

# COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY

## Description

The Commonwealth's Attorney is a Constitutional Officer elected for a term of four years. The office is responsible for overseeing criminal cases in Henrico County with legal representation in the prosecution of all criminal cases in the Circuit Courts, General District Courts, and Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Courts. They also serve as advisors to citizens who have inquiries regarding criminal matters. Additionally, the Commonwealth Attorney's Office provides training and legal advice for several law enforcement agencies including the Henrico County Division of Police and other local and State law enforcement agencies.

- To prosecute criminal cases.
- To work with other criminal justice agencies to strengthen juvenile prosecutions and crime prevention.
- To make the public aware of Virginia Exile laws and enforce them appropriately.

## Objectives

- To enforce criminal laws in Henrico County.
- To operate the Victim-Witness program.
- To cooperate on behalf of Henrico County in the operation of two investigative multi-jurisdictional grand juries.
- To promote a better understanding of the criminal justice system among citizens.
- To proactively investigate and prosecute drug dealers.

## Budget Highlights

In FY2009-10, the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office will continue to prosecute traffic and criminal cases in all of the Henrico County Courts. Aggressive prosecution of those who commit violent crimes will remain the number one priority. The Office will continue to work closely with the Division of Police to reduce crime, proactively as well as reactively, by ensuring that those who commit crimes are held accountable. The Commonwealth's Attorney's Office, will continue to pursue narcotics traffickers through the utilization of two multi-jurisdictional grand juries. In addition, the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office will continue to provide legal training to the Division of Police in its basic academies as well as in continuing service training. Special efforts will also continue to be made to reduce domestic violence. Enforcement of Virginia Exile laws will be a high priority as a method of reducing violent crime.

## Annual Fiscal Plan

<u>Description</u>	<u>FY08 Actual</u>	<u>FY09 Original</u>	<u>FY10 Approved</u>	<u>Change 09 to 10</u>
Personnel	\$ 3,993,941	\$ 4,433,918	\$ 4,534,841	2.3%
Operation	152,724	166,050	158,355	(4.6%)
Capital	47,065	7,189	6,582	(8.4%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,193,730</b>	<b>\$ 4,607,157</b>	<b>\$ 4,699,778</b>	<b>2.0%</b>
 Personnel Complement	 56	 56	 56 *	 0

\*This count includes 53 positions for the Commonwealth's Attorney, 2 positions in Special Drug Prosecutor, and 1 position in the Victim/Witness Assistance Program.

*Commonwealth's Attorney (cont'd)*

<b>Performance Measures</b>				
	<b>FY08</b>	<b>FY09</b>	<b>FY10</b>	<b>Change 09 to 10</b>
<b>Workload Measures</b>				
Circuit Court Defendants	1,638	1,700	1,750	50
Show Cause Hearings	1,024	1,050	1,080	30
Misdemeanor Appeals	1,919	2,025	2,050	25
General District Court Criminal Cases	24,989	25,050	25,100	50
General District Court Traffic Cases	91,193	92,000	92,100	100
Juvenile Court Misdemeanors	2,141	2,175	2,200	25
Juvenile Court Felonies	590	600	625	25
<b>Efficiency Measure</b>				
General District Court Traffic Cases per Attorney	22,798	18,400	18,420	20
<b>Effectiveness Measure</b>				
Circuit Court Indictments	3,688	3,075	3,100	25

The Commonwealth's Attorney approved budget totals \$4,699,778. This reflects an increase of 2.0 percent when compared to the FY2008-09 budget. Specifically, personnel expenses reflect an increase of 2.3 percent. The increase is due to salary adjustments and increased benefit costs. The operating component reflects a decrease of 4.6 percent and capital outlay costs reflect a slight decrease in funding levels.

In FY2006-07, the Exile Grant, a grant from the State that began in FY2002-03 and provided for a specialized prosecutor and a secretary to enforce violations of Virginia Exile laws, was discontinued. In the FY2006-07 approved budget, anticipating that the grant would be discontinued, the funding for these two positions was included in the General Fund component of the Commonwealth's Attorney's budget. Funding for these positions remains in the General Fund component in the FY2009-10 budget.