

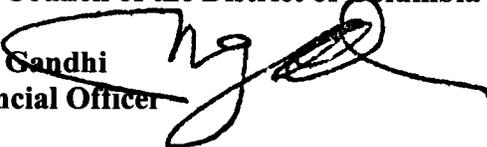
**Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer**



Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Vincent C. Gray
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Natwar M. Gandhi 
Chief Financial Officer

DATE: MAY 17 2007

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement: "NCRC and AWC Freedom of Information Amendment Act of 2007"

REFERENCE: Bill 17-0056 As Introduced

Conclusion

Funds are not budgeted in the NCRC or the AWC FY2007 budgets and proposed FY 2008 budgets to implement the provisions of the proposed legislation. These agencies will bear financial costs to respond to requests for information. The additional cost is estimated to be approximately \$60,000 per year in each agency.

Background

The bill amends the charters of the National Capital Revitalization Corporation and the Anacostia Waterfront Corporation to make the District's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requirements applicable to those organizations. Under a FOIA request, any citizen may make a request for documentation related to any part of the entity's business, excluding proprietary information. Generally, such requests must be responded to within 10 days. While the costs of photocopying and transmitting these documents will be borne by the requestor, the costs of data gathering, recordkeeping, separating proprietary from non-proprietary information, and writing itemized responses are borne by the organization.

Both organizations would need to have on staff a FOIA Officer versed in all FOIA requirements, and dedicated to responding within the given timeframes. This role will require the dedication of approximately one-half of a full-time staff person, which would likely be an attorney. A staff attorney's minimum salary of approximately \$90,000 with additional taxes and benefits of

\$30,000 would total \$120,000 per year. Therefore, the estimated cost of this new requirement is approximately \$60,000 per year for each agency.

Because NCRC does not receive funds from the District's annual budget, it would have to bear the cost of this additional staff person using its current funds. While AWC does receive operating support through the District's budget, if additional funds are not allocated for this particular function, it would be required to absorb the additional costs of a FOIA officer within its current budget.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are not budgeted in the NCRC and AWC FY 2007 budgets and proposed FY 2008 budgets to implement the provisions of the proposed legislation the affected agencies. NCRC and AWC will bear financial costs to staff a FOIA officer who can perform data gathering, recordkeeping, separating proprietary from non-proprietary information, and prepare written responses relating to FOIA requests. The estimated additional staff cost for each of these agencies is approximately \$60,000 per year.