

Response to Questions on the FY 2013 Budget

Request By: Supervisor Hyland

Question: Please provide additional information on the Marine Patrol, including the cost of restoration.

Response: The Marine Patrol Unit, consisting of 2/2.0 SYE Police Officer positions and Operating Expenses to maintain a patrol boat, provides police service and law enforcement presence on the waterways of Fairfax County which includes 99.7 miles of shoreline (including two parks and five marinas). In addition, the unit provides assistance on the waterways in the state of Maryland and Prince William County in accordance with mutual aid agreements.

The elimination of the Marine Patrol Unit would result in the citizens of Fairfax County having very little protection from illegal activity on the waterways in the County and have an adverse impact on boating safety for the public. The response to water rescue operations will be delayed and the search and recovery of victims and property will be severely affected. The Department's Underwater Search and Rescue Unit will lack additional assistance on dive missions (training and operations) on the Potomac River and its tributaries. Additionally, this has the potential for a reduction in the ability to provide sufficient homeland security during heightened alert levels.

The cost to fully restore the Marine Patrol Unit is \$249,604.