

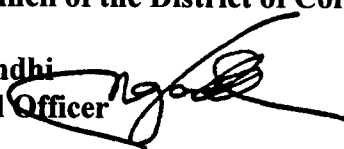
**Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer**



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: July 15, 2008

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement: "Firearms Control Emergency Amendment Act of 2008"

REFERENCE: Draft – Bill Number Not Available

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2008 budget and the proposed FY 2009 through FY 2012 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation. Implementation of the proposed legislation would result in initial expenditures of \$1.95 million and annual costs of \$860,000. Resources will be made available to fund this legislation but the shift in resource use would have an operational impact on the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD). In addition, while a registration fee for registering firearms is not reflected in the proposed legislation, it is anticipated that a fee will be implemented in such a way to offset some of the future costs of firearms registration.

Background

The proposed legislation would amend multiple sections of D.C. Official Code to allow District residents to register pistols for use in self-defense within the registrant's home. Specifically, the proposed legislation would:

- Allow a District resident to register a pistol for use in self-defense within the registrant's home (D.C. Official Code § 7-2502.02);

- Require the Chief of the Metropolitan Police Department (Chief) to conduct a ballistics identification procedure on all registered pistols (D.C. Official Code § 7-2502.03);
- Limit registration to no more than one pistol per registrant in the first 90 days after the effective date of this legislation (D.C. Official Code § 7-2502.03); and
- Allow a firearm to remain loaded and unsecured within the registrant's home if the firearm is being used to protect against a "reasonably perceived" threat of immediate harm within the registrant's home (D.C. Official Code § 7-2507.02).

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2008 budget and the proposed FY 2009 through FY 2012 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation. Implementation of the proposed legislation would result in initial expenditures of \$1.95 million and annual costs of \$860,000. Resources will be made available to fund this legislation but the shift in resource use would have an operational impact on the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD).

Initial costs to implement the legislation would total \$1.95 million and would include the following, which would be incurred in FY 2008:

- **Ballistics Identification:** \$1,081,467
 - Bullet testing component
 - Cartridge testing component
 - Wiring/cabling component
 - Testing supplies
 - Mobile bullet capturing devices
- **Personnel:** \$608,202
 - 5 DS-9 Compensation for Firearms Examination Unit
 - 2 DS-9 Compensation for Gun Registration Unit
- **Examination Secure Space:** \$258,000

MPD will use existing resources to fund \$660,000 of the ballistics identification equipment. The additional funding (\$422,000) required to purchase and implement the ballistics testing equipment would come from available funds in the master equipment lease purchase program. Because the proposed legislation would be implemented immediately, existing personnel would be used to staff the firearms examination and gun registration units. Although the use of existing staff would not result in a fiscal impact, it would result in shifting resources away from other duties within MPD. The cost of additional space would be covered by funds from the Office of Property Management.

In addition, while a registration fee for registering firearms is not reflected in the proposed legislation, it is anticipated that a fee will be implemented in such a way to offset some of the future costs of firearms registration.