

PERMIT CENTERS

DESCRIPTION

The Department of Community Development, better known as the Permit Centers, is a convenient “one-stop shop” for residents seeking community development services including permits and applications. The Department has two locations referred to as the Permit Center-East and the Permit Center-West. The Permit Center-East has been in service since 1989. Due to the success of the eastern location, services were expanded to a western location that opened in April 2001. The Permit Centers are staffed by representatives from Building Inspections, Planning, Public Utilities, and Public Works.

OBJECTIVES

- To consistently provide quality services to all citizens and customers in a professional, accurate, and efficient manner.
- To assist the public, including private citizens, builders, developers, and engineers, with their permitting and licensing needs.
- To provide information to the public concerning the requirements and regulations related to zoning and subdivisions of property, building construction, and other aspects of the development process.
- To assist the public with questions concerning the agendas and processes of the Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals.
- To provide a streamlined development review process at a convenient location.
- To accurately track, monitor, and administer the costs of providing these services in order to provide them in a cost efficient manner.

FISCAL YEAR 2021 SUMMARY

Annual Fiscal Plan

Description	FY19 Actual	FY20 Original	FY21 Proposed	Change 20 to 21
Personnel	\$ 1,099,100	\$ 1,199,254	\$ 1,243,367	3.7%
Operation	14,905	21,489	21,489	0.0%
Capital	3,405	8,813	8,813	0.0%
Sub-Total	\$ 1,117,410	\$ 1,229,556	\$ 1,273,669	3.6%
Interdepartmental Billings	(251,808)	(287,990)	(298,981) *	3.8%
Total Budget	\$ 865,602	\$ 941,566	\$ 974,688	3.5%
Personnel Complement	16	16	16	0

*Reflects the reimbursement of four positions (2 Public Works; 2 Public Utilities) assigned to the Permit Center, which are reflected in the Permit Centers' personnel complement.

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PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	Performance Measures			Change
	FY19	FY20	FY21	20 to 21
Workload Measures				
Total Number of Inquiries	11,916	14,968	15,267	299
Permit Applications Received	5,616	6,128	6,251	123
Reviews Performed	6,509	7,613	7,766	153
Business Licenses Reviewed	2,804	2,691	2,745	54

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The Permit Centers' budget for FY2020-21 is \$974,688, which reflects an increase of \$ 33,122, or 3.5 percent, from the prior approved budget. This increase was driven solely by the personnel component and reflects merit-based increases for employees and accounts for rising health care costs. Operational and Capital components remain flat for FY2020-21.

Staff is utilized from Building Inspections, Public Works, Public Utilities, and Planning. Funds to pay for staff serving these functions are in the Permits Centers' budget and complement. Four staff members included in the complement have their personnel expenditures reimbursed, via interdepartmental transfer, by the appropriate department related to the services furnished. Those reimbursements for FY2020-21 will be from the Public Works and Public Utilities departments. The sum of these offsets, totaling \$298,981, is shown as a negative amount in the Permit Centers' budget.

DEPARTMENTAL HIGHLIGHTS

The one-stop convenience at both the East and West locations simplifies the process for obtaining permits for the customer and improves overall service levels. Services provided include the processing of building permits and answering inquiries regarding code regulations, zoning, water/sewer availability, as well as road and drainage issues.

The Permit Centers were designed to make it more convenient to process and approve a permit at a central location. Technology was one of the driving forces to accomplish this process through the use of the Geographic Information System (GIS) and the Tidemark software system. Now, when a resident or builder enters the Permit Centers, they can leave with an approved permit for additions, decks, and accessory structures in one hour or less. Customers can also have copies of maps within fifteen minutes. The department continues to evaluate areas to improve operational efficiencies as an ongoing effort. For example, the department has implemented new management practices to make the staff more flexible in responding to citizens' request for assistance. In addition, regular staff rotations have continued between the East and West Permit Centers, allowing junior staff the opportunity to experience a wider variety of public service environments, hone and exercise leadership skills and practice supervisory techniques. Also, the department continues to work closely with cooperating agencies through consultation with their counterparts to ensure that customer assistance is being provided consistent with established policies, regulations and interpretation.

Permit Centers

In an effort to increase employee engagement and job satisfaction, a policy was established allowing technicians to shadow employees in other departments whose missions align with the overall objectives of the Permit Centers and are of personal and professional interest to the technicians. This effort has broadened the scope of technicians' understanding of services delivered by cooperating agencies, increased employee morale and contributed to a more comprehensive perspective of the Permit Centers' processes and enhanced customer service.



Department Operating Budget
Henrico County, Virginia
FY2020-21
PERMIT CENTER

Account Description	Prior Year Actual	Approved Budget	Proposed Budget	Dollar Inc/Dec	Percent Inc/Dec
50100 Full-Time Salaries and Wages - Regular	791,266	878,640	903,043	24,403	2.8%
50101 Full-Time Salaries and Wages - Overtime	0	2,000	2,000	0	0.0%
50108 Hybrid Disability Prgm (Prev Wage Adj)	703	1,269	705	-564	-44.4%
50109 Vacancy Savings	0	-21,010	-21,705	-695	-3.3%
50110 FICA	58,478	67,369	69,236	1,867	2.8%
50111 Retirement VRS	105,858	116,772	126,426	9,654	8.3%
50112 Hospital/Medical Plans	123,920	142,704	151,200	8,496	6.0%
50113 Group Insurance - Life (VRS)	10,181	11,510	12,462	952	8.3%
50114 Unemployment Insurance	8,694	0	0	0	0.0%
50211 Maintenance Service Contracts	980	1,000	1,000	0	0.0%
50240 Printing and Binding	-115	100	100	0	0.0%
50410 Postal Services	57	200	200	0	0.0%
50412 Telecommunications	4,466	5,000	5,000	0	0.0%
50430 Mileage	0	100	100	0	0.0%
50431 Education and Training	0	1,000	1,000	0	0.0%
50450 Dues And Association Memberships	644	1,000	1,000	0	0.0%
50455 Tuition	209	3,999	3,999	0	0.0%
50500 Office Supplies	7,792	7,440	7,440	0	0.0%
50501 Food Supplies and Food Service Supplies	36	200	200	0	0.0%
50506 Repair and Maintenance Supplies	0	300	300	0	0.0%
50512 Books and Subscriptions	203	350	350	0	0.0%
50514 Other Operating Supplies	633	500	500	0	0.0%
50521 Computer Software	0	300	300	0	0.0%
50812 Furniture and Fixtures-New Less Than \$5000	3,198	3,863	3,863	0	0.0%
50832 Furniture and Fixtures-Replacement Less Than \$5000	0	3,650	3,650	0	0.0%
50833 Telecommunications Equipment-Replacement Less Than \$5000	0	300	300	0	0.0%

Account Description	Prior Year Actual	Approved Budget	Proposed Budget	Dollar Inc/Dec	Percent Inc/Dec
50835 Computer Equipment-Replacement Less Than \$5000	207	1,000	1,000	0	0.0%
50911 Interdepartmental Billings	-251,808	-287,990	-298,981	-10,991	-3.8%
Total Department	865,602	941,566	974,688	33,122	3.5%