

**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: February 23, 2010

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – “Billboard Blight Removal Disapproval Resolution of 2010”

REFERENCE: Draft Committee Print — PR 18-665

Conclusion

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

Background

The proposed resolution would disapprove the proposed rules to amend Chapter 3107A (Signs)¹ of Title 12A (Building Code Supplement) of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations to authorize the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) to offer Special Signs permits to billboard owners as compensation for the removal of existing billboards.

The current law allows only thirty two Special Signs in the District. A Special Sign permit can be bought and sold and can be moved from location to location within limited boundaries. Billboards are different from Special Signs—only those billboards in existence as of December 31, 1971² are authorized to remain in place, so long as they are not located on lots within 200 feet of a residential district. No changes in size or location are allowed for authorized billboards. Unlike Special Signs, a demolished billboard could not be rebuilt or relocated to another site.

¹ By amending Section 3107.17.1 (Definitions), and adding to Section 3107.17.12 (Moratorium on Issuance of Special Signs).

² This list, available at

http://dcra.dc.gov/dcra/frames.asp?doc=/dcra/lib/dcra/1971_authorized_list_of_billboards.pdf, lists approximately 100 billboards of specific sizes at specific locations. However, it is now known at this time how many billboards exist in the city.

The Honorable Vincent C. Gray

FIS: PR 18-665 "Billboard Blight Removal Disapproval Resolution of 2010," Draft Committee Print, received on February 19, 2010

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The proposed rules would allow DCRA to provide Special Sign permits to owners of existing billboards to compensate for the removal of old billboards located in or next to residential districts.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2010 through FY 2013 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed resolution. Disapproving the proposed rules to allow DCRA to provide Special Sign permits to owners of existing billboards would not have an impact on the District's budget and financial plan.