



**ARLINGTON**  
VIRGINIA

# Office of the Magistrate

**COUNTY MANAGER'S  
PROPOSED FY 2023 BUDGET**

**County Board Work Session**  
Thursday, March 17, 2022  
3:00 p.m.



# Department Mission

To protect and preserve the rights and liberties of all the people, as guaranteed by the laws and the constitutions of the United States of America and the Commonwealth of Virginia and the ordinances of the County of Arlington and the City of Falls Church, by providing a fair, independent, and accessible forum to the resolution of their legal rights.



# Department Overview

- Only Judicial Officers in Arlington County that operate 365/24/7; we are always on duty
- Comprised of 8.5 state-funded positions with County supplement for some staff
- Issues warrants for the arrest of violators of state law and County ordinances
- Issues Emergency Protective Orders, mental health and medical Emergency Custody Orders, and Temporary Detention Orders
- Admits to bail or commits to jail all persons charged with offenses
- Administers oaths, takes acknowledgements, and acts as conservators for the peace

# Magistrate in the COVID-19 Era

- Still on duty; still on-site 365/24/7
  - Schedule modified to limit the number of staff in the office at the same time.
  - Significantly limiting office access
  - Purchased pandemic cleaning equipment (blue lights and air filters) and perform frequent cleanings
- Hybrid approach to holding hearings
  - Tension between pandemic precautions and other law enforcement and defendant needs are starting to improve
  - Hearing room is open on a case-by-case basis office for face-to-face hearings
  - Some hearings are still held through glass
  - Some hearings are held via video
  - Meeting method depends on the circumstances and type of hearing

# Focus on Equity

- By being the only judicial officers that operate 365/24/7, the Office ensures that all people have access to the legal system at all times.
- 365/24/7 coverage also ensures a prompt review process of the circumstances of the arrest of defendants and detaining of persons in mental health crisis to determine if and under what circumstances their right to liberty may be returned to them.
- The Office serves a diverse population including stakeholders dealing with mental health and criminal matters in particular.

# FY 2023 Budget Summary

	FY 2022 Adopted	FY 2023 Proposed	Change	% Change
<b>Expenses</b>	\$29,986	\$29,986	-	-
<b>Revenue</b>	\$1,489	\$1,723	+\$234	16.0%
<b>Staff</b>	0.0 FTEs	0.0 FTEs	-	-

- Revenues increase due to higher projections in Falls Church reimbursements based on the FY 2023 budget and reconciliation of prior year payments with actual expenditures (\$234).

# Key Measures

Critical Measures	FY 2018 Actual	FY 2019 Actual	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Estimate	FY 2023 Estimate
Bond hearings initially determined	10,140	9,895	7,863	8,183	10,000	10,000
Miscellaneous processes	3,799	6,855	5,992	5,109	6,300	6,300
Probable cause hearings	8,152	8,454	8,472	8,797	9,925	9,925





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