

FY 2024 Budget Oversight Pre-Hearing Questions
Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice

I. Operating Budget

General

1. Please provide a crosswalk of all FTEs that were reclassified to a different activity in the FY 2024 proposed budget.

No positions were reclassified to a new activity.

2. Please provide a detailed breakdown of all ARPA funds in the agency's proposed FY 2024 budget, including division, program, activity, purpose, and the years the funds will be used.

\$5.2M to support the Safe Passage Safe Block program. Program – Public Safety. Activity - Public Safety Initiatives. The funding is anticipated to be fully expended in FY24.

3. Please provide a hiring plan for the following vacant positions:
 - a. Position 91990 - Attorney Advisor*
 - b. Position 99836 – *new Senior Policy Advisor onboarded in March 2023.*
 - c. Position 103111
 - d. Position 109958
 - e. The two proposed new Program Analyst positions without assigned position numbers

In FY23 budget, DMPSJ had 15 FTEs approved, currently the office has a total of 10 FTEs. In the past several months, DMPSJ hired a new Chief of Staff, Senior Policy Advisor, and Data Analyst. DMSPJ is working closely with DCHR to fill the remaining vacancies in the coming months.

**DMPSJ intends to introduce the BSA subtitle concerning the transfer of the CPLRB to the OAH, as standalone legislation, and the Attorney Advisor position will be transferred to the OAH.*

4. Please provide the position numbers for all positions eliminated in the proposed agency budget for FY 2024.
 - a. Were all eliminated positions vacant? *Yes* If not, which positions were filled
 - b. Are these positions eliminated effective October 1, 2024, or were funds swept in the FY 2023 supplemental budget?

They will be eliminated effective 10/01/2024.

5. Please provide the title, salary, fund source, Activity/Division, and hiring plan for all new FTEs proposed in the proposed FY 2024 budget for the agency.

The new FTE will be funded by the ARPA Safe Passage Funding.

6. Please provide a summary of all ARPA-funded projects, including (1) funding levels for FY 2023 (N/A), (2) historic spend to-date for FY 2021 (N/A) and 2022 (\$297K – Local Revenue Replacement), and (3) a spend plan for FYs 2024 and 2025.

ARPA Funding ends December 31, 2024. Previous ARPA funding was used to support a public information campaign on the District’s red flag law. DMPSJ is currently working with DME and The Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants on a transition plan for the program, to ensure no service disruptions for the 2024 school year. This move is demonstrative of the Executive’s commitment to ensuring a cohesive, coordinated continuum of prevention services and supports under the umbrella of PSJ. A spending plan for the ARPA funding in FY24 will be a part of the transition plan.

(1000) Administrative Management

7. Please provide the agency’s rationale for reducing (1090) Performance Management by \$661,000 and 1.0 FTE.

The FTE reduced was a Program Analyst. The variance includes the reduction of \$750K for a FY 2023 One-Time Cost offset by increases in PS and Other Services costs of \$89K. To provide a balanced budget in this current economic climate required agencies to make tough decisions on the realities of hiring vacancies with the current workforce shortage. If agencies were asked to take a critical eye and make tough decisions about their vacancies, DMPSJ needed to do the same. With a new Chief of Staff and Senior Policy Advisor, DMSPJ plans to hire our remaining vacancies in the coming months; we recognize our office has a big task ahead and are as committed to staffing our office as we are helping our agencies to do the same.

8. The proposed budget for (1090) includes a reduction of \$729,000 in Non-Personal Services. What programming were these funds allocated to?

The net reduction included a reduction of a one-time cost in FY 2023 of \$750K for Public Safety Strategic Priorities. The expiration of one-time funding is not the same as a reduction. That funding had a purpose, under a previous Deputy Mayor, and Mayor Bowser decided to let the one-time funding remain one-time funding.

9. What portion of the funding reduction in (1090) was for the following initiatives:
 - a. Funding for assessments?
 - b. Establishment of a parole board?
 - c. Violent crime and gun violence reduction?

The work for these activities is carried out by current members of the DMSPJ staff, and when additional financial support is needed for assessments, the office will make a request from OBPM. DMPSJ recently hired a Chief of Staff, Senior Policy Advisor, and Data Analyst and is expecting to hire additional staff in the coming months.

During the past year and half, PSJ has repeatedly demonstrated its ability to lead successful public safety efforts such as the “Go Teams”, Community Resource Pop-Ups, and our two multiagency taskforces. Our taskforces bring a collaborative

government approach to address violent crime and other concerns occurring in three key corridors and nightlife areas. During the past fiscal year and this fiscal year to date, our coordinated interagency, cross-cluster initiatives have demonstrated outcomes of reducing crime and increasing presence in our neighborhoods.

10. Are the initiatives noted in the previous question being terminated, or is there continued funding for them in the proposed budget?

The initiatives are supported by staff members and will continue to be staffed by members in FY24.

11. How many positions in (1090) are currently filled? (Ten) How many are vacant? (Five)

(2000) Concealed Pistol Licensing Review Board

12. Given that the Budget Support Act, as proposed, would eliminate the Concealed Pistol Licensing Review Board, what is the purpose of the \$282,000 and 1.0 FTE in (2010) Concealed Pistol Licensing Review Board?

As part of the transfer of responsibilities, the Executive agreed to transfer an FTE, an attorney advisory position, to maintain the continuity of the operations of the CPLRB and minimize the expense to the OAH. However, until the transfer is complete, OBPM budgeted for the position, which will be later transferred.

- a. What portion of the \$282,000 proposed budget for (2010) is for Personal Services? (\$174K) What portion is for Non-Personal Services? (\$108K) What is the purpose of the Non-Personal Services portion? (Stipends)

13. Are the 2.0 FTEs in (2010) currently filled? No

(3000) Public Safety

The DMPSJ budget includes a new division, (3000) Public Safety, to support transfer of the Safe Passage Program from the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education to DMPSJ.

14. Why is DMPSJ better equipped to administer the Safe Passage program than DME? If the Safe Passage Program is relocated to DMPSJ, how does the Office anticipate enhancing this program in FY 2024 and beyond?

This move is demonstrative of the Executive's commitment to ensuring a cohesive, coordinated continuum of prevention services and supports under the umbrella of PSJ. Safety to and from schools is already one of the responsibilities of my office, and the work of Safe Passage will be interwoven to the continuum of care provided by credible messengers, violence interrupters, school resource officers, and the police department, to all community members during their morning and afternoon/evening commutes. The Executive is currently working with DME and The Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants on a transition plan for the program to ensure no service disruptions for the 2024 school year.

15. What is the hiring plan for the 1.0 new FTE at (3010) Public Safety Initiatives? Is this position currently filled (within the DME budget) or will DMPSJ inherit a vacant position?

a. Is this FTE funded with local or federal ARPA dollars? **ARPA**

We are currently working with DME and The Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants on a transition plan for the program to ensure no service disruptions for the 2024 school year. This move is demonstrative of the Executive's commitment to ensuring a cohesive, coordinated continuum of prevention services and supports under the umbrella of PSJ.

16. What was the amount of approved funding within the DME budget for the Safe Passage program in FY 2023?

The total for Safe Passage, Safe Blocks comes to \$9M with local and ARPA, reflecting increases requested by community-based grantees to cover the 8 safe passage priority areas. For additional questions about the FY 2023 funding, please contact DME.

17. How many FTEs were funded for the Safe Passage program within the Deputy Mayor for Education in the FY 2023 budget?

DME indicated they hired a Grants Management Specialist within OST to oversee this grant program. DME also has an FTE dedicated to supporting safe passage, but that is not tied to the Safe Blocks grant program specifically. For additional questions about the FY 2023 FTE for Safe Passage, please contact DME.

18. Please provide actual spending levels for this program for FYs 2022 and 2023.

FY22: \$4.6M of the \$4.8M was spent; FY23 SPSB Expenditures to date are \$2,697,075. For additional questions on spending levels, please contact DME.

19. DME's Safe Passage Program administer a Safe Spot program, which partners with businesses, organizations, and faith-based organization to provide students with access as a safe space during their commute to and from school.

- a. How is DMPSJ preparing to take over relationships with program participants?
- b. How will DMPSJ be messaging participating Safe Spots participants regarding its administration of this program?
- c. How will DMPSJ engage in outreach to expand participation in this program?
- d. How will DMPSJ collect data on this program?

We are currently working with DME and The Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants on a transition plan for the program to ensure no service disruptions for the 2024 school year.

20. The DME also administers the Safe Blocks program, which partners with CBOs to station Safe Blocks personnel within priority areas to serve as safe contacts for students during the commute to and from school.
- Will DMPSJ be taking over management of these CBO contracts?
 - How will transition of administration of this program work? What messaging will be provided to CBOs and staff?
 - How will DMPSJ engage in outreach to expand participation in this program?
 - How will DMPSJ collect data on this program?

We are currently working with DME and The Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants on a transition plan for the program to ensure no service disruptions for the 2024 school year.

21. DME hosts weekly Safe Passage Priority Area calls with school leadership within priority areas to discuss information relevant to program administration. How is DMPSJ preparing to take on this role – in particular, preparing to identify key actors within school communities.

We are currently working with DME and The Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants on a transition plan for the program to ensure no service disruptions for the 2024 school year.

22. Will DMPSJ be taking over leadership of the School Safety and Safe Passage Working Group? When will that transition take place?

We are currently working with DME and The Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants on a transition plan for the program to ensure no service disruptions for the 2024 school year.

23. Will DMPSJ be overseeing DC School Connect as part of this shift? How is DMPSJ planning for administration of that program, if so?

The Department of For-Hire Vehicles operates and facilitates DC School Connect, a transportation service for a select number of DCPS and public charter schools in designated Safe Passage Zones in Wards 7 and 8. This program allows schools to select shared locations as designated pickup and drop-off locations. There are no plans to transfer the management of this service to DMPSJ.

24. Administration of the Safe Passage Program requires active engagement with school communities and students. How is DMPSJ preparing staff to prepare for these efforts? Specifically:

- Will DMPSJ be bringing on staff with experience and expertise in student and youth engagement to inform Safe Passage program administration?
- Will DMPSJ be prepare student and school community surveys to support expansion of Safe Passage programming? How will DMPSJ ensure these surveys are best formed to engage students and youth?

DMPSJ and its agencies often engage with school communities and their students on an array of programming and community outreach activities. As for program administration, PSJ will provide the formal oversight and day-to-day management of Safe Passage, program delivery is conducted by those employed by the community-based organizations. We are currently working with DME and The Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants on a transition plan for the program to ensure no service disruptions for the 2024 school year. Various data points will be used to make programmatic decisions for Safe Passage.

25. Will DMPSJ have access to DCPS and PCS data to the same degree as DME? If so, how? If not, how will DMPSJ access data necessary to successfully administer this program?

We are currently working with DME and The Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants on a transition plan for the program to ensure no service disruptions for the 2024 school year – access to relevant data for decision making will be included in the transition plan.

26. The DME’s Safe Passage website includes a Safe Passage Interactive Map. How is DMPSJ preparing to administer that map. Does DMPSJ have IT staff prepared to maintain, update, and add data elements to this map?

DMPSJ can update the Safe Passage Interactive Map with existing staff and OCTO support, updating the map does not require IT staff.

27. \$5.221 million transferred from DME to DMPSJ for Safe Passage are federal ARPA dollars. How is DMPSJ planning to fund this program following the expiration of those funds next calendar year?

As with all funding, the Executive will examine the investments that have proven demonstrated outcomes. In the case of Safe Passage and the program’s expansion, DMPSJ will look to support this initiative with local funding once the ARPA dollars are no longer available.

II. Budget Support Act

28. Title III, Subtitle F of the proposed Budget Support Act would eliminate the Concealed Pistol Licensing Review Board and transfer the Board’s functions to the Office of Administrative Hearings.

- a. Please provide the rationale for this proposed change.
- b. By statute, the CPLRB’s membership is intended to include a number of members with substantive expertise relevant to evaluating whether an individual should be authorized to carry a concealed pistol. How will the Office of Administrative Hearings carry out this function?

- c. How will DMPSJ transition responsibility for these reviews from the Board to OAH? When does the agency anticipate this transition will occur?

As part of the Budget Support Act, the Mayor proposed transferring oversight and operation of the Controlled Pistol License Review Board to the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH), which currently hears appeals of concealed pistol registration denials. We believe such a move is in the interest of efficiency and legal consistency.

We were advised amending Title 22 of the criminal code will require a 60-day review period before Congress, while the rest of the Budget Support Act requires 30 days. To prevent any delays to the budget process, DMPSJ will introduce the subtitle as standalone legislation, and work with your team to ensure the legislation will pass prior to October 1, 2024.

29. Will DMPSJ continue to provide support to the Office of Administrative Hearings for appeals related to concealed pistol licenses? If so, please describe how DMPSJ will support this work.

The Executive agreed to transfer an Attorney Advisor position to the OAH to assist with the continued work of the CPLRB.