

**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:** January 15, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Impact Statement – “Hearing Procedures for Washington Humane Society Approval Resolution of 2009”

**REFERENCE:** Draft Resolution – No Number Assigned

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**Conclusion**

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2009 through FY 2012 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed resolution. The proposed resolution promulgates rules that would be implemented by the Washington Humane Society (WHS), and therefore does not have a fiscal impact on the District government’s finances.

**Background**

The proposed rules add a new Chapter 15 to Title 24 of the *D.C. Municipal Regulations*, establishing hearing procedures at the WHS for the owner of a seized animal to be able to contest the seizure, detention, and terms of release and treatment of the animal, the allegation of cruelty, abandonment, or neglect, and the imposition of the lien and costs assessed for caring and providing for the animal.

WHS enforces all of the District's animal laws, including anti-cruelty statutes, under an 1870 Congressional charter. The Mayor is authorized to issue rules pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 22-1001 *et seq.* (An Act to Prevent Cruelty to Children or Animals in the District of Columbia, and for Other Purposes, approved June 25, 1892). Ordinarily, implementing agencies would issue such rules, but because WHS is not an agency of the District, it cannot promulgate rules.

### **Financial Plan Impact**

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2009 through FY 2012 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed resolution. Enactment of the proposed resolution does not have an impact on the District, as the resolution promulgates rules that would be implemented by WHS, an institution that is not a part of the District of Columbia government.