


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



**Natwar M. Gandhi**  
Chief Financial Officer

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Honorable Mary M. Cheh  
Acting Chair, Council of the District of Columbia

**FROM:** Natwar M. Gandhi   
Chief Financial Officer

**DATE:** June 11, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Impact Statement – “Block Party Amendment Act of 2012”

**REFERENCE:** Bill 19-527, Draft Committee Print shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on May 16, 2012

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**Conclusion**

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2013 through FY 2016 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

**Background**

On April 23, 2012, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) took over the responsibility for issuing neighborhood block party<sup>1</sup> permits from the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA). DDOT processes the application through its web-based Transportation Online Permit System (TOPS) in approximately seven business days.

The bill includes a number of provisions which are currently part of DDOT’s block party permit issuance process. These include:

- An applicant must be 21 years of age or older;
- The closure cannot be greater than one block;
- All activity must be concluded by 10:00 pm and not last longer than 12 hours;
- 51 percent of residents, owners, and businesses abutting the requested block must consent;
- The permit process must be run through TOPS and no fee may be charged; and
- Permits must be reviewed by the Metropolitan Police Department, Fire and Emergency Medical Services, HSEMA, and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

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<sup>1</sup> Defined in the bill as an activity of recreational or civic nature sponsored by the residents of a neighborhood, and for which the residents seek to close a block of a street in their neighborhood and for which there is no admission or entrance fee.

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The bill does not allow the Department to withhold a permit for a violation of the Clean Hands laws.<sup>2</sup>

### **Financial Plan Impact**

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2013 through FY 2016 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. Many of the bill's provisions are a part of DDOT's current neighborhood block party permit process and there are no costs associated with implementation.

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<sup>2</sup> Clean Hands Before Receiving a License or Permit Act of 1996, effective May 11, 1996 (D.C. Law 11-118; D.C. Official Code § 47-2861 *et seq.*)