

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY & PUBLIC SAFETY
BROOKE PINTO, CHAIRWOMAN**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman Phil Mendelson *BE Pinto*
FROM: Councilmember Brooke Pinto
Chairwoman, Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety
RE: Request to Agendize Emergency Measures for the March 5, 2024 Legislative Meeting
DATE: February 29, 2024

I request that the following emergency measures be agendized for the March 5, 2024 Legislative Meeting:

- **Litigation Support Fund Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2024**
- **Litigation Support Fund Emergency Amendment Act of 2024**
- **Litigation Support Fund Temporary Amendment Act of 2024**

This legislation amends the *Attorney General for the District of Columbia Clarification and Elected Term Amendment Act of 2010* to increase the limit on the funds in OAG’s Litigation Support Fund to \$27 million and to increase the amount OAG is authorized to spend on public safety initiatives to \$9.7 million.

Since Fiscal Year 2020, OAG has budgeted less than the full \$9 million for crime reduction, violence interruption, and public safety initiatives and used the remaining funds for other operational costs, including staff positions. In Fiscal Year 2024, OAG allocated \$9 million for these public safety initiatives, to be spent on Cure the Streets, Leaders of Tomorrow Grants, and the Community Approaches to Rapid Engagement Services (“CARES”) Program. Faced with the recent surge in violent crime in the District, including juvenile crime, OAG requires an increase in the maximum expenditures to fund these initiatives to \$9.7 million.

Additionally, in Fiscal Year 2024, OAG allocated \$7.1 million for litigation support including e-discovery, a matter management system, expert witnesses, transcripts, and other required services. Increased litigation support costs resulting from larger caseloads and active litigation in cases previously dormant due to Covid-19 have depleted the allocated funding. This will result in an operational shortfall in funding of \$3.5 million for Fiscal Year 2024.

This emergency legislation will increase the limit on the funds in the Litigation Support Fund to \$27 million and increase the amount OAG is authorized to spend on public safety initiatives to \$9.7 million. These amounts will cover the projected shortfall and enable OAG to significantly increase its efforts to combat violent crime and enforce consumer protection, antifraud, antitrust, workers’ rights, housing, and elder protection laws. The additional funds will be available from amounts OAG recovers for the District through successful litigation.

- **Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Information Sharing Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2024**
- **Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Information Sharing Emergency Amendment Act of 2024**
- **Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Information Sharing Temporary Amendment Act of 2024**

In 2022, the CJCC partnered with the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (“NICJR”), and the Metropolitan Police Department and other law enforcement and supervision agencies to conduct a detailed analysis of shootings and homicides in the District of Columbia. The Office of Gun Violence Prevention (“OGVP”) and the CJCC then commissioned NICJR to develop a comprehensive Gun Violence Reduction Strategic Plan with proposed recommendations in the areas of violence prevention, violence intervention, and community transformation to reduce gun violence.

The Strategic Plan recommended the CJCC conduct a longitudinal cohort analysis of young persons between the ages of 18 and 24-years of age who have been convicted of homicide and attempted homicide and trace their background and system involvement as children. This analysis would culminate in the development of an intervention program designed specifically for youth at the highest risk of involvement in future gun violence with a detailed plan to engage the youth and their families in programs and services that match their risks and needs.

The analysis would build upon the work conducted by the CJCC in drafting its report on the root causes of violent crime, as required by DC Code § 22-4234(b). In April of 2023, the Council passed emergency and temporary legislation to effect these changes. Since the temporary version is going to expire on April 12, 2024, a new round of emergency and temporary legislation is necessary to ensure there is no gap in the law.

Drafts of the measures are attached. Please contact Evan Marolf, Committee Director, at 724-8073 or emarolf@dccouncil.gov, with any questions.