



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of October 18, 2008**

DATE: September 19, 2008

SUBJECT: Amendments to Chapter 9.2, Food and Food Handling Code of the Arlington County Code-Application Processing Fee

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt amendment to Chapter 9.2 of the Arlington County Code to increase the application processing fee for food establishments from \$65 to \$100.

ISSUE: An ordinance amendment is required to increase the fee. No issues have been identified.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Health Bureau licenses and regulates food service establishments in Arlington County through local ordinance. Each food establishment is required to possess a license that is renewed annually. The application processing fee for each license is currently \$65. The proposed increase is to \$100. All other jurisdictions in the state are already charging \$100. The fee was last raised in 2005.

BACKGROUND: The Environmental Health Bureau licenses and regulates food service establishments in Arlington County through local ordinance. In 1998 the County Board established a \$25 application processing fee to partially offset the cost of updating the database, providing a new risk assessment and issuing an annual license to all food service establishments. The fee was increased in subsequent years to more accurately reflect the cost of performing the service to license establishments and to recoup the cost of increased data processing requirements.

During the 2002 Virginia legislative session, the Appropriations Act authorized the Health Commissioner to collect an annual license renewal fee of \$40 for all restaurants licensed in the state. The 2008 Appropriations Act provided the authority to increase the state fee from \$40 to \$100 effective July 1, 2008. The \$100 application processing fee is less than the actual cost of service delivery but the maximum currently allowed by the law.

Arlington County is a locally administered health department and has its own local food ordinance. Therefore, the county is not required to split a portion of its revenues generated through fees with the state. However, the state will reduce the County's annual allocation

County Manager: _____

County Attorney: _____

Staff: Richard Cole, Erica Bidgood, Reuben Varghese, Public Health, DHS

through the cooperative budget, given the expectation that each health district will adopt this increased fee.

There are approximately 1,600 food establishments in Arlington that would be affected by this change. All food establishment licenses expire at the end of the calendar year on December 31st and are renewed on an annual basis. The proposed fee increase would become effective November 1, 2008, prior to the FY 2009 annual renewal period.

FISCAL IMPACT: The proposed fee increase is projected to generate approximately \$56,000 in additional revenue for FY 2009. This will offset the current reduction in the State's allocation.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, REENACT, AND RECODIFY CHAPTER 9.2 (FOOD AND FOOD HANDLING CODE) OF THE ARLINGTON COUNTY CODE TO INCREASE FEES FOR THE FOOD ESTABLISHMENT APPLICATION PROCESSING FEE.

BE IT ORDAINED that §9.2-3.1(b) of the Arlington County Code is amended, reenacted, and recodified as follows, effective November 1, 2008:

* * *

§ 9.2-3.1 (b) Licenses for food establishments..

(c) An annual application fee of ~~sixty-five dollars (\$65.00)~~ one hundred dollars (\$100.00) shall be assessed for each licensed food establishment.

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