DATE: March 23, 2006

SUBJECT: Increase to Food Establishment Building Plan Review Fee

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt amendment to Chapter 9.2 of the Arlington County Code to increase the Food Establishment building plan review fee from $135 to $200, to become effective July 1, 2006.

ISSUE: Should the food establishment building plan review fee be increased in FY 2007 to a level that achieves full recovery of the cost of reviewing food establishment building plans?

SUMMARY: The Environmental Health Bureau of the Department of Human Services reviews building plans of newly constructed or substantively remodeled food establishments to determine if the facility will meet the requirements of the Food Code. Since 1985 the County has had a fee to offset the cost of reviewing these building plans. The current fee is $135. The proposed increase is $200 which will fully cover the cost of performing the plan review. The fee has not been raised since 1998.

BACKGROUND: In 1985 the County Board established a fee to partially offset the cost of reviewing food establishment building plans for compliance with the Food and Food Establishment Codes. The fee was increased in subsequent years to more accurately reflect the cost of performing this review. The proposed fee will fully recover that cost. The current fee is $135. The proposed building plan review fee for food establishments brings the cost more in line with Fairfax County, which is currently $240. There are approximately 70 sets of building plans reviewed annually.

DISCUSSION: The proposed building plan review fee increase reflects the most accurate and current cost of maintaining the systems and resources to provide the service. It is a vital amendment in order for Arlington County to fully recuperate those costs.

FISCAL IMPACT: The proposed fee change is projected to generate approximately $4,000 additional revenue in FY 2007.
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 BUILDING PLAN REVIEW FEE.

BE IT ORDAINED that §9.2-5.1(C) of the Arlington County Code is amended, reenacted, and recodified as follows, effective July 1, 2006:

§ 9.2-5.1. Submission of plans, specifications and other data; inspection prior to operation; fees.

(c) A fee of one hundred thirty-five dollars ($135.00), two hundred dollars ($200.00) shall be paid to the county manager upon submission of plans.