether a project is appropriate because it affirmatively enhances or does not overload capacity for: (i) public safety (safe expansion of fire, police, and utilities to the area); (ii) planning (does the proposal conform to trends of planning already in existence, particularly “master planning” and “future proofing”); and (iii) aesthetics (consideration of how the annexation will impact the “look and feel” of the area).

New Developments

- The Planning Director will consider (i) planning (i.e., “master planning”); (ii) whether the development preserves and capitalizes on natural and cultural resources, fairly and inclusively distributes the costs and benefits of the development to equitably “grow” the City; and (iii) the extent to which the development choices smartly expand new opportunities for transportation,

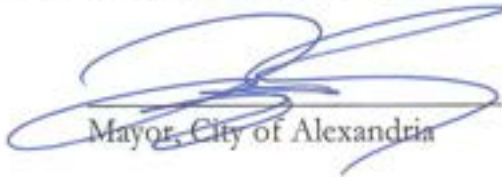
communication and technology, employment, environmental protection and housing.

- The Planning Director will pay particular attention and maintain careful scrutiny regarding preservation of "greenspace" and "walkability." The DOP will promote "mixed-use" development when proper and relax unneeded adherence to mechanical zoning in "trial" areas, routinely. New developments and expansions shall not add additional burdens to infrastructure without a remediation plan, full address by the developer, or acceptable, public mitigation of the burdens.

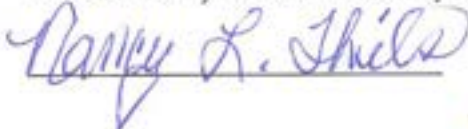
Recreational, Cultural and other Opportunities

- The Planning Director will aggressively promote recreational components to new developments; expansion of cultural or educational activities; maintenance of best practices in planning to preserve learning institutions, libraries, concert areas, art museums and exhibits as well as parks and playgrounds. The DOP will focus on the integration of city-wide activities and expansion plans, heavily emphasizing collaboration with others to leverage resources and funding opportunities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the seal of the City of Alexandria, at Alexandria, Louisiana, on this 16 day of March, 2009, regarding executive policy for annexation and development established in and being followed since the last quarter of 2007.


Mayor, City of Alexandria

Attested to by Clerk of the City of Alexandria


Nancy L. Shields

