

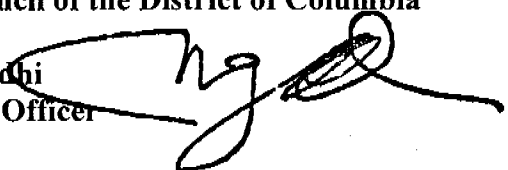
**Government of the District of Columbia  
Office of the Chief Financial Officer**



**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:** JUN 29 2006

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Impact Statement: "District of Columbia Open Government Meetings Act of 2006."

**REFERENCE:** Bill Number 16-747 as Introduced

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**Conclusion**

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2006 budget and the proposed FY 2007 through FY 2010 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation.

**Background**

The proposed legislation would amend the District of Columbia Administrative Procedure Act (D.C. Code § 1-1502) by adding a new subchapter to expand and strengthen the existing requirements for open meetings of D.C. public bodies. The proposed legislation would:

1. Require public bodies – any department, subordinate, or independent agency, authority, council, task force, board, or commission of the D.C. government, except D.C. Courts, the Mayor's cabinet, and professional staffs of public bodies meeting out of a presence of a quorum of those bodies – to hold meetings open to the public;
2. Provide a specific list of reasons for closing meetings to the public;
3. Establish procedures for public bodies to issue public notice of meetings;
4. Require public bodies to conduct a public roll call vote in order to close all or a portion of a meeting;

5. Require that all meetings – open and closed – of public bodies to be recorded on audio tape, videotape, or other electronic means. If this is not feasible, then meetings must be recorded by detailed minutes;
6. Provide mechanisms for the public to enforce the provisions of the legislation.

### **Financial Plan Impact**

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2007 through FY 2010 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation. The affected public bodies will absorb any additional and unforeseen costs from existing appropriated budget resources.