



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Fire & Building Department
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager
From: Helen Ahrens-Byington, Deputy Fire Chief / City Emergency Manager
Date: July 19, 2012
Subject: VISTA Program and Volunteer Recognition

RECOMMENDATION:

The City Council recognizes Jennie Marker and all the volunteers that have stepped forward to prepare the community for all hazards and to create a community that is resilient.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

The mission of the Kirkland Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is to create and sustain partnerships that support disaster prevention, preparedness, response and recovery to become a resilient community. This cannot happen without the community being involved in their own preparedness. Starting in 2010, the City of Kirkland was awarded a Washington Service Corps, VISTA Volunteer for 12 months, to support community emergency preparedness in Kirkland. In 2011 – 2012 Kirkland was awarded another VISTA position to continue the preparedness outreach and to create sustainability. VISTA stands for, "Volunteers In Service To America" and they are involved with a variety of organizations. This is the last year that the State awarded VISTA positions to focus on disaster preparedness. This position is paid by Washington Service Corps approximately \$1000 a month, and requires the member not to work any other jobs. The City of Kirkland paid just \$5,000 for a full time position.

Jennie Marker is the City of Kirkland's current VISTA member and her year of service ends August 31, 2012. While she has been in service to the community her primary focus has been to develop volunteers that can assist with community emergency preparedness to all facets of the community. She has been coordinating volunteer outreach events, recruiting and supporting new volunteers, writing volunteer job descriptions, and assisting to develop new volunteer opportunities within the Office of Emergency Management. She has also been reaching out and making connections with a variety of organizations within the city developing partnerships. Her final project is in partnership with Hopelink as well as other groups like the Kirkland Senior Council to distribute preparedness kits to low income senior citizens, preparing members of our community that are high risk during a disaster and have little to no resources to prepare themselves. In fact she is still looking for donations if anyone is interested in partnering with the city to help.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

AWARDED TO

Jennifer Marker

This certificate is presented in recognition of your outstanding year of service to the citizens of the City of Kirkland. Your efforts have encouraged volunteerism and helped to create a resilient community.



Awarded this seventh day of August, 2012

Joan McBride, Mayor
City of Kirkland