

**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:** October 27, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Impact Statement – “Drinking and Driving Warning Sign Approval Resolution of 2009”

**REFERENCE:** Draft Resolution to be Introduced – No Number Available

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**Conclusion**

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2010 through FY 2013 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed resolution. The proposed resolution does not have an impact on the District’s budget and financial plan.

**Background**

The proposed resolution would create a new Section 719 (Posting Of Warning Sign) of Chapter 7 (General Operating Requirements) of Title 23 (Alcoholic Beverages) of the D.C. Municipal Regulations to require Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) retailer licensees to post in a conspicuous place a warning sign that covers the dangers of drinking and driving, the dangers of alcohol consumption during pregnancy, the current legal drinking age, and a patron’s obligation to produce a valid identification document displaying proof of legal drinking age. The warning sign would also indicate that Driving While Intoxicated or Under the Influence is illegal in the District. The resolution would require the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board (Board)<sup>1</sup> prepare the signs and make them available at no charge to licensees. It would also make noncompliance a secondary tier violation.

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<sup>1</sup> The Board oversees Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA) and receives and evaluates applications for ABC licenses. ABRA, as an independent agency of the District provides professional, technical, and administrative staff assistance to the Board.

### **Financial Plan Impact**

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2010 through FY 2013 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed resolution. The proposed resolution requires the Board to produce the warning signs and make them available for distribution. This involves a minimal cost, which can be absorbed within ABRA's budget. Specifically, the Board is already required by law<sup>2</sup> to prepare and make available warning signs, regarding the dangers of alcohol consumption during pregnancy, at no cost to ABC licensees. The licensees must post a warning sign regarding the requirement to produce valid identification displaying proof of age. ABRA intends to decrease the number of warning signs required to be posted at a licensed establishment to one sign that also incorporates a message about the dangers of drinking and driving. Because ABRA will only be providing one sign to each licensee that also includes the new required language of this proposal, the cost of producing approximately 1,600 signs would not significantly increase the cost of its implementation. As such, any additional cost can be absorbed by ABRA, not impacting the District's budget and financial plan.

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<sup>2</sup> D.C. Official Code § 25-712(c)