

Response to Questions on the FY 2017 Budget

Request By: Chairman Bulova

Question: Please provide information about the cost of establishing the Office of the Independent Police Auditor as recommended by the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission.

Response: For the Independent Police Auditor function, the County's Office of Financial and Program Auditor was used as a budget model, pending additional Board discussion on the scope, function, etc. of the office. The FY17 Advertised Budget Plan includes \$378,512 for the Office of the Financial and Program Auditor, which primarily reflects the cost of three positions (the Auditor, a Management Analyst (MA) IV, and a MA II) as well as associated operating costs. Fringe Benefits are not included in this total. To provide flexibility, a range of \$300,000-\$500,000 for an Independent Police Auditor's office has been estimated.

It should be noted that additional facets of the Independent Oversight and Investigations subcommittee recommendations, including, but not limited to, the creation of a civilian panel, the provision of two independent criminal investigators in the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney, and two additional Internal Affairs Detectives to provide support, conduct follow-up work, etc. are not included in the total noted above. It is difficult to know the exact costs of these functions until the Board provides additional feedback on the scope and functionality required; however, a total of \$1.1-\$1.7 million for Independent Oversight and Investigations subcommittee-related recommendations is currently estimated.

As part of the FY 2017 Advertised Budget Plan, the County Executive has included a placeholder of \$7.5 million to begin funding the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Commission/Diversion First. Of this total, \$5.1 million is anticipated to be directed in support of Diversion First in FY 17, leaving the balance of \$2.4 million for other Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission-related requirements. The Board's Public Safety Committee will identify priorities and make the final determination for allocating these funds.