

**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: March 19, 2010

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement: "Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board Extension Act of 2010"

REFERENCE: Bill 18-660, As Introduced

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 amend Title 16 of the D.C. Official Code by repealing the provision that the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board ("Board")¹ sunset in April 2010 and by making the preparation and submission of an annual report by the Board voluntary, instead of mandatory. As a result of the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board Emergency Amendment Act of 2010 introduced and passed on March 16, 2010, these two provisions are now current law; however, as this legislation was passed on an emergency basis, these changes will only be in effect for 90 days. The proposed legislation would make these changes permanent.

¹ The purpose of the Board is to prevent domestic violence fatalities by improving the response of individuals, the community, and government agencies to domestic violence. The Board is to review domestic violence fatalities, identify trends and make policy recommendations.

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. Members of the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board are not compensated for their service. Given that the annual report would no longer be required, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME), which provides support to the Board, would not require any additional staff if the Board continues to operate, as long as the Board continues to prepare the cases for its case review meetings.²

² In FY 2009, there was one professional staff dedicated to the Board and two administrative staff that worked on this Board, as well as the other two committees under OCME: the Child Fatality Review Committee and Mental Retardation and Development Disabilities Fatality Review Committee. The duties of the staff included: inputting data into and managing the database of fatalities; determining eligible domestic violence fatality cases and the type of review required for each case; developing case summaries for case reviews by gathering, reviewing and analyzing data; ensuring reviews are held in a timely manner; developing and managing a case identification system to protect confidentiality and anonymity; compiling, publishing and disseminating recommendations made during meetings; providing written testimony, when necessary; and preparing and dissemination the annual report. In the FY 2010 budget, these three positions were eliminated; two of them were eliminated because the Board was scheduled to sunset. Since October 2010, the Board members have done some of the work and the OCME has only been sending notices, taking minutes of the meeting and maintaining case information. This lower level of activity is what could be supported by OCME.