DATE:  February 23, 2006

SUBJECT:  A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) related to Arlington County’s participation, along with numerous other local jurisdictions, in an information sharing initiative known as the National Capital Region Law Enforcement Information Exchange (NCR LInX).

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the Arlington County Board Chairman to sign the attached document:
Memorandum Of Understanding among the Participating Federal, State, Local And Special Jurisdictional Law Enforcement Agencies in The National Capitol Region Law Enforcement Information Exchange (NCR LInX)

ISSUES:  Should Arlington County participate in the Capital Region Law Enforcement Information Exchange (NCR LInX)?

SUMMARY:  The Capital Region Law Enforcement Information Exchange (NCR LInX) is an initiative to reduce crime and prevent terrorism in the wake of the September 11th terrorist attacks against the United States. This includes: identifying and locating criminals, terrorists and their supporters; identifying, assessing, and responding to crime and terrorist risks and threats; and otherwise preventing, detecting, and prosecuting criminal and terrorist activities. The NCR LInX will integrate relevant records of the member agencies within a single warehouse of databases, effectively providing each participating agency with a single source for regional law enforcement information.

BACKGROUND:  This initiative seeks to capture the cumulative knowledge of the region’s law enforcement agencies in a systematic and ongoing manner. With this information, member agencies can maximize the benefits of information gathering and analysis to prevent and respond to terrorist and criminal threats. The shared information will support preventive, investigative and enforcement activities to reduce crime. The ultimate goal is the enhancement of public safety and protection of the Nation’s critical infrastructure in the National Capital Region.

County Manager:  ______________
County Attorney:  ______________
Staff:  M. Douglas Scott, Chief of Police
The specific objectives of the NCR LinX are to:

1. Integrate specific categories of existing law enforcement, criminal justice and investigative data from participating agencies in near real time within one data warehouse that will be accessible by all participating agencies.

2. Dramatically reduce the time spent by participating agency personnel in search and retrieval of relevant data by providing query and analytical tools.

3. Provide the means for the participating agencies to develop analytical products to support law enforcement, criminal investigation, force protection, and counter terrorism operational and investigative activities.

4. Provide an enhanced means for the participating agencies to produce strategic analytical products to assist administrative decision-making processes for area law enforcement executives.

DISCUSSION: The NCR LinX is a cooperative partnership of federal, state, county, local and special jurisdiction law enforcement agencies, in which each agency is participating under its own individual legal status, jurisdiction, and authorities. All NCR LinX operations will be based upon the legal status, jurisdiction, and authorities of the individual participants. The NCR LinX is not intended to, and shall not, be deemed to have independent legal status. The NCR LinX will become a central, electronic repository of derivative federal, state, county, and local criminal justice, law enforcement and investigative data. Each party will provide for use copies of information from its own records that may be pertinent to NCR LinX mission. Once the database warehouse is populated and properly structured, the system will function with querying and analytical tools in support of law enforcement activities, criminal investigations, force protection, counter terrorism, and for the development of reports by the participating agencies for the use of their executive decision makers.

The NCR LinX database warehouse will be resident on a server located at the Washington/Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), which meets the requirements for security accreditation and the warehouse will contain “Sensitive But Unclassified” (SBU) information from the records systems of the MOU parties. All parties contributing data to the NCR LinX will have equal access to the NCR LinX functionality via secure Internet connections for read, analytical and lead purposes.

The other agencies that intend to sign the MOU are as follows: Alexandria Police Department; Alexandria Sheriff’s Office; Arlington County Sheriff’s Office; Chevy Chase Village Police Department; Dumfries Police Department; Fairfax City Police Department; Fairfax County Police Department; Fairfax County Sheriff’s Office; Falls Church Police Department; Gaithersburg Police Department; Greenbelt Police Department; Herndon Police Department; Leesburg Police Department; Loudoun County Sheriff’s Office; Manassas Police Department; Maryland-National Capital Park Police – Montgomery County Division; Metro Transit Police Department; Metropolitan Police District of Columbia; Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Police Department; Montgomery County Police Department; Montgomery County
Sheriff’s Office; Naval Criminal Investigative Service; Northern Virginia Community College Police Department; Prince George’s County Police Department; Prince William County Board of Supervisors by its Police Department; Quantico Police Department; Rockville Police Department; Takoma Park Police Department; and the Virginia State Police

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None.