

Response to Questions on the FY 2010 County's Line of Business & Schools Program Review Processes Fall 2008

Request By: Supervisor Herrity

Question: What is the total cost of the field monitoring program at athletic facilities at school sites as provided by the Department of Community and Recreation Services (CRS)?

Response: The total cost to operate the field monitoring program in FY 2009 is \$978,616.

Personnel Services funding of \$494,656 is provided for two teams of two officers each within the Police Department to monitor fields on the weekends and for a team of twenty-seven field monitors within CRS to monitor fields seven days per week.

Operating Expenses funding totals \$483,960, including \$76,000 for expenses supporting outreach and educational efforts to include signage capacity in multiple languages at various field sites; \$75,000 for contractual services with school security; \$232,960 for custodial trash removal; \$65,000 for provision of portable toilets on heavily used school sites; and, \$35,000 for mileage reimbursement, uniforms and cell phones.

Core Components of the Walk-on Field Use Prevention Program

Policy changes were necessary to ensure adequate enforcement could be provided at a level meaningful to protect fields and to ensure that Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) and Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) policies were consistent. As a result, both FCPA and FCPS now require permits for all fields for groups of 40 or more, including spectators.

Enforcement of the policies is coordinated among uniformed officers and county staff. Police overtime provides for four officers each Saturday and Sunday dedicated to monitoring fields and responding to calls regarding field use at FCPS and FCPA locations. FCPS school security overtime provides for two teams of two officers each Saturday and Sunday dedicated to monitoring FCPS fields and responding to calls regarding field use. The Police Department and FCPS have signed an agreement allowing school security to assist in monitoring field use at FCPA fields, especially those adjacent to schools. CRS employs 27 field monitors covering 8 geographic areas. Monitors work 20 hours per week monitoring fields and responding to calls regarding field use. At least one monitor per area is on duty each weekday evening and all day on Saturday and Sunday. FCPA Park Operations staff is also available to assist in monitoring adherence to field use regulations.

Field amenities have been added to help prevent walk-on use and control negative symptoms of field use, both permitted and walk-on. Signs in English and Spanish explaining the walk-on policy and how to obtain permits have been placed at all field locations. Trash cans have been installed at all FCPS field sites, and support is provided

to the schools to pay custodians overtime to empty the cans. Portable toilets have been placed at FCPS fields of intense use.

Outreach and educational efforts have been targeted to walk-on users, the organized athletic community and the community at large. These efforts, which include publications and outreach in English and Spanish, aim to educate the public on the field use process (e.g., how to get a permit) and field use regulations, including how to identify and report violations.