

## Response to Questions on the FY 2009 Advertised Budget Plan

**Request By:** Supervisor McKay

**Question:** Are field monitors slated for elimination in the County Executive's budget? If so, what is the cost of this program?

**Response:** The field monitor portion of the Athletic Field Walk-On Use Enforcement Program is operated by exempt-limited term positions. In response to the County Executive's directive to reduce exempt-limited term funding by approximately 10 percent countywide, the Department of Community and Recreation Services (DCRS) has proposed to reduce the number of hours available for monitoring field use throughout the County. This will not eliminate the monitoring program. The specific reduction planned is to eliminate the use of multiple monitors within the same geographic area as well as eliminate the ability to provide monitors during the winter scheduling season. The projected impact is a reduced ability to respond to calls for service in a timely manner and a reduced ability to monitor fields during the winter scheduling season, particularly important due to the development of several turf fields throughout the County. Additionally, since field monitors also play a crucial on-site role in outreach and education efforts, DCRS will have to focus more on enforcement and problem-site monitoring at the expense of random patrols in which these preventative efforts regularly occur.

The field monitor portion of the overall program totals approximately \$270,000. It is anticipated that the reduction as proposed would result in a loss of approximately 10 to 15 percent of the total field monitor budget.