

BUILDING INSPECTIONS

Description

The Code of Virginia requires all local governments to enforce the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC). The Department of Building Construction and Inspections fulfills this role for Henrico County by reviewing and inspecting the structural, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems of buildings and structures in Henrico County to ensure the safety, health, and welfare of the County's citizens. The reviews and inspections are based on criteria that are consistent with nationally recognized codes and standards at reasonable cost levels.

The Department also enforces the maintenance and unsafe provisions of the USBC and the Drug Blight and Bawdy Places ordinances to further the objectives of the County's Community Maintenance Program. In addition, the Department administers the graffiti ordinance to remove graffiti in the County.

These traditional code enforcement activities are supplemented with public awareness programs that include a quarterly newsletter to educate residents,

contractors, architects, and engineers about specific code and enforcement issues. Educational programs are produced in cooperation with Chesterfield and Hanover Counties to educate the public and the construction community about various construction issues.

Objectives

- To ensure the public health, safety, and welfare affected by the design and construction of buildings and structures in Henrico County.
- To ensure the quality of inspections by field staff through education and certification to State standards.
- To provide services that equal customer expectations for professionalism and accountability.
- To establish policies and procedures that are consistent, practical, workable, and enforceable.

Annual Fiscal Plan

<u>Description</u>	<u>FY13 Actual</u>	<u>FY14 Original</u>	<u>FY15 Approved</u>	<u>Change 14 to 15</u>
Personnel	\$ 3,720,855	\$ 3,806,515	\$ 3,831,471	0.7%
Operation	222,916	375,322	375,321	(0.0%)
Capital	0	300	300	0.0%
Sub-Total	<u>\$ 3,943,771</u>	<u>\$ 4,182,137</u>	<u>\$ 4,207,092</u>	<u>0.6%</u>
Interdepartmental Billings	<u>(143,536)</u>	<u>(151,023)</u>	<u>(154,350)</u>	<u>2.2%</u>
Total Budget	<u>3,800,235</u>	<u>4,031,114</u>	<u>4,052,742</u>	<u>0.5%</u>
Personnel Complement*	54	53	52	(1)

⁽¹⁾ A vacant position is being moved to the County's hold complement for FY2014-15. The Building Inspections complement has been reduced by 9 positions since FY2009-10.

Building Inspections (cont'd)

Performance Measures

	FY13	FY14	FY15	Change 14 to 15
Workload Measures				
Total Permits Issued	14,274	14,000	14,000	0
Single Family Permits Issued	742	750	750	0
Building Inspections	24,040	25,570	25,570	0
Electrical Inspections	13,116	14,500	14,500	0
Mechanical Inspections	10,365	11,500	11,500	0
Plumbing Inspections	15,364	17,200	17,200	0
Fire Protection Inspections	3,182	3,000	3,000	0
Elevator Inspections	243	200	200	0
Sign Inspections	726	500	500	0
Existing Structure Inspections	2,480	2,300	2,300	0
FOG Inspections	295	275	275	0
Total Inspections	67,036	72,470	72,470	0
Efficiency Measures				
Residential Inspections/Inspector/Day	10	12	12	0
Mechanical /Plumbing Inspections/Inspector/Day	16	20	20	0
Electrical Inspections/Inspector/Day	13	14	14	0
Fire Protection Inspections/Inspector/Day	6	8	8	0
Commercial Inspections/Inspector/Day	7	7	7	0
Average # of Inspections/Single Family Dwelling	37	38	38	0

The Department of Building Construction and Inspections budget is divided into two sections: Building Inspections and Community Maintenance. The total FY2014-15 budget for the Department is \$4,052,742, an increase of 0.5 percent when compared to the FY2013-14 approved budget. There is a 0.7 percent increase reflected in the personnel component, including a half-year raise. The operating and capital outlay components have remained constant.

Workload projections are based on current conditions and future developments that have already been announced for Henrico County. The Department projects a slight increase in the total number of inspections for FY2013-14, which are anticipated to remain at those same levels during FY2014-15.

The Building Inspections section is responsible for assuring that structural stability, fire safety, and electrical safety is provided in newly constructed buildings throughout the County through compliance with nationally recognized building codes and

standards. This section also inspects structures for compliance with accessibility, sanitation, light and ventilation, and energy and water conservation standards as referenced in the building code.

The Building Inspections section's budget for FY2014-15 totals \$3,794,730. This reflects an increase of \$18,891 when compared to the FY2013-14 approved budget. The increase is attributable entirely to personnel cost increases. The operating component remains flat for FY2014-15. Capital outlay will remain \$300 in FY2014-15.

The Community Maintenance Division within the Building Inspections Department is responsible for resolving violations of the building code and graffiti ordinance for existing structures. This Division's budget totals \$258,012, which is an increase of 1.0 percent when compared to the prior fiscal year. Included in this budget are the costs for two positions that are part of an initiative to ensure that restaurants have the proper equipment to prevent oil and grease from entering the sewer system. The ongoing cost for these two positions total \$154,350.

Building Inspections (cont'd)

The entirety of this cost will be reimbursed by the Department of Public Utilities. As such, an interdepartmental billing account has been budgeted to reflect the reimbursement of these ongoing costs.

The Community Maintenance Division will continue to work closely with the Department of Community Revitalization, as they also provide community maintenance services. Community Revitalization's services include those related to identifying the needs of established communities and providing assistance in improving the properties in these areas.