

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:** December 7, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Impact Statement – Amendment to “Open Meetings Amendment Act of 2010”

**REFERENCE:** Bill 18-716, Amendment 1, Shared with the OCFO on December 6, 2010

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**Conclusion**

Funds are not sufficient in the FY 2011 through FY 2014 budget and financial plan to implement the provisions of the proposed amendment. Implementing this amendment is estimated to cost approximately \$163,000 in FY 2011 and \$1.1 million over the financial plan period.

Implementation of the proposed amendment is subject to the inclusion of its fiscal effect in an approved budget and financial plan.

**Background**

The proposed amendment to Bill 18-716, Open Meetings Amendment Act of 2010<sup>1</sup> would establish the Open Government Office (“Office”), an independent agency to promote open governance. The Office would be charged with issuing advisory opinions, providing training, and issuing rules pursuant to the provisions of the Open Meetings Amendment Act of 2010. In addition, the Office would be allowed to bring a lawsuit in the District of Columbia Superior Court for injunctive or declaratory relief for any violation of the open meeting policy, before or after the meeting in question takes place.

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<sup>1</sup> Committee Print.

Finally, the Director of the Office would be appointed by the Mayor with the consent of the Council for a 5-year term, and cannot be removed before the expiration of the term except for cause.

### Financial Plan Impact

Funds are not sufficient in the FY 2011 through FY 2014 budget and financial plan to implement the provisions of the proposed amendment. Implementing this amendment is estimated to cost approximately \$163,000 in FY 2011 and \$1.1 million over the financial plan period.

The creation of the Open Government Office would require hiring 3 FTEs to meet the responsibilities outlined in the proposed amendment—a Director and two staff attorneys. This new office would also require start-up costs to purchase computers and office furniture. The estimate assumes that the Office will commence operations on April 1, 2011.

<b>Estimated Fiscal Impact of Bill 18-716, Amendment 1 - Open Meetings Amendment Act of 2010</b>					
	<b>FY 2011</b>	<b>FY 2012</b>	<b>FY 2013</b>	<b>FY 2014</b>	<b>Four-Year Total</b>
Implement Open Government Office <sup>a</sup>	\$162,909	\$296,721	\$297,642	\$298,581	\$1,055,854

#### TABLE NOTES

<sup>a</sup> The Open Government Office will require hiring 3 FTEs: One Director hired at E3 Mid and two Advisor Attorneys hired at LS Grade 11, Step 5. Benefits are estimated at 18% and equipment start-up costs are \$15,000 in FY 2011. The estimate for FY 2011 assumes that the office will begin operations by April 1, 2011.