


**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: December 1, 2008

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement: "Construction Codes Amendment Resolution of 2008"

REFERENCE: Proposed Resolution 17-1042

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2009 through FY 2012 budget and financial plan to implement the provisions of the proposed resolution.

Background

The proposed resolution, also known as "Codes II," would approve proposed amendments to the District's Construction Codes. The proposed Codes would replace Title 12 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (DCMR). The Codes regulate the manner, method, and materials used in all construction throughout the District of Columbia.

The current construction codes (the Construction Codes Supplement of 2003) include the 2000 ICC International Building Code, the International Mechanical Code, the International Plumbing Code, the International Residential Code, the International Fuel Gas Code, the International Property Maintenance Code, the International Fire Code, the International Energy Conservation Code, the 2003 Construction Codes Supplement, and the 1997 NFPA National Electrical Code.

As reflected in a Committee on Public Services and Consumer Affairs Committee Report on this proposed resolution, the proposed amendments would upgrade each of these with the following: the

ICC's 2006 edition of the International Building Code, the 2006 edition of the ICC International Residential Code, the 2006 edition of the ICC International Fuel Gas Code, the 2006 edition of the ICC International Mechanical Code, the 2006 edition of the International Plumbing Code, the 2006 edition of the Property Maintenance Code, the 2006 ICC edition of the International Fire Code, the 2006 edition of the ICC International Energy Conservation Code, the 2006 edition of the International Existing Buildings Code, the 2005 edition of the NFPA National Electrical Code, and several editions of the Building Officials and Code Administrators International, Inc. (BOCA) codes.

The Committee Print version of the proposed bill would *disapprove* Chapters 7J, 15J, and 16J of the existing building code supplement, and Chapter 5I of the Energy Conservation Code supplement. With regards to the existing building code supplement, Chapter 7J provides requirements relating to the installation of sprinkler systems for renovations; and Chapters 15J and 16J relate to a separate standard for existing elevators, the provisions of which would apply retroactively. Chapter 5I of the Energy Conservation Code supplement relates to energy efficiency standards for newly constructed commercial high-rise buildings.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2009 through FY 2012 budget and financial plan to implement the provisions of the proposed resolution. District agencies could absorb the impact of abiding by the proposed construction codes with existing resources. The disapproval of chapters 15J and 16J of the existing building code supplement (retroactive elevator standards) would eliminate the potentially unfunded fiscal impact that these chapters would have had on the District's budget and financial plan.