

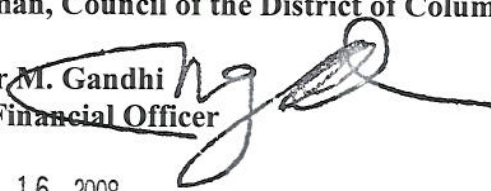
Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



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: SEP 16 2008

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

REFERENCE: Bill Number 17-887, Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute

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);

- Permit a District resident who holds a valid registration for a firearm to forgo obtaining a license to carry the firearm within the resident's abode, while the firearm is being used for recreational purposes, while the firearm is kept at the registrant's business, or while the firearm is in transport for a lawful purpose (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 during any 30-day period (D.C. Official Code § 7-2502.03);
- Prohibit a person from carrying a rifle or shotgun in the District (D.C. Official Code § 22-4504);
- Require each firearm registrant to keep that firearm in his or her possession unloaded and either disassembled or secured by a trigger lock, gun safe, locked box, or other secure device (D.C. Official Code § 7-2507.02);
- Clarify the District's firearms storage policy and provide for penalties for "reckless storage" of a firearm accessible by a minor (i.e. under 16 years of age) (D.C. Official Code § 7-2507.02);
- Revise the definition of "machine gun" to allow semi-automatic handguns to fall under "firearms" that are permitted to be registered (D.C. Official Code § 7-2501.01); and
- Prohibit any person in the District from possessing, selling, or transferring any large capacity ammunition feeding device (i.e. capable of accepting more than 10 rounds of ammunition) (D.C. Official Code § 7-2506.01).

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. This proposed temporary amendment, like the emergency legislation approved in July 2008, would be implemented immediately, and existing personnel would be used to staff the firearms examination and gun registration units. Although the use of existing staff does not result in a fiscal impact, it does 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.