

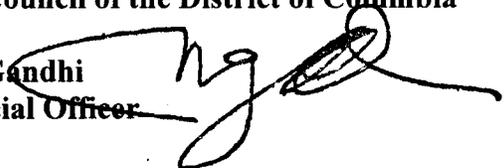
**Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer**



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: April 15, 2009

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – “Urban Forest Preservation Regulations
Approval Resolution of 2009”

REFERENCE: DRAFT- No resolution number

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2009 budget and the proposed FY 2010 through FY 2013 budget and financial plan to implement the provisions of the proposed resolution.

Background

This resolution would approve the proposed regulations¹ to establish an income-contingent program to assist District of Columbia residents with the removal of hazardous trees that have a minimum circumference of 55 inches. These regulations would be detailed in a new Section 3706 (Income Contingent Program for Hazardous Tree Removal) amended to Chapter 37 (Special Tress) of Title 24 (Public Space and Safety) of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations.

In order to be eligible for the program, an individual would have to be an owner of a single-family dwelling, meet the income eligibility requirements of an income-contingent District government assistance program, and provide evidence of enrollment in said program.² If these criteria were successfully met, the Urban Forestry Administration would examine the tree and if

¹ Pursuant to Section 103(b) of the Urban Forest Preservation Act of 2002, effective June 12, 2003 (D.C. Law 14-309; D.C. Official Code 8-651.03(b)).

² The legislation does not specify what DC income-contingent programs are included, but it is assumed that DDOT will more clearly define this before the program is implemented.

deemed to be hazardous, would remove it.

This program would be financed by the Tree Fund,³ subject to it containing available funds. If the Tree Fund did contain the funds, the funding would be limited to 15 percent of its ending balance from the prior fiscal year.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2009 budget and the proposed FY 2010 through FY 2013 budget and financial plan to implement the provisions of the proposed resolution. Implementing the income-contingent program to remove hazardous trees would not have a fiscal impact since financing would come from the Tree Fund, subject to availability of funds.

If this program were to be implemented in FY 2009, the funding would be limited to approximately \$49,450. This is 15 percent of \$329,665, the ending balance for the Tree Fund in FY 2008.⁴

³ The Tree Fund was established under Section 107 of the Urban Forest Preservation Act of 2002, effective June 12, 2003 (D.C. Law 14-309; D.C. Official Code §§ 8-651.03). It is a non-lapsing sub-fund of the Local Road Construction and Maintenance Fund and separate from the General Fund of the District of Columbia. The Fund "shall be used to plant trees and for any associated administrative costs and shall include providing income-contingent subsidies to assist District residents with the removal costs of hazardous trees in accordance with regulations submitted for Council approval within 60 days of September 18, 2007."

⁴ Source: Table 4-41 Special Purpose (O-Type) Revenue Funds, FY 2010 Proposed Budget and Financial Plan.