

Response to Questions on the FY 2009 Advertised Budget Plan

Request By: Supervisor McKay

Question: How much revenue is generated as a result of false alarm violations? Where does it go?

Response: A fee is assessed for false alarm responses in excess of two in a 12-month period according to the following schedule:

Alarm Ordinance Violations (False Alarms)

Response to False Alarm	Fee
3rd	\$50.00
4th	\$100.00
5th	\$150.00
6th	\$200.00
7th	\$250.00
8th	\$300.00
9 or more	\$500.00

These fees, which are included in the Fairfax County Code, have been charged since May 2002. There is no state maximum fee. The graduated fee schedule was reviewed during the fall of 2008 along with other County fees and charges. The Police Department did not recommend adjusting the schedule because the current structure has been effective in reducing false alarms by approximately 57 percent since inception.

In FY 2007, \$817,986 was collected from false alarms fees. This level of receipts is also projected for FY 2008 and FY 2009. The majority of the fees are the result of false alarms from residential security systems; however, a detailed breakout between residential and commercial false alarms is not available.

In addition, all fire alarm systems must be registered with the County at a one-time cost of \$10. Revenue from registrations was \$55,380 in FY 2007 and is projected to be \$57,530 in FY 2008 and FY 2009. Revenue from both fees is directed to the County's General Fund.