

COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY

Special Drug Prosecutor

Description

The General Assembly of Virginia passed legislation in 1983 under Section 19.2-215.3 establishing the Special Drug Prosecutor Program and creating multi-jurisdiction grand juries (MJGJs). A MJGJ, in contrast to a regular grand jury, is an investigative body with the statutory authority to issue statewide subpoenas for documents and other evidence, and to call for sworn testimony of persons with information related to specific criminal offenses. Henrico's Drug Prosecutor program was implemented in May of 1984. The goal is to investigate criminal violations of Virginia drug laws as well as other illegal activities, including homicide, abduction, perjury, embezzlement, computer crimes, Medicaid fraud, and trademark infringement.

- Administer use of the grand jury by prosecutors from each of the member jurisdictions Commonwealth's Attorney's Offices.

Budget Highlights

The use of the Special Drug Prosecutor Program provides a vital public safety function for the County of Henrico. The Program's approved budget for FY2018-19 is \$170,279 and reflects a \$5,229 or 3.2 percent increase when compared to the prior fiscal year. The Program's approved budget includes General Fund support of \$61,343 which reflects an increase of \$500 compared to the approved FY2017-18 budget.

The operating component increased \$500 when compared to the prior fiscal year. This is entirely due to money added to pay for food for multi-jurisdictional investigative grand juries.

The State Compensation Board and the County both contribute to the salaries and associated personnel costs for the two positions funded through the program. Personnel costs will increase \$4,729 or 3.0 percent because of increased benefits and salary increases.

Objectives

- Investigate and prosecute those involved in the illegal use or distribution of drugs, and drug paraphernalia.
- Provide assistance in any other provision of law when such condition is discovered in the course of an investigation, which a multi-jurisdiction drug prosecutor is otherwise authorized to undertake and to investigate any condition, which involves or tends to promote any attempt, solicitation or conspiracy to violate laws.

Annual Fiscal Plan

Description	FY17 Actual	FY18 Original	FY19 Approved	Change 18 to 19
Personnel	\$ 212,420	\$ 159,592	\$ 164,321	3.0%
Operation	4,257	5,458	5,958	9.2%
Capital	0	0	0	0.0%
Total	\$ 216,677	\$ 165,050	\$ 170,279	3.2%
Personnel Complement	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Special Drug Prosecutor (cont'd)

Performance Measures				
	FY17	FY18	FY19	Change 18 to 19
Workload Measures				
Total Subpoenaes	1,792	1,790	1,800	10
Total Indictments	1,189	1,130	1,150	20
Total Defendants	364	340	350	10

The Special Drug Prosecutor’s responsibilities include working with a multi-jurisdictional investigative grand jury comprised of the Counties of Henrico, Hanover and Chesterfield, and the City of Richmond. The Special Drug Prosecutor coordinates witnesses and subpoenas for tangible evidence ordered by the grand jury and handles a full caseload of criminal matters. The multi-jurisdictional grand jury plays an essential role in the investigation of drug and homicide cases in the Richmond metropolitan area.

The table to the right presents a historical depiction of the State/County split for the program.

Fiscal Year	State Funding	Approved County Funding	% County
2009-10	124,305	44,730	26%
2010-11	124,305	52,855	30%
2011-12	119,400	69,563	37%
2012-13	119,400	66,715	36%
2013-14	121,533	66,715	35%
2014-15	129,773	61,185	32%
2015-16	133,409	52,569	28%
2016-17	134,790	61,862	32%
2017-18	104,207	60,843	37%
2018-19	108,936	61,343	36%