

Response to Questions on the FY 2009 Advertised Budget Plan

Request By: Supervisor Foust

Question: Summarize the process necessary to increase the recovery rate of other development fees.

Response: A complex array of fees is charged by Land Development Services for plan review, development permits and inspections. Fees span multiple chapters of the Fairfax County Code. In order to properly adjust the schedules, site and building code fees are reviewed and any recommendation to raise the fees is based on an analysis of costs in relation to each specific fee collected. In addition, prior to fee adjustments, staff solicits input from industry representatives; and Code requires a public hearing before the Planning Commission. At the request of the development industry, the last fee increase was phased-in over two years. The fee adjustments in FY 2006 and FY 2007 shifted the cost recovery rate from 80 percent to approximately 90 percent. County staff is currently reviewing the existing rate structure and cost recovery of the fees charged and anticipates that a revised fee schedule and any associated revenue adjustment will be included in the FY 2010 budget.