# **Permitting Services**

#### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Department of Permitting Services (DPS) is to protect the safety and welfare of County residents and businesses through the permitting and inspections process to ensure that the structures in which we live, work, congregate, and recreate are safe, secure and in compliance with zoning and building requirements. DPS contributes to the economic vitality of Montgomery County through the effective and efficient processing of land development and building construction permits and licenses.

#### **BUDGET OVERVIEW**

The total recommended FY15 Operating Budget for the Department of Permitting Services is \$32,007,836, an increase of \$2,365,765 or 8.0 percent from the FY14 Approved Budget of \$29,642,071. Personnel Costs comprise 72.5 percent of the budget for 201 full-time positions and one part-time position, and a total of 206.50 FTEs. Total FTEs may include seasonal or temporary positions and may also reflect workforce charged to or from other departments or funds. Operating Expenses account for the remaining 27.5 percent of the FY15 budget.

#### LINKAGE TO COUNTY RESULT AREAS

While this program area supports all eight of the County Result Areas, the following are emphasized:

- A Responsive, Accountable County Government
- An Effective and Efficient Transportation Network
- Healthy and Sustainable Neighborhoods
- Safe Streets and Secure Neighborhoods
- Strong and Vibrant Economy
- Vital Living for All of Our Residents

### **DEPARTMENT PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

Performance measures for this department are included below, with multi-program measures displayed at the front of this section and program-specific measures shown with the relevant program. The FY14 estimates reflect funding based on the FY14 approved budget. The FY15 and FY16 figures are performance targets based on the FY15 recommended budget and funding for comparable service levels in FY16.

#### ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND INITIATIVES

- DPS implemented several streamlining initiative recommendations including publication of Environmentally Sensitive Design guidelines and policy documents; publication of common plan mistakes document; delegation of signature authority for development documents; and elimination of redundant M-NCPPC zoning review for recorded lots less than 40,000 square feet.
- DPS completed and implemented new performance measures for all divisions.
- The Department reduced fee structures for mid-rise woodframe multi-family construction, as well as, modified 90 automated systems processes to implement a 50% reduction of the Automation Enhancement Fee.
- The Department modified all permit system components to implement new regulatory requirements for street trees, tree canopy, sediment control, and special protection areas.
- DPS implemented revised Design for Life and Urban Forestry programs to include development of technical manuals, and sign sweep program to reduce signs in the Rights-of-Way.
- Developed and implemented new tree protection programs and Design for Life Tax Incentive Program two significant new programs that respectively protect the environment and promote increased accessibility options in

homes.

- DPS implemented new residential energy code requirements and received a 92% compliance score from Maryland Energy Administration.
- DPS created the new Division of Zoning and Site Plan Enforcement to protect the quality of life in Montgomery County and the public safety, welfare, health, and comfort of the present and future inhabitants of the County, through the effective application and enforcement of zoning code standards and M-NCPPC certified site plan requirements. This division reviews plans prior to permit issuance and conducts inspections, as well as investigates complaints in order to administer and enforce the zoning standards established by Chapter 59 of the Montgomery County Code. This program regulates size, shape, height, and mass of a building and the uses that are allowed on the property.
- The state adopted the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and the International Green Construction Code (IGCC). The County adopted the IECC 2012; the IGCC will be replacing the Montgomery County Green Building Law. All applications submitted for building permits, residential and commercial, will be checked for the complex requirements, including software modeling.
- As a result of Bills 35-12 and 41-12 establishing requirements for the planting of trees or the payment of a fee for certain construction activities where a sediment control permit is required, DPS will add one Senior Permitting Specialist for the technical review of building, sediment control, and right of way plans and one Senior Permitting Services Inspector for sediment control and right of way inspections.

#### Productivity Improvements

- Developed and launched e-permit for: electrical permits, standard residential decks, right-of-way permits, new homes, right-of-way permits, and right-of-way stump removals. The online process now accounts for approximately 46% of all electrical permits, with almost immediate permit issuance. This has resulted in the elimination of backlog for other electrical permits, licenses, and approvals.
- Developed an on-line payment option for various permit processes.
- ePermits and ePlans have expedited permit processing and issuance and resulted in a significant reduction in paper consumption and vehicle trips, while providing time savings for residential and commercial customers.
- Implemented Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Housing and Community Affairs providing cross delegation of authority for more complete, efficient, and effective code enforcement.
- The Department completed electronic checklists for certain inspections.
- In FY15 and FY16, the Department will develop, test, and launch e-plans for commercial, fire protection, fire alarm, and mechanical permits.
- In addition to focusing on e-plans and e-permits, DPS will be making changes to their website and continue to explore additional uses of technology by inspectors.

#### PROGRAM CONTACTS

Contact Barbara Suter of the Department of Permitting Services at 240.777.6244 or Dennis Hetman of the Office of Management and Budget at 240.777.2770 for more information regarding this department's operating budget.

#### PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

#### **Land Development**

The Land Development program is responsible for ensuring the protection of the County's land and water resources and for the protection of the environment and the safety of residents and businesses through its engineering and inspection functions related to stormwater management, sediment control, floodplain management, special protection areas, well-and-septic systems approval, storm drain design and construction, and work in the public right-of-way.

FY15 Recommended Changes	Expenditures	FTEs
FY14 Approved	6,770,134	58.50
Increase Cost: Land Development Inspectors/Plan Reviewers for Tree Bills 35-12 and 41-12	183,265	2.00
Multi-program adjustments, including negotiated compensation changes, employee benefit changes, changes	264,345	0.00
due to staff turnover, reorganizations, and other budget changes affecting multiple programs.		
FY15 CE Recommended	7,217,744	60.50

#### **Customer Service**

The Customer Service program ensures customer service and satisfaction. This division measures customer satisfaction through communication and public outreach. Customer service receives complaints, processes information requests, responds to departmental correspondence, maintains the DPS web site, publishes the DPS newsletter, and coordinates outreach events and seminars for residents, civic organizations and professionals. Customer Service assists applicants with intake and issuance of permits and facilitates the processing of permits for "green tape" projects (i.e., affordable housing and areas such as the Silver Spring, Wheaton, and Long Branch enterprise zones, strategic economic development projects such as White Flint, and faith based institutions). This division develops customer service surveys for the department, analyzes the results, reports findings, and recommends a course of action for improvement.

Program Performance Measures	Actual FY12	Actual FY13	Estimated FY14	Target FY15	Target FY16
Response time on complaint investigations - Average number of days from the complaint being filed to first contact between a Permitting Inspector and the customer	5.01	7.15	5.00	5.00	5.00
Response time on complaint investigations - Average number of days from the complaint being filed to final resolution of the complaint	7.31	11.3	12	12	12
Percent of complaints that are resolved on the first inspection	69.18	13.20	75.00	75.00	75.00

FY15 Recommended Changes	Expenditures	FTEs
FY14 Approved	1,066,657	11.00
Multi-program adjustments, including negotiated compensation changes, employee benefit changes, changes due to staff turnover, reorganizations, and other budget changes affecting multiple programs.	4,266	-1.00
FY15 CE Recommended	1,070,923	10.00

## **Building Construction**

The Building Construction program ensures public safety and welfare through the effective enforcement of construction, zoning codes and standards, and site plan requirements. This division reviews engineering plans for permit issuance and conducts construction inspections in the administration and enforcement of building, structural, electrical, mechanical, fire-safety, energy conservation, green building, and accessibility codes and standards. This division assists businesses and applicants through pre-submission meetings and guidance. County zoning standards are maintained by this division through review of building applications for zoning compliance and investigation of zoning complaints. The program is also responsible for conducting county-wide damage assessments during natural and other disasters and incidents and provides assistance in disaster recovery efforts.

Program Performance Measures	Actual FY12	Actual FY13	Estimated FY14	Target FY15	Target FY16
Average number of days to issue a permit - New construction:  Commercial permits <sup>1</sup>	160.54	264.51	88	88	88
Average number of days to issue a permit - New construction: Residential permits	88.28	82.03	75	75	75
Average number of days to issue a permit - Additions: Commercial permits	60.95	51.30	52	52	52
Average number of days to issue a permit - Additions: Residential permits	16.02	17.29	18	18	18
Median number of minutes to issue a permit - Permits for commercial alterations obtained using the Department of Permitting Services' Fast Track process	146.50	119	120	120	120
Median number of minutes to issue a permit - Residential permits using the Department of Permitting Services' Fast Track process	58.0	61	55	55	55
Percent of building permits issued that received a final inspection:  Commercial permits	20.30	25.15	50	50	50
Percent of building permits issued that received a final inspection:  Commercial permits through the Department of Permitting Services' Fast  Track process	44.77	46.51	75	75	75
Percent of building permits issued that received a final inspection: Residential new construction	28.81	42.50	60	60	60
Percent of building permits issued that received a final inspection: Residential all construction	40.97	48.57	70	70	70

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Measure includes several large applications that reactivated after several years due to County economic relief bills.

FY15 Recommended Changes	Expenditures	FTEs
FY14 Approved	13,086,590	117.90
Increase Cost: Energy Conservation and Green Construction Plan Reviewers	187,218	2.00
Increase Cost: Team II Residential Inspector	112,633	1.00
Increase Cost: Building Construction Plan Reviewer for Fire Protection	76,287	1.00
Multi-program adjustments, including negotiated compensation changes, employee benefit changes, changes due to staff turnover, reorganizations, and other budget changes affecting multiple programs.	-3,048,816	-29.00
FY15 CE Recommended	10,413,912	92.90

#### **Administration**

The Administration program provides policy development and leadership for all programs within the department. Staff specialists are responsible for a full range of administrative, financial, and budgetary tasks, including daily operations, automation, human resources management, training, safety, quality assurance, legislative coordination, space management, historic files management, and management services.

FY15 Recommended Changes	Expenditures	FTEs
FY14 Approved	8,718,690	13.10
Increase Cost: Contract Costs for Service Support	1,300,000	0.00
Increase Cost: Risk Management Adjustment	168,530	0.00
Increase Cost: Office Rent	59,800	0.00
Increase Cost: Maintenance of Information Technology Systems	27,722	0.00
Decrease Cost: IT Replacement Plan	-90,000	0.00
Decrease Cost: Retiree Health Insurance Pre-Funding Adjustment	-712,310	0.00
Multi-program adjustments, including negotiated compensation changes, employee benefit changes, changes	40,976	0.00
due to staff turnover, reorganizations, and other budget changes affecting multiple programs.		
FY15 CE Recommended	9,513,408	13.10

#### **Zoning and Site Plan Enforcements**

The Zoning and Site Plan Enforcement program protects the quality of life in Montgomery County and the public safety, welfare, health, and comfort of the present and future inhabitants of Montgomery County, through the effective application and enforcement of zoning code standards and M-NCPPC certified site plan requirements. This division reviews plans prior to permit issuance and conducts inspections, as well as investigates complaints in order to administer and enforce the zoning standards established by Chapter 59 of the Montgomery County Code. This program regulates size, shape, height, and mass of a building and the uses that are allowed on the property.

FY15 Recommended Changes	Expenditures	FTEs
FY14 Approved	0	0.00
Multi-program adjustments, including negotiated compensation changes, employee benefit changes, changes due to staff turnover, reorganizations, and other budget changes affecting multiple programs.	3,791,849	30.00
FY15 CE Recommended	3,791,849	30.00

## **BUDGET SUMMARY**

	Actual FY13	Budget FY14	Estimated FY14	Recommended FY15	% Chg Bud/Rec
DEDMITTING CEDVICES	FIIS	F1 14	F1 14	FIID	BUG/ Rec
PERMITTING SERVICES					
EXPENDITURES					
Salaries and Wages	14,989,581	15,698,262	15,414,015	16,891,234	7.6%
Employee Benefits	5,874,179	5,944,558	6,189,475	6,314,202	6.2%
Permitting Services Personnel Costs	20,863,760	21,642,820	21,603,490	23,205,436	7.2%
Operating Expenses	6,830,265	7,999,251	7,976,834	8,802,400	10.0%
Capital Outlay	0	0	0	0	
Permitting Services Expenditures	27,694,025	29,642,071	29,580,324	32,007,836	8.0%
PERSONNEL					
Full-Time	192	195	195	201	3.1%
Part-Time	1	1	1	1	_
FTEs	197.60	200.50	200.50	206.50	3.0%
REVENUES					
Automation Enhancement Fee	3,991,592	2,936,433	2,867,582	1,433,791	-51.2%
Building Permits	19,875,558	14,486,935	21,040,632	17,201,416	18.7%
Electrical Permits and Licenses	4,213,498	2,753,431	4,231,929	3,400,000	23.5%
Fire Code Enforcement Permits	1,723,074	1,544,704	1,911,721	1,544,934	0.0%
Grading/Storm Drains/Paving/Driveway Permits	6,248,681	4,784,370	5,900,448	6,000,000	25.4%
Investment Income	9,889	4,520	12,370	24,000	431.0%
Mechanical Construction Permit	1,655,587	759,187	1,470,207	1,200,000	58.1%
Miscellaneous Revenues	15,737	0	0	0	_
Occupancy Permits	755,328	561,318	663,374	700,000	24.7%
Sediment Control Permits	3,196,740	2,569,000	2,412,869	2,569,000	_
Sign Permits	166,517	196,510	187,123	196,510	
Special Exception Fee	221,409	232,010	232,010	232,010	
Stormwater Mgmt and Water Quality Plan Fee	252,517	467,345	253,225	270,000	-42.2%
Well and Septic	235,474	293,870	167,534	200,000	-31.9%
Other Charges/Fees	60,306	72,100	96,408	92,784	28.7%
Other Fines/Forfeitures	65,310	, 0	95,676	, 0	_
Other Licenses/Permits	1,077,743	639,030	1,025,801	1,146,180	79.4%
Permitting Services Revenues	43,764,960	32,300,763	42,568,909	36,210,625	12.1%

# **FY15 RECOMMENDED CHANGES**

	Expenditures	FTEs
ERMITTING SERVICES		
FY14 ORIGINAL APPROPRIATION	29,642,071	200.50
Other Adjustments (with no service impacts)		
Increase Cost: Contract Costs for Service Support [Administration]	1,300,000	0.00
Increase Cost: FY15 Compensation Adjustment	886,029	0.00
Increase Cost: Energy Conservation and Green Construction Plan Reviewers [Building Construction]	187,218	2.00
Increase Cost: Land Development Inspectors/Plan Reviewers for Tree Bills 35-12 and 41-12 [Land	183,265	2.00
Development		
Increase Cost: Risk Management Adjustment [Administration]	168,530	0.00
Increase Cost: Team II Residential Inspector [Building Construction]	112,633	1.00
Increase Cost: Retirement Adjustment	99,641	0.00
Increase Cost: Building Construction Plan Reviewer for Fire Protection [Building Construction]	76,287	1.00
Increase Cost: Annualization of FY14 Lapsed Positions	68,480	0.00
Increase Cost: Office Rent [Administration]	59,800	0.00
Increase Cost: Group Insurance Adjustment	38,171	0.00
Increase Cost: Maintenance of Information Technology Systems [Administration]	27,722	0.00
Increase Cost: Printing and Mail	8,090	0.00
Decrease Cost: Motor Pool Rate Adjustment	-47,791	0.00
Decrease Cost: IT Replacement Plan [Administration]	-90,000	0.00
Decrease Cost: Retiree Health Insurance Pre-Funding Adjustment [Administration]	-712,310	0.00
FY15 RECOMMENDED:	32,007,836	206.50

## **PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	FY14 Approved		roved FY15 Recommend	
Program Name	Expenditures	FTEs	Expenditures	FTEs
Land Development	6,770,134	58.50	7,217,744	60.50
Customer Service	1,066,657	11.00	1,070,923	10.00
Building Construction	13,086,590	117.90	10,413,912	92.90
Administration	8,718,690	13.10	9,513,408	13.10
Zoning and Site Plan Enforcements	0	0.00	3,791,849	30.00
Total	29,642,071	200.50	32,007,836	206.50

## **FUTURE FISCAL IMPACTS**

	CE REC.			(\$000	)'s)	
Title	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20
is table is intended to present significant future fiscal i	mpacts of the c	epartment's	programs.			
ERMITTING SERVICES						
Expenditures						
FY15 Recommended	32,008	32,008	32,008	32,008	32,008	32,008
No inflation or compensation change is included in outyear	projections.					
Annualization of Positions Approved in FY15	0	44	44	44	44	44
New positions in the FY15 budget are generally lapsed due	to the time it tal	ces a position	to be created	l and filled. Th	nerefore, the	amounts
above reflect annualization of these positions in the outyear	rs.					
Elimination of One-Time Items Approved in FY15	0	-84	-84	-84	-84	-84
Items approved for one-time funding in FY15, including cos	ts for land devel	opment inspe	ctors, plan re	viewers, and r	esidential ins	pectors
will be eliminated from the base in the outyears.						
Labor Contracts	0	208	208	208	208	208
These figures represent the estimated annualized cost of ge	neral wage adju	stments, serv	ice increments	s, and associa	ted benefits.	
Labor Contracts - Other	0	-35	-35	-35	-35	-35
These figures represent other negotiated items included in t	he labor agreen	ients.				
T Maintenance Costs	0	2	104	78	181	83
Represents additional maintenance costs for the system upg	rades and post-	warranty maiı	ntenance for s	ervers, scann	ers, and print	ers.
T Replacement Plan	0	-310	-510	-442	119	-92
Key components of Permitting Service's technology replacen	nent plan include	<b>:</b>				
FY15 Printers (\$60,000), Scanners (\$31,500), Database serv	vers and services	(\$450,000);				
FY16 Scanners (\$31,500), Network switch (\$200,000);						
FY17 Scanners (\$31,500);						
FY18 Scanners (\$100,000);						
FY19 Printers (\$60,000), Servers (\$600,000).						
FY20 Permit DB Servers - Hardware & Software (\$450,000).	•					
Office Rent	0	60	155	254	357	465
Represents projected rent increase.						
	0	-37	-91	-134	-189	-242
Retiree Health Insurance Pre-runding	•					
Retiree Health Insurance Pre-Funding These figures represent the estimated cost of the multi-year	•		h insurance c	osts for the C	ounty's workf	orce.

# **ANNUALIZATION OF PERSONNEL COSTS AND FTES**

	FY15 Recommended		FY15 Recommended FY16 Annua	
	Expenditures FTEs		Expenditures	FTEs
Increase Cost: Land Development Inspectors/Plan Reviewers for Tree Bills 35-12 and 41-12 [Land Development]	131,271	2.00	175,038	2.00
Total	131,271	2.00	175,038	2.00

FY15-20 PUBLIC SERVICES PROGRAM: FISCAL PLAN		Permitting Services					
	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20
FISCAL PROJECTIONS	ESTIMATE	REC	PROJECTION	PROJECTION	PROJECTION	PROJECTION	PROJECTION
ASSUMPTIONS							
Indirect Cost Rate	15.69%	15.87%	15.87%	15.87%	15.87%	15.87%	15.87%
CPI (Fiscal Year)	1.6%	2.0%	2.2%	2.5%	2.6%	2.4%	2.3%
Investment Income Yield	0.19%	0.35%	0.95%	1.55%	2.15%	2.85%	3.45%
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE	22,148,902	28,020,208	9,194,163	8,697,464	8,794,418	9,024,157	6,954,685
REVENUES							
Licenses & Permits	39,496,873	34,660,050	35,429,503	36,322,327	37,277,604	38,183,450	39,054,032
Charges For Services	2,963,990	1,526,575	1,560,465	1,599,789	1,641,863	1,681,760	1,720,105
Fines & Forfeitures	95,676	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	12,370	24,000	68,620	117,940	172,330	2 40,630	306,840
Subtotal Revenues	42,568,909	36,210,625	37,058,588	38,040,055	39,091,797	40,105,840	41,080,977
INTERFUND TRANSFERS (Net Non-CIP)	(2,619,304)	(2,936,416)	(2,765,430)	(2,765,430)	(2,765,430)	(2,765,430)	(2,765,430)
Transfers To The General Fund	(3,773,074)	(4,090,186)	(3,919,200)	(3,919,200)	(3,919,200)	(3,919,200)	(3,919,200)
Indirect Costs	(3,395,760)	(3,682,700)	(3,710,180)	(3,710,180)	(3,710,180)	(3,710,180)	(3,710,180)
DCM Replacement	(1 09,02 0)	(109,020)	(109,020)	(1 09,020)	(109,020)	(1 09,020)	(109,020)
Technology Modernization CIP Project	(1 68,29 4)	(1 98,466)	0	0	0	0	0
DOT Lab Testing Transfer	(100,000)	(1 00,000)	(100,000)	(1 00 ,0 00)	(100,000)	(1 00 ,0 00)	(100,000)
Transfers From The General Fund	1,153,770	1,153,770	1,153,770	1,153,770	1,153,770	1,153,770	1,153,770
Payment for Public Agency Permits	1,059,660	1,059,660	1,059,660	1,059,660	1,059,660	1,059,660	1,059,660
Payment for Green Tape Position	94,110	94,110	94,110	94,110	94,110	94,110	94,110
TOTAL RESOURCES	62,098,507	61,294,417	43,487,321	43,972,089	45,120,785	46,364,567	45,270,232
PSP OPER. BUDGET APPROP/ EXP'S.							
Operating Budget	(29,580,324)	(32,007,836)	(33,182,516)	(34,502,406)	(35,915,376)	(37,317,086)	(38,720,316)
Labor Agreement	n/a	0	(173,158)	(173,158)	(173,158)	(173,158)	(173,158)
Annualizations and One-Time	n/a	n/a	40,370	40,370	40,370	40,370	40,370
IT Maintenance	n/a	n/a	(1,960)	(1 03 ,9 59)	(77,998)	(1 80,594)	(83,242)
IT Replacement Plan	n/a	n/a	310,000	510,000	441,500	(1 18,500)	91,500
Office Rent	n/a	n/a	(59,800)	(1 55 ,1 15)	(254,242)	(357,335)	(464,551)
Retiree Health Insurance Pre-Funding	n/a	n/a	37,320	90,710	133,890	189,140	242,470
Subtotal PSP Oper Budget Approp / Exp's	(29,580,324)	(32,007,836)	(33,029,744)	(34,293,558)	(35,805,014)	(37,917,163)	(39,066,927)
OTHER CLAIMS ON FUND BALANCE	(4,497,975)	(20,092,418)	(1,760,113)	(884,114)	(291,614)	(1,492,719)	0
TOTAL USE OF RESOURCES	(34,078,299)	(52,100,254)	(34,789,857)	(35,177,672)	(36,096,628)	(39,409,882)	(39,066,927)
YEAR END FUND BALANCE	28,020,208	9,194,163	8,697,464	8,794,418	9,024,157	6,954,685	6,203,305
END-OF-YEAR RESERVES AS A							
PERCENT OF RESOURCES	45.1%	15.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	15.0%	13.7%

#### Assumptions

- 1. These projections are based on the Executive's recommended budget and include the revenue and resource assumptions of that budget. The projected future expenditures,
- revenues, and fund balances may vary based on changes not assumed here to fee or tax rates, usage, inflation, future labor agreements, and other factors not assumed here.
- 2. Revenue projections in FY15 and future years assume a gradual increase in construction market activity.
- 3. Key components of Permitting Service's technology replacement plan include:
- FY15 Printers (\$60,000), Scanners (\$31,500), Database servers and services (\$440,000);
- FY16 Scanners (\$31,500), Network switch (\$140,000);
- FY17 Scanners (\$31,500);
- FY18 Scanners (\$100,000);
- FY19 Printers (\$60,000), Servers (\$600,000)
- FY20 Permit DB Servers Hardware & Software (\$450,000).