

# Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court

COUNTY MANAGER'S  
PROPOSED FY 2022 BUDGET

County Board Work Session

March 18, 2021, 3:00 p.m.



# Justice through Responsive Quality Services and Teamwork



# Department Overview

## JDR Units and Services

- Judges' Chambers
- Clerk's Office
- Intake
- Juvenile Probation and Parole
- Adult Probation
- Detention Alternatives
- Truancy Committee and Diversion



# Department Overview

## JDR Programs

- Argus & Aurora Houses
- Girls' Outreach
- Young Achievers
- Safe Havens Program
- Gang Prevention Task Force



# FY 2022 Budget Highlights

## Initiatives in FY 2021 and FY 2022

- Continuity of services and programs throughout COVID-19 Crisis
- Addressing Racial and Ethnic Disparities
- Support for transformation of Juvenile Detention Center
- Expanding Prevention and “Pre-Court” Interventions



# FY 2022 Budget Highlights

- Freezing of a Probation Counselor II position to reduce net tax support
- Safe Havens' DOJ grant ended in April 2021, and a continuation grant is pending with an award decision expected in October of 2021. Reallocation of JDR positions and non-personnel funds will maintain continuity of services.

# JDR in the COVID-19 Pandemic

- Court, Clerks, and Intake services provided continuously at the Courthouse
- Technology upgrades in courtrooms allowed for extensive use of virtual hearings
- Families, law enforcement and child welfare may file petitions remotely
- Remote filing of protective orders and affidavits with virtual initial hearing
- Most probation meetings are virtual, with in-person visits for high-risk clients
- Community programs resumed in-person services in June 2020 with a pivot to provide extensive academic support to students in remote classrooms

# Northern Virginia Detention Center

Status of recommendations of the Detention Study completed in October 2020

## Facility Improvements:

- Retained the Mosely Architectural Firm
- Facility condition assessment to identify capital improvement needs
- “Normalizing” environment to meet the developmental and mental health needs of youth
- Project Management led by the City of Alexandria (pending)

## Staffing Changes:

- Staffing levels reduced consistent with recommendations
- Added a full-time Mental Health Therapist position to serve all youth at the Detention Center

## Administrative Services

- Outsourcing of a contractor to provide accounting and payroll functions to reduce costs



# Focus on Equity

## JDR Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R.E.D.) Team

**Membership:** JDR Judges, and staff from the Commonwealth's Attorney & Public Defender's Offices, CSB, Child Welfare, APS, Police, and JDR Court Services.

### Goals:

- **Training** - County staff and stakeholder training on racial equity and systemic and unconscious bias
- **Data Collection** - Identifying and collecting key data related to disparities in the juvenile justice system
- **Reducing Disparities**
  - Reducing incarceration of youth of color
  - Use of Structured Decision Making Tools to control bias - in detention decisions and in dispositional recommendations

# FY 2022 Budget Summary

	FY 2021 Adopted	FY 2022 Proposed	Change	% Change
<b>Expenses</b>	\$7,335,007	\$7,281,260	-\$53,747	-0.7%
<b>Revenue</b>	\$1,751,637	\$1,610,096	-\$141,541	-8.1%
<b>Funded FTEs</b>	60.30 FTEs	57.80 FTEs	-2.5 FTEs	-4.1%

- Revenues decrease primarily due to the conclusion of the USD0J's Violence Against Women Office, Safe Havens grant (\$103,799).

# Details of Budget Reductions

## Freeze Juvenile Probation Counselor II position

### Service Impacts

- A redistribution of caseloads will potentially cause the average number of juvenile cases to increase from 40 to 43 per year, to ensure the continuity of services to Court clients.
- The impact of this action is mitigated by the decreasing number of overall juvenile cases and the position's being currently vacant with caseloads redistributed to other Probation Counselor staff.

### Budget Impact

FY 2021:	\$108,401
FY 2022:	\$0
<b>Change:</b>	<b>-\$108,401</b>

### Staff Impact

-1.0 Probation Counselor II (vacant)

# Key Budget Considerations

- Application for a 3-year continuation grant for the Safe Havens' Program is pending decision, expected in October 2021
- Future funding may be needed for renovation of Northern Virginia Detention Center
- Expansion of the Young Achievers' Program from 8 to 12 youth would require a dedicated space

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