

**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 22, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Impact Statement – “School Safe Passage Emergency Zone Act of 2009”

**REFERENCE:** Bill 18-555, As Introduced

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**Conclusion**

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

**Background**

The proposed legislation would authorize the Chief of Police to declare any area within 1,000 feet of a District of Columbia public school, a public charter school, or the passage between such schools and nearby public transportation, a School Safe Passage Emergency Zone during the hours of a school day for a period not to exceed five consecutive school days<sup>1</sup>; require the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) upon such declaration to mark each block within the School Safe Passage Emergency Zone and post signs explaining what such a Zone means; make it unlawful for more than three people to congregate in a School Safe Passage Emergency Zone and fail to disperse after being asked to by a MPD officer; and establish penalties for failure to disperse.

**Financial Plan Impact**

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2010 through FY 2013 budget and financial plan to implement the provisions of the proposed legislation. Authorizing the Chief of Police to declare an area a School Safe Passage Emergency Zone would not require any additional financial resources.

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<sup>1</sup> A “school day” is defined as 7:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

However, once such a Zone was declared, marking each block would require some minimal resources and monitoring the Zone could redirect some MPD staff time. MPD would be able to absorb any associated costs within their existing budget.

Any revenue from fines collected as a result of this legislation would be deposited into the Crime Victims Fund, which is maintained as a separate fund in the Treasury of the United States.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Half of the monies in the Crime Victims Fund go towards direct compensation payments for victims and the other half goes towards outreach. The Victims of Crime Act of 1984, effective October 21, 1984 (Pub.L. 98-473, Title II, § 1402, , 42 USC § 10601 et seq.)