

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Linda W. Cropp
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer

DATE: January 2, 2002

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement: "Pit Bull Public Protection Act of 2002"

REFERENCE: Bill Number 14-044 as Introduced

Conclusion

Funds are not sufficient in the FY 2002 through FY 2005 budget and to implement the provisions of the proposed legislation. **The proposed legislation would result in additional net costs estimated at over \$2.2 million to the Department of Health (DOH) in FY 2002 through FY 2005.** The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) is already performing the activities required in the proposed legislation and, as a result, there is no fiscal impact on the MPD's budget.

Background

The proposed legislation amends the Animal Control Act of 1979 to classify Pit Bulls as dangerous animals - animals that because of specific training or demonstrated behavior threaten the health or safety of the public. The proposed legislation would prohibit the importation, possession, displaying, selling, trading, bartering, exchanging, adopting, or giving of Pit Bulls in the District. The proposed legislation would outlaw the sale, transfer and possession of Pit Bulls beginning the effective date of the legislation with specific exceptions. These exceptions would include present owners of Pit Bulls if they complied with specified standards and requirements and took protective measures when a pet Pit Bull is in open space and public rights-of-way. The proposed legislation provides for penalties for injury or death caused by pet Pit Bulls. However, the proposed legislation does not address how the fines would be collected or used.

Financial Plan Impact

The DOH will be impacted by additional personal services (PS) costs, non-personal services (NPS) costs, and revenue as a result of the proposed legislation. These adjustments are discussed separately below.

The PS cost projection for FY 2002 reflects the hiring of a statistician for the remaining six months of FY 2002 to maintain and update the Pit Bull registry database. The PS cost projections for FY 2003 through FY 2005 reflect the annualized impact of an assumed salary increase of 3.3 percent annually.

| Additional PS Costs to the Financial Plan | | | | |
|---|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| FY 2002 (half year) | FY 2003 | FY 2004 | FY 2005 | TOTAL |
| \$16,512 | \$34,114 | \$35,240 | \$36,402 | \$138,780 |

The NPS cost projections are shown in the table below. The projections are comprised of: (a) the number of Pit Bulls that will be confiscated and maintained at DOH's Animal Control Facility; and (b) the average cost per Pit Bull, which includes food, housing, caretaking, and adjudication costs. The estimates of the number of Pit Bulls that will be confiscated and maintained are conservative and assume that there will be a decline in the number of affected Pit Bulls after FY 2002 due to the increased public awareness. The average cost estimates are based on those incurred in Cincinnati, Ohio, a jurisdiction which had similar legislation in place until this year and Prince George's County, Maryland, which currently has such legislation in place. The average cost estimates reflect annual inflation of 2.6 percent in FY 2003 through FY 2005.

| Additional NPS Costs to the Financial Plan | | | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Item | FY 2002 | FY 2003 | FY 2004 | FY 2005 |
| Number of Dogs | 300 | 200 | 150 | 125 |
| Average Cost Per Dog | \$2,570 | \$2,637 | \$2,705 | \$2,776 |
| Impoundment Subtotal | \$771,000 | \$527,364 | \$405,807 | \$346,965 |
| Contractual Services | 25,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Database Maintenance | 0 | 2,000 | 2,052 | 2,105 |
| IT Subtotal | \$25,000 | \$2,000 | \$2,052 | \$2,105 |
| TOTAL | \$796,000 | \$529,364 | \$407,859 | \$349,070 |

The net costs associated with the proposed legislation are summarized in the table below.

| Additional Costs to the Financial Plan | | | | | |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Item | FY 2002 | FY 2003 | FY 2004 | FY 2005 | TOTAL |
| PS Costs | \$16,512 | \$34,114 | \$35,240 | \$36,402 | \$122,268 |
| NPS Costs | 796,000 | 529,364 | 407,859 | 349,070 | 2,082,292 |
| Net Total Costs | \$812,512 | \$563,478 | \$443,099 | \$385,472 | \$2,204,560 |