



## ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item  
Meeting of October 13, 2007**

**DATE:** September 12, 2007

**SUBJECT:** Appropriation of Traffic Safety grant from the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles.

**C. M. RECOMMENDATION:**

Appropriate, in FY 2008, \$37,224 from the Department of Motor Vehicles (101.364400) to the Sheriff's Office (101.22201) for funding of the "Smooth Operator" Traffic Safety Program.

**ISSUE:** None.

**SUMMARY:** The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, along with the Secretary of Transportation, has given approval for a highway safety project grant in the amount of \$37,224 to the Arlington County Sheriff's Office for fiscal year 2008. These funds are Federal in origin allocated to the states for the purpose of traffic safety and enforcement. The Arlington Sheriff's Office, as well as many other state law enforcement agencies, has been awarded these monies to be expensed by September 30, 2008.

**BACKGROUND:** The Sheriff's Office has had a traffic enforcement effort in place for the last 9 years which has provided support and interagency assistance with the Arlington County Police Department, specifically involving participation in the statewide "Smooth Operator" Campaign. In FY 2007, the "Smooth Operator" campaign worked with over 80 law enforcement agencies from Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia. They conducted four one-week enforcement waves. The waves targeted all aggressive driving behaviors such as speeding, red light and stop sign running, unsafe lane changes and following other vehicles too closely. As a result of the law enforcement effort, 390,500 citations and warnings were issued, 46% more than the number of citation and warnings issued last year (267,000).

**DISCUSSION:** In order to ensure progress in the area of traffic safety, Arlington County must keep up with the use of diligent enforcement in monitoring local road and driver safety. The extra time needed to monitor these traffic violations requires Deputies to work overtime hours for which the current fiscal budget has not made allowances. Therefore, without the assistance of this grant, the Sheriff's office is unable to cover the costs necessary to continue our efforts in making the roads in Arlington safer for everyone. The appropriation of this grant will enable the Sheriff's Office, without additional County funds, to enhance activity in the area of traffic safety

County Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

County Attorney: \_\_\_\_\_

Staff: Susie Doyel, Sheriff's Office

that is a needed and appreciated community service. This is in keeping with the County Board's efforts to aggressively address traffic safety.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** No additional County funds will be required.