

Response to Questions on the FY 2007 Advertised Budget Plan

Request By: Supervisor Bulova

Question: Describe the Housing and Community Development program for using the new GIS Specialist to support revitalization efforts?

Response:

The Geographic Information Spatial Analyst III will use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) as an analytic framework for managing and integrating data for the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). By linking information (attributes) to location data, such as people to addresses, buildings to parcels, or streets within a network, a GIS Analyst can layer information to give HCD a better understanding of how its revitalization efforts work in concert to realize a community vision and create a sense of place.

In support of HCD's revitalization program, the GIS Analyst will create and manage databases containing GIS information, and update the revitalization Web site with the latest GIS information to be used for marketing revitalization activities. In particular, this position will create a database of commercial and residential properties and provide detailed GIS marketing materials, such as demographics, for each property in support of revitalization marketing and real estate development. The focus of this position will be primarily on commercial revitalization areas but will also target neighborhoods around the seven revitalization areas: Annandale, Bailey's Crossroads and Seven Corners, Lake Anne, McLean, Merrifield, Richmond Highway, and Springfield.

The addition of a GIS Analyst will provide a new capability to HCD, which currently does not have any GIS Analysts in the organization. While the position is identified as a revitalization resource, multiple program areas within HCD will benefit from the information and resources generated by in-house GIS expertise, and there is potential for this position to increase the County's capacity to create and maintain affordable housing opportunities. In addition, projects utilizing the expertise of this GIS Analyst have already been identified in two additional program areas: (1) Design, Development, and Construction, and (2) Real Estate Finance and Grants Management. This position requires \$70,970 in Personnel Services funding and \$19,055 in fringe benefits for a total of \$90,025.