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A-SPAN Opening Early Today to Serve As Cooling Center For Street Homeless, Donations of Bottled Water Welcome

The District of Columbia has issued a “hyperthermia” alert with the expected high temperature today of 101 degrees F and a heat index near 110F. The A-SPAN (Arlington Street People’s Assistance Network) main office located at 2708-B South Nelson St, Arlington, VA 22206, will open at 9:30 am this morning for street homeless individuals to come inside and stay cool. A-SPAN’s staff request donations of bottled water to distribute on the street today to those who cannot make it inside.

People are encouraged to stay inside and remain hydrated as much as possible as the extreme heat can cause serious conditions such as heat syncope, heat cramps, heat edema, and heart attacks. If you are in contact with a homeless person in Arlington that may be affected by such a condition, please call A-SPAN at (703) 820-4357. If you are in DC, the number to call for hyperthermia is 1-800-535-7252.

“It’s very important that we get people indoors today,” shared Kathleen Sibert, Executive Director of A-SPAN, “The extreme heat is just as deadly as the extreme cold of winter and that’s why we’re opening up so much earlier today. If possible, when you go out today, bring an extra bottle of water with you and share it with someone on the street.”

A-SPAN (Arlington Street People’s Assistance Network) provides life-sustaining services for Arlington’s homeless, which include daily street outreach, drop-in services such as showers, laundry, and food, and a bagged meal program serving up to 80 individuals each night 365 days a year. In addition, from November 1- March 31, A-SPAN operates the Arlington County Emergency Winter Shelter. The current economic and unemployment crisis has driven client numbers from 940 to 1800 in the past three years. A-SPAN offers a wide variety of case management services through the Permanent Supportive Housing Program and the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program.

Please call or email Jan-Michael Sacharko, Development Director, with any questions.

For more details on A-SPAN visit: <http://www.a-span.org>

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