

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: "Dangerous Dog Amendment Act of 2002"

REFERENCE: Bill Number 14-094 as Introduced

Conclusion

Funds are not sufficient in the FY 2002 through FY 2005 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation. **The proposed legislation would result in \$521,750 total additional cost to the budget and financial plan in FY 2002 through FY 2005.** Although the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) would require no additional staff or resources, the Department of Health (DOH) would incur additional costs in implementing the provisions of the proposed legislation. If the insurance coverage required to obtain a permit for a dangerous dog becomes available in the District (it is currently not), these costs could be offset by an estimated \$56,000 in permit revenue over the FY 2002 through FY 2005 period.

Background

The proposed legislation would amend the Dangerous Dog Amendment Act of 1988 to classify Pit Bulls as de facto dangerous dogs and to require owner compliance with the dangerous dog provisions of the Act. The 1988 Act required that owners of those dogs that are classified as dangerous dogs apply for and be issued a certificate indicating that:

1. The owner is 18 years of age or older;
2. A valid license has been issued pursuant to District law;
3. The dangerous dog has current vaccinations;
4. The owner of the dog has written permission from the property owner allowing the dog on the premises;

5. There is proper enclosure for confining the dog;
6. The owner of the dangerous dog has posted on the premises a clearly visible "warning" sign indicating that there is a dangerous dog on the property;
7. The owner of the dangerous dog has secured a policy of insurance liability of at least \$50,000;
8. The dangerous dog has been presented to the animal control authorities to be photographed for identification purposes; and
9. The owner has paid the annual \$20 dangerous dog registration fee.

Financial Plan Impact

Implementation of the proposed legislation would require additional personal services (PS) and non-personal services (NPS) resources; these costs are outlined below. The proposed legislation would also generate additional revenue that is not considered in the current budget and financial plan, potentially offsetting a portion of the implementation costs. The affect would be unbudgeted costs of \$521,750 during the FY 2002 through FY 2005 period.

Personal services (PS) costs would increase based on hiring a statistician to maintain and update a Pit Bull registry database, two animal control officers to enforce the provisions, and a half time animal technician, and half time animal caretaker to process and care for the impounded pit bulls. Personal services costs for FY 2002 are based on the salaries that would be paid in the remaining six months of the fiscal year. For FY 2003 through FY 2005, the salary base is increased by 3.3 percent annually reflecting anticipated cost of living adjustments.

Additional PS Costs to the Financial Plan				
	FY 2002 (half year)	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Statistician	\$16,512	\$34,114	\$35,240	\$36,402
Animal Control Officer (x2)(contractual)	35,620	73,591	76,019	78,528
(0.5) Animal Technician	8,256	17,057	17,620	18,201
(0.5) Animal Caretaker	5,866	12,118	12,518	12,931
TOTAL	\$66,254	\$136,880	\$141,397	\$146,063

Upon program implementation, contractual assistance would be required to develop a comprehensive registry of Pit Bulls that are located within the District's boundaries. This is anticipated to be a one-time non-personnel services (NPS) cost of \$25,000 that will be

incurred upon the program's inception. In addition, funding of \$2,000 for data base maintenance is included in FY 2003. For the years FY 2004 through FY 2005 this amount is increased by 2.6 percent in anticipation of annual inflation.

Additional NPS Costs to the Financial Plan				
Item	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Contractual Services	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Database Maintenance	\$0	2,000	2,052	2,105
TOTAL	\$25,000	\$2,000	\$2,052	\$2,105

The Metropolitan Police Department's current workload would not be significantly affected by the proposed legislation. As such, MPD's current budget provides sufficient funding to implement the proposed legislation.

Pit Bull owners would pay an annual registration fee of \$20 per pit bull. The fees would be collected by the Administrator of Animal Control and would be used to support enforcement of the provisions of the proposed legislation. At this time, it is estimated that owners would attempt to register approximately 1,000 dogs in the first year with an estimated decrease in this activity of 200 per year. This would generate \$20,000 in FY 2002, \$16,000 in FY 2003, \$12,000 in FY 2004, and \$8,000 in FY 2005 if owners are able to comply with the registration requirements. However, one of the conditions for the issuance of a permit would be the purchase of an insurance policy by the pit bull owner that names the District as the beneficiary for certain accidents. As yet, no insurance company has agreed to underwrite such a policy for dangerous dogs. Therefore, it is estimated that this bill would generate no revenue. If such an insurance policy becomes available, revenues from permits could offset the costs of the proposed legislation by \$56,000 over the FY 2002 through FY 2005 period.

The annual and total net costs of implementation of the provisions of 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	\$66,254	\$136,880	\$141,397	\$146,063	\$490,593
NPS Costs	25,000	2,000	2,052	2,105	31,157
Net Total Costs	\$91,254	\$138,880	\$143,449	\$148,168	\$521,750