



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
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May 12, 2016

Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council:

Subject: Funding – Roanoke Community Garden Association

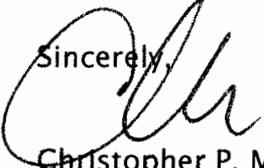
At the May 9th meeting of City Council, held for the purpose of adopting the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 budget, I was asked to evaluate the provision of funding to the Roanoke Community Garden Association based on public comments made at the meeting and comments received directly by Council Members. With the adoption of the budget, funding was not included for the Roanoke Community Garden Association as a line item.

Currently, there are 15 outside agencies funded as line items in the General Fund budget within the “Outside Agency – Discretionary” category. The agencies funded in this category support various programs and activities. Included in this category are Center In The Square, Taubman Museum of Art, Total Action for Progress, Virginia Municipal League, and support/sponsorship for other agencies and programs. The Roanoke Community Garden Association is the only agency/program not funded in FY 2017 that received funding in FY 2016 for reasons not related to the program being discontinued/relocated (Roanoke Valley Horse Show and Commonwealth Games) or a decision made not to participate as a member of the organization (Virginia First Cities Coalition).

Funding to agencies in this category is completely discretionary and there is no formal commitment to provide a specific level of funds from one year to the next. Because the agencies and programs funded in this category focus on a variety of different activities, it is difficult to implement a scoring and rating system that would be equitable. Consequently, the recommendation to fund each agency/program is based on the individual merits of each request. Staff followed the direction of the Council to reallocate recommended funds from the Roanoke Community Garden Association to the Local Environmental Agriculture Project (LEAP) program.

There is the need to develop general guidelines for funding agencies and programs in the “Outside Agency – Discretionary” category. Staff will develop options for the provision of funding in this category for the FY 2017-2018 budget development process for Council consideration at the financial planning retreat that is held in the September – October time frame. Since we will be revising the allocation process for FY 2018, I recommend the Roanoke Community Garden Association be funded at the \$10,000 level in FY 2017. Funding can be provided via a transfer from the budget contingency.

Thank you for considering the information above.

Sincerely,

Christopher P. Morrill
City Manager

c: Council Appointed Officers