

**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 8, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Impact Statement – “Citizen-Service Programs Amendment Act of 2009”

**REFERENCE:** Bill Number 18-140, Draft Committee Print

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**Conclusion**

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2009 budget and the proposed FY 2010 through FY 2013 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation.

**Background**

The District of Columbia Campaign Finance Reform and Conflict of Interest Act<sup>1</sup> permits the Mayor and Council members to establish citizen-service programs known as “Constituent Services Funds.” These citizen-service programs may fund community activities or assist residents in financial distress. These funds cannot be used to finance campaigns. The Office of Campaign Finance (OCF) regulates these funds.

The proposed legislation would increase the aggregate contribution and expenditure limits for Constituent Service Funds from \$40,000 per year to \$75,000.<sup>2</sup> The proposed legislation would *not* affect individual contribution limit of \$400.

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<sup>1</sup> Approved August 14, 1974 (88 Stat. 461, D.C. Official Code § 1-1104.03(a))

<sup>2</sup> The introduced version of the bill contemplated an increase to \$80,000 but the Committee Draft shared with the OCFO has reduced this amount to \$75,000. The fiscal impact analysis would not change with small changes in the contemplated contribution limit.

### **Financial Plan Impact**

Funds are sufficient to implement the proposed legislation. The OCF already monitors the financial operations of the Constituent Service Funds and citizen services programs through desk reviews of financial reports filed with the agency as well as random audits. The implementation of the proposed legislation would also require OCF to revise its forms to reflect the new limits, but these revisions would have a minimal fiscal impact and can be absorbed by the agency. Therefore the proposed legislation would not impose an additional administrative burden on the agency, and can be implemented within its existing resources.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> See also the testimony of Cecily E. Collier-Montgomery, Director of the OCF, delivered before the Committee on Government Operations and the Environment on April 9, 2009.