

Vola Therrell Lawson

Board Member since January, 2008

Vola Lawson served as Alexandria City Manager for 15 years, from 1985 to 2000, the longest tenure of any City Manager in the City's history.

Mrs. Lawson was selected as a Washingtonian Of The Year in 2000 by Washingtonian Magazine. In 1999 she was selected as Working Woman of the Year by Channel 7, National Public Radio, and the Toyota Motor Company.

She has been inducted into the Virginia Women's Hall of Fame.

The Virginia Chapters of the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) named Mrs. Lawson as the Outstanding Public Administrator in Virginia in 1995.

She was honored by the National Society For Public Administration in 1997 with its 1997 National Award for Innovative Leadership and Accomplished Professionalism.

For 15 years, from 1985 to 2000, Mrs. Lawson served as the President of the Alexandria Transit Company, the operator of the DASH bus system.

Mrs. Lawson served on the Virginia General Assembly's Commission On the Condition of Virginia's Cities (1998-1999)

She currently serves as the Vice Chair of the Virginia Commission on Local Government, having been appointed by former Governor Mark Warner and ratified by the Virginia General Assembly.

In 1994, after recovering from breast cancer, Mrs. Lawson founded the City's Annual Breast Cancer Walk, and has served as the Chair of the Fundraising Committee since its inception. As of 2008, over 4,000 low-income women in the City have received mammograms and follow-up procedures through this program.

She has served on the Executive Committee of the Campagna Center, which operates Alexandria's Head Start program, as well as the City's Before and After School Care programs.

Mrs. Lawson served as Congressman James Moran's delegate to the White House Conference on Aging in 2005.

She has received numerous community leadership and lifetime achievement awards from: the Northern Virginia Urban League, the Chamber of Commerce, Senior Services, the Alexandria Commission on Women, Hopkins House, the Commission for Persons with Disabilities, the Alexandria Olympic Boys and Girls Club, the Alexandria-Washington Masonic Lodge, the Alexandria BAR Association, and the Campagna Center.

The City's new Animal Shelter was named for her in 1999.

In 2000, the City Council renamed City Hall's historic Cameron Street lobby the Vola Lawson Lobby.

Mrs. Lawson has served on the Grace Episcopal Church vestry and as the Church's treasurer.