


Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Kwame R. Brown
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer 

DATE: July 5, 2011

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement for "Commission on African-American Affairs
Establishment Act of 2011"

REFERENCE: Bill 19-213, As Introduced

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the proposed FY 2012 through FY 2015 budget and financial plan to implement the provisions of the proposed legislation.

Background

The proposed legislation would establish a Commission of African-American Affairs ("Commission") to advise the Mayor and Council on the views of African-American communities with low education, economic, or health indicators and to analyze the decline in the African-American population of the District.

The Commission would be comprised of 9 public voting members and 10 *ex-officio* members, including the director or designee of the following District agencies:

- Department of Employment Services;
- Department of Human Services;
- Department of Health;
- Department of Housing and Community Development;
- Department of Public Works;
- Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs;
- Department of Parks and Recreation;
- District of Columbia Public Schools;
- Metro Police Department; and
- Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department.

The Honorable Kwame R. Brown

FIS: B19-213 "Commission on African-American Affairs Establishment Act of 2011," as Introduced

The Commission would meet at least every other month and the *ex-officio* members would meet with the voting public members at least quarterly.

Under the proposed legislation, the *ex-officio* members would develop and implement policies and programs which are beneficial to members of African-American communities with low economic, education, and health indicators in the District. All expenses incurred by the Commission and its members would be eligible to be reimbursed by the District according to existing District law.¹

Financial Impact

Funds are sufficient in the proposed FY 2012 through FY 2015 budget and financial plan to implement the provisions of the proposed legislation. Implementation of the proposed legislation would not have any impact on the budget and financial plan. All members would serve without compensation and it is assumed that any reimbursable expenses would be limited to incidentals and therefore would be insignificant.² These expenses could be absorbed by the existing resources of the Office of Community Affairs, which is under the Executive Office of the Mayor.

¹ District of Columbia Government Comprehensive Merit Personnel Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-139; D.C. Official Code § 1-611.08).

² The legislation does not detail what expenses are likely to be incurred; however, based on the experience of other commissions and task forces in the District, it is assumed that only incidentals, such as parking, would be reimbursed and would be able to be absorbed by the Office of Community Affairs.