

# Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney

COUNTY MANAGER'S  
PROPOSED FY 2022 BUDGET

County Board Work Session

Thursday, March 18, 2021 3:00pm



**“The Office of the Commonwealth’s Attorney for Arlington County and the City of Falls Church pursues justice, broadly, on behalf of victims, defendants, and all of the members of our community. We prioritize public safety, transparency, and accountability. We strive to incorporate data-driven practices to inform our policies, while also seeking restoration by engaging with victims of crime and the community to repair harm.”**

**– *Parisa Dehghani-Tafti,*  
Commonwealth’s Attorney**



# What We Achieved in FY 21:

Structural Changes

Public Safety

Victim Services

Equity



# Structural Changes

- **Implemented Vertical Prosecution**
- **Improved Technology and Cyber Security**
- **Overhauled Discovery Practices**
- **Created a Conviction Review Unit**
- **Focusing Prosecution Resources on Serious Crime**
- **Changing Performance Measures**

# Public Safety



- Participated in the Launch of the Behavioral Health Docket
- Restructured Operation Safe Station (with DHS, ACFD, ACPD, and ACSO)
- Started the Arlington Disability and Justice System Coalition
- Streamlined the ESRO Process Under New “Red Flag” Laws
- Began Using Body Worn Camera Footage in Cases



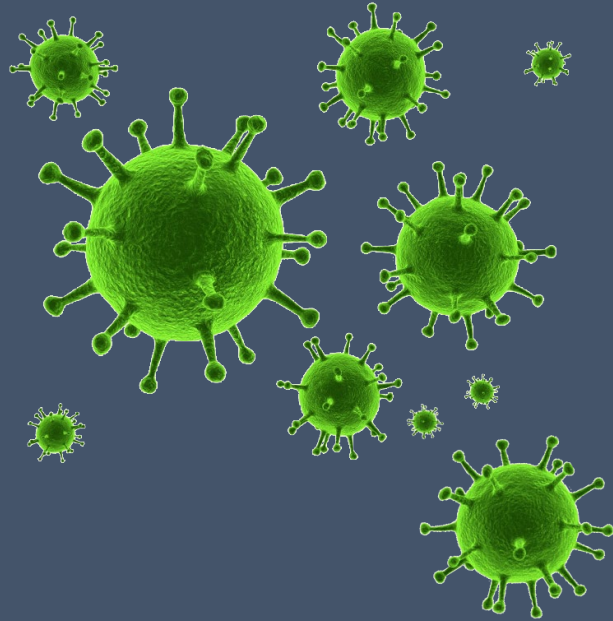
# Victim Services

- Participating in Restorative Arlington
- Held a Victim Listening Session
- Established a Team of Attorneys Specializing in Domestic Violence
- Strengthening the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)

# Equity

- Organized a Training on the Topic of Youth, Race, and Trauma
- Established an Anti-Racist Focus Group to Review Office Policies and Procedures
- Conducted Trainings on the Effects of Criminal Prosecution
- Created a 16-Member Community Advisory Board
- Partnering with Non-Profits to Train Staff on Anti-Racist Prosecution





# OCA and COVID-19

- **NO +COVID-19 Cases on Staff**
- **Operational Normalcy for 370 days of COVID**
- **Staff Working on a Rotating Telework Schedule**
- **Allowing Members of the Public to Take Care of Matters Online**
- **Worked with ACSO, the Public Defender, and the Defense Bar to Limit Virus Exposure in the Arlington County Detention Facility**



# FY 2022 Budget Highlights

## Additional OCA Staff

- The addition of **4 Assistant Commonwealth's Attorneys** in the budget is necessary because of the body worn camera program, and more may be needed in the future.
- An estimated **over 15,000 hours of body worn camera video evidence** will be viewed by prosecutors in CY 2021, the **equivalent to all the working hours of more than 7 FTE attorneys**.
- Purchasing BWC software to provide attorneys with the tools for review, download, and redaction is necessary but not currently in the OCA budget. **Axon's Evidence.com Pro Plus costs approximately \$33,500 per year.**
- **Litigation Specialist (1 FTE) position from FY 2021.**

# FY 2022 Budget Summary

	FY 2021 Adopted	FY 2022 Proposed	<b>Change</b>	<b>% Change</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	\$4,632,228	\$5,141,355	+\$509,324	+11%
<b>Revenue</b>	\$1,897,304	\$1,928,052	+\$30,748	+2%
<b>Funded FTEs</b>	38.0 FTEs	42.0 FTEs	+4.0 FTEs	+11%

*Budget Summary reflects projections as of March 1, 2021.*

## Key Budget Considerations

- The FY 22 budget changes are necessary to adapt to the introduction of BWC, with anticipation of continued needs in the future.
- The OCA, like the Arlington community at-large, is committed to growing efforts such as Restorative Arlington and appreciates the County's support.

# Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney

COUNTY MANAGER'S PROPOSED FY 2022 BUDGET

**County Board Work Session**