

Response to Questions on the FY 2006 Advertised Budget Plan

Request By: Supervisor DuBois

Question: What state and federal resources, including assigned personnel, are currently being made available to Fairfax County (or Northern Virginia) to target gang activity?

Response: The County is currently involved in several efforts aimed at eradicating gang activity. These efforts are taking place on a regional level through the County's participation in the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force; on a cross-cutting, inter-agency and community level through the County's Coordinating Council on Gang Prevention; as well as at the individual County agency level.

In 2003, Congressman Frank Wolf helped to secure federal funds to form the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force (NVRGTF). The Task Force is made up of law enforcement officials from around the Northern Virginia region including law enforcement officials from Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William and Arlington counties; the cities of Alexandria, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park; and the towns of Leesburg, Herndon, Vienna, and Dumfries. The State Police, FBI, ATF, DEA and U.S. Marshals Service also are involved in the task force. In 2004, the Fairfax County Police Department received \$29,000 from the Task Force for its educational efforts, such as a summer camp for high-risk youth and FCPS received funding of \$34,700 from the Task Force to produce an anti-gang training video and other gang awareness initiatives. In November 2004, \$2 million was included in the federal FY 2005 omnibus spending plan for the NVRGTF. The County expects to receive \$264,055 from the NVRGTF from this funding for two sworn positions housed within the Fairfax County Police Department that support the Task Force, as well as a database administrator who updates the regional gang database that is used to track gang-related persons and activities in the region.

The County's Coordinating Council on Gang Prevention is a cross-cutting inter-agency and community initiative, made up of representatives from County agencies; the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS); and the business, non-profit, and faith communities. The Council is responsible for the coordination and oversight of the County's preventative and community education efforts to combat the presence and proliferation of gangs. The Council has received word from the state that it will receive \$150,000 at some point in the future (the County has not yet been told when funding would become available) to implement research-based intervention and law enforcement strategies. Although the Council has not determined exactly how it will allocate the funds, monies will be targeted to gang suppression, early intervention, and prevention programming. The Council is planning to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors later this year on a spending plan for the \$150,000.

As one of the lead agencies working to combat the presence and proliferation of gangs, the Police Department receives some federal assistance for these efforts. This includes federal funding from the Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) grant through the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs. In Program Year 2005, the County received \$33,488 for the program which provides for the delivery of curricula and training materials to several FCPS middle schools. The Police

Department's Gang Investigations Unit also receives full-time support from a federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent to assist with investigations that lead to individuals with illegal status and who may need to be deported.