

Fund 703 NOVARIS

<i>FY 2008 Adopted Budget Plan</i>	
<i>Fund 703, NOVARIS</i>	
Total Expenditures:	\$263,035
Revenue:	
General Fund Support	\$159,321
Bond Revenue	\$0
Other Revenue	\$92,909
Total Revenue	\$252,230

► Summary of Program

The Northern Virginia Regional Identification System (NOVARIS) is designed to utilize state-of-the-art computer equipment to identify criminals by categorizing and matching fingerprints. The system has direct communication with shared system in Maryland's Montgomery and Prince George's Counties and single system in the District of Columbia. It enables police to match a fingerprint found at the scene of a crime with any individual who has been arrested in the Metropolitan Washington area by comparing the print or partial print of a finger or palm with all prints in the data base. New technology now allows for the capture of the palm at the time of arrest as well as the capture of many photographs to include tattoos. One of many new features is the creation of a multiregional web based mug shot system which allows an officer or detective in the National Capitol Region to utilize facial recognition. In the fall of 2007, it is anticipated the Fairfax County Police Department will initiate a pilot program for Mobile AFIS. This is a portable device which captures a suspect's two index fingers at a scene. The device sends the data via a wireless carry to the NOVARIS system; if this individual has a criminal past demographics and potentially a mug shot will return. This allows immediate identification of a subject or a person in question, assuming he or she is attempting to hide their identity.

The participating jurisdictions in NOVARIS are the City of Alexandria, Arlington County, the City of Fairfax, Fairfax County, the City of Falls Church, Prince William County, and new partners which include the Virginia Police State Lab and the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office. The system is housed in Fairfax County and staffed by personnel contributed by the participating jurisdictions. NOVARIS became a contributory agency in FY 1984 when the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors authorized the County's participation and signed the contractual agreement.

The Fairfax County office of NOVARIS is a section of the Technical Services Bureau of the Police Department. For more information about Technical Services please see LOB 90-06. It is responsible for the correct completion of all criminal arrest documents required by the Central Criminal Records Exchange (CCRE). All criminal fingerprint cards are maintained by means of both a manual file and Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS). These files validate the Fairfax County Criminal History information by establishing positive identification through fingerprints; fingerprints are the only infallible means of identification. The Fairfax County NOVARIS is also the latent, crime scene, fingerprint repository as all fingerprint evidence is stored there. NOVARIS is staffed with four qualified fingerprint examiners who, both manually and with the assistance of the fingerprint computer, make criminal identifications.

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The NOVARIS staff also assists in the identification of unknown individuals who either refuse or conceal their identity and those who are deceased. Individuals using an alias who are identified by the NOVARIS staff by means of fingerprints are in many cases wanted criminals.

NOVARIS also maintains fingerprint cards on solicitors, hackers, pawnshop workers, and gun store clerks. It should be noted this staff also conducts filing and investigation of all the fingerprint identification for the towns of Herndon and Vienna.

► Funding Availability and Future Considerations

Funding is provided by the participating jurisdictions in NOVARIS. In 2006 a Homeland Security Grant allowed NOVARIS to upgrade, adding new state-of-the-art features and securing an 8 to 5 warranty without cost to the citizens of Fairfax County. As a result, the required funding for 2009 has been tremendously reduced than required in previous budgets.

It is anticipated but not reflected in the current budget submission a third Homeland Security grant will allow for the payment of maintenance through the 2010. If this is obtained, costs for NOVARIS will remain level for several years

► Status of Program

As mentioned above, NOVARIS is in the process of completing a \$5 million upgrade. The Automated Fingerprint System and Mug shot system is 90 percent complete. The Mobile Project is in the infancy and a pilot program will begin in the late fall of 2007.

All equipment except for 50 portable units has been received. The Fingerprint system is 100 percent functional, most partner agencies are functional but in different stages of completion. The Mug Shot is 90 percent functional as there is a security focus for information shared between the Fairfax County Department of Technology and other partner technology departments.

- \$8.6 million of the 2006 Homeland Security Grant has been encumbered and the grant has expired.
- \$1 million of the 2007 Homeland Security Grant is expected to expire in the summer of 2008. As of this time, approximately \$200,000 has been encumbered. It is anticipated the remaining funds will be allocated by the end of 2007.

Except for the budgeted operational costs there is no additional funding for the upgrade or plans to purchase fingerprint equipment.

► Mandate Information

This LOB is state mandated. The percentage of this LOB's resources utilized to satisfy the mandate is 76-100 percent.