



## ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item  
Meeting of February 23, 2008**

**DATE:** February 11, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Request to advertise for a public hearing on the attached amendment to the Fire Prevention Code, Chapter 8, Section 8-10.1.11 of the Code of Arlington County, Virginia, concerning the inspection fee for witnessing fire protection systems tests.

**C. M. RECOMMENDATION:**

Authorize the advertisement of a public hearing on March 27, 2008 for an ordinance to amend the Fire Prevention Code, Chapter 8, Section 8-10.1.11 of the Code of Arlington County, Virginia, to charge an inspection fee for witnessing fire protection systems tests.

**ISSUES:** As part of the regular budget process, County board authorization is being requested for whether to advertise a public hearing on March 27, 2008 about increasing the inspection fee for witnessing fire protection systems tests.

**SUMMARY:** The current fee charged to witness fire protection systems tests will be increased from \$85 an hour to \$130 an hour. The minimum inspection fee charged will be \$65. After the first half hour the fee charged will be \$32.50 per quarter hour.

**BACKGROUND:** The Fire Prevention Code requires the department to witness fire protection systems tests to determine if the systems are working properly. The current inspection fee was established in fiscal year 2002. In light of the increased cost of providing inspection services a review of the current hourly inspection fee was conducted to evaluate the feasibility of increasing it to recover the full costs of the inspectors. The review concluded that only a portion of the cost of the inspectors was being recovered.

**DISCUSSION:** A review of the Fire Prevention Code fees from the City of Alexandria, Fairfax County and Prince William County found that there are various methods used to recoup building inspections and witness fire protection system tests such as square footage, cost of building or type of inspection. Using an hourly rate method as proposed ensures maximum cost recovery.

With existing staff in Fire Prevention, the department has been unable to provide inspectors to witness fire protection systems tests since January 2007. The FY 2009 proposed budget includes the conversion of two vacant grant funded positions to County funded positions that will be dedicated to witnessing fire protection systems tests. The proposed increase in fees will fully pay for these two dedicated inspectors.

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

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

Staff:

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The change in the inspection fee is projected to generate \$210,600 for the County and is included in the County Manager's FY 2009 Proposed Budget.

**Attachment A**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 8 (FIRE PREVENTION) OF THE ARLINGTON COUNTY CODE RELATING TO FIRE INSPECTION FEES, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008:**

**BE IT ORDAINED** that Chapter 8 of the Arlington County Code is amended as follows:

**§ 8-10.1.11. Fees.**

Permits and fees as required by this article or the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code shall be set forth in Table 8-10.1.11. No permit required by the Fire Prevention Code shall be valid until the prescribed fee has been paid to the Treasurer of Arlington County.

SECTION	TABLE 8-10.11.1. PERMIT & FEE DESCRIPTION	PERMIT INSEPECTION REQUIRED	PERMIT FEE	INSPECTION FEE
F-402.3.	Candles in assembly & educational occupancies	Yes	N/A	Note e
F-403.4.	Open burning	Yes	\$85.00	Note e
F-404.2.	Remove paint with torch	Yes	\$85.00	Note e
F-601.4.	Assembly & educational occupancies	Yes	Note a	Note e
F-701.1.	Child/daycare facilities	Yes	Note e	Note e
F-801.2.	Airports, heliports & helistops	Yes	\$85.00	Note e
F-901.2.	Flammable liquids, bowling lanes	Yes	\$85.00	Note e
F-1001.2.	Crop ripening & coloring processes	Yes	\$85.00	Note e
F-1101.2.	Dry cleaning	Yes	\$85.00	Note e
F-1201.2.	Dust explosion hazard	Yes	\$85.00	Note e
F-1301.2.	Flammable finishes	Yes	\$85.00	Note e
F-1401.2.	Fumigation-insecticidal	Yes	\$85.00	Note e
F-1501.2.	HPM Facilities	Yes	\$85.00	Note e
F-1601.2.	Lumber yard-woodworking plants	Yes	\$85.00	Note e
F-1701.2.	Matches-bulk storage	Yes	\$85.00	Note e
F-1801.2.	Oil/gas wells	Yes	\$85.00	Note e
F-1901.2.	Organic coatings	Yes	\$85.00	Note e
F-2001.2.	Tents/air-supported structures	Yes	\$85.00	Note e
F-2102.2.	Wrecking yard, junk yard, waste material handling	Yes	\$85.00	Note e
F-2201.2.	Welding or cutting	Yes	\$85.00	Note e
F-2205.2.	Storage of welding cylinders	Yes	\$85.00	Note e
F-2207.1.	Calcium carbide	Yes	\$85.00	Note e
F-2208.1.	Acetylene generators	Yes	\$85.00	Note e
F-2208.7.	Acetylene cylinder storage	Yes	\$85.00	Note e
F-2301.2.	Hazardous materials	Yes	\$85.00	Note e
F-2401.2.	Aerosol products	Yes	\$85.00	Note e

SECTION	TABLE 8-10.11.1. PERMIT & FEE DESCRIPTION	PERMIT / INSEPECTION REQUIRED	PERMIT FEE	INSPECTION FEE
F-2501.2.	Cellulose nitrate plastics	Yes	\$85.00	Note e
F-2601.2.	Combustible fibers	Yes	\$85.00	Note e
F-2701.2.	Compressed gases	Yes	\$85.00	Note e
F-2801.2.	Corrosives	Yes	\$85.00	Note e
F-2901.2.	Cryogenic liquids	Yes	\$85.00	Note e
F-3001.2	Blasting/explosives	Yes	\$85.00	Note e
F-3101.2.	Fireworks	Yes	\$85.00	Note e
F-3201.2.	Vehicle repair shop	Yes	\$85.00	Note e
F-3201.2.	Flammable and combustible liquids storage, handling, use, process	Yes	\$85.00	Note e
F-3201.2.	Flammable and combustible liquids tanks and equipment	Yes	Note d	Note e
F-3301.2.	Flammable solids	Yes	\$85.00	Note e
F-3401.2.	Highly toxic and toxic solids and liquids	Yes	\$85.00	Note e
F-3501.2.	Irritants, sensitizers and other health hazards	Yes	\$85.00	Note e
F-3601.2.	Liquefied petroleum gases	Yes	\$85.00	Note e
F-3701.2.	Organic peroxides	Yes	\$85.00	Note e
F-3801.2.	Liquid and solid oxidizers	Yes	\$85.00	Note e
F-3901.2.	Pesticides	Yes	\$85.00	Note e
F-4001.2.	Pyrophoric materials	Yes	\$85.00	Note e
F-4101.2.	Radioactive materials	Yes	\$85.00	Note e
F-4201.2.	Unstable (reactive) materials	Yes	\$85.00	Note e
F-4301.2	Water reactive materials	Yes	\$85.00	Note e
8-10.3.8.	Special events	Yes	\$85.00	Note e
8-10.4.1.	Open burning	Yes	Note b	Note e
8-10.4.2.	Flame producing devices-sweating pipe joints	Yes	\$85.00	Note e
8-10.4.3.	Flame producing devices-roofing applications	Yes	\$85.00	Note e
8-10.5.11.	Periodic retest fire protection systems and cancellation of scheduled test	Yes	Note c	Note c
SECTION	TABLE 8-10.11.1. PERMIT & FEE DESCRIPTION	PERMIT INSEPECTION REQUIRED	PERMIT FEE	INSPECTION FEE
8-10.13.1.2.	Applying flammable/combustible liquids in floor refinishing operations	Yes	\$85.00	Note e
8-10.13.2.1.	Metal refinishing operations	Yes	\$85.00	Note e

8-10.31.1.1.	Sale of fireworks	Yes	\$500.00	Note e
8-10.31.1.2	Display of fireworks	Yes	\$85.00	Note e

Note a--Assembly and education facilities with an approved capacity up to fifty (50) persons is forty-two dollars and fifty cents (\$42.50); fifty-one (51) to five hundred (500) [is] eighty-five dollars (\$85.00); above five hundred (500) is one hundred seventy dollars (\$170.00).

Note b--Special events up to fifty (50) persons is forty-two dollars and fifty cents (\$42.50); fifty-one (51) to five hundred (500) [is] eighty-five dollars (\$85.00); above five hundred (500) is one hundred seventy dollars (\$170.00). The above fees may be waived if an inspection fee is included in the county's special event fee that covers all agencies.

Note c--Periodic retest of fire protection systems is based on a ~~eighty five dollar (\$85.00)~~ **one hundred thirty dollar (\$130.00)** hourly rate for each inspector. **The minimum fee charged for each inspector is sixty-five dollars (\$65.00)** Half Quarter hour rates are ~~forty two dollars and fifty cents (\$42.50)~~ **thirty-two dollars and fifty cents (\$32.50)**. As defined in Section 8-10.5.9., a ~~eighty five dollar (\$85.00)~~ **one hundred thirty dollar (\$130.00)** fee will be assessed for cancellations less than forty-eight (48) hours prior to scheduled inspections and/or retest of fire protection systems.

Note d--Administrative review of flammable and combustible liquid storage tank permit applications and/or on-site inspections of such equipment is based on a eighty-five dollar (\$85.00) per hour rate. Half hour rates are forty-two dollars and fifty cents (\$42.50).

Note e--Annual child/daycare inspections with 1--4 children will be forty-two dollars and fifty cents (\$42.50), 5--9 children will be eighty-five dollars (\$85.00), and 10 or more children will be one hundred seventy dollars (\$170.00). (Ord. No. 98-23, 7-11-98; Ord. No. 02-20, 7-20-02)