



Response to Questions on the FY 2010 County's Line of Business & Schools Program Review Processes Fall 2008

Request By: Supervisor Bulova

Question: Can fees be charged or grant funding sought for the Police Department's Sexual Assault Free and Empowered (SAFE) program (proposed reduction #3)?

Response: Fee Charge: In researching fee charges, the following law enforcement agencies were contacted:

George Mason Police Department
Falls Church Police Department
Culpeper County Sheriff's Office
Virginia Beach Police Department

Prince William County Police Department
Vienna Police Department
Roanoke Police Department

All of their SAFE type programs are funded by the local county or jurisdiction, and operate in a manner similar to Fairfax County's without any fees charged. County facilities are used to host the class and officers either adjust their schedules, or are paid overtime to conduct the training. George Mason University holds a 5K run/walk every year to raise money to purchase the equipment used in the classes, but the remainder of the funding comes from the University. Prince William County runs their program through Sexual Assault Victims Advocacy Service (SAVAS), which is a non-profit organization. Participants are asked for a donation of \$35 to help defray expenses.

While no other local jurisdictions with similar programs apply fee charges, it could be possible to do so, since the County currently charges for the Youth Driver Improvement program to defray expenses of the instructors' salaries.

Grant Information: Most likely Federal or State grant funding for this type of program won't be available again until early next year when the Office of Justice Programs Grants for Victim Services or Department of Criminal Justice Services pass-through grants for the same topics are open for application. The Police Department will continue to pursue available grant opportunities for law enforcement-related functions, including this program.