

**PR17-465, ‘FISCAL YEAR 2008 GENERAL  
OBLIGATION BOND ISSUANCE APPROVAL  
RESOLUTION OF 2007’**

**Before the  
Committee of the Whole  
Council of the District of Columbia**

**The Honorable Vincent C. Gray, Chairman**

**October 31, 2007, 3:00 p.m.  
Room 412  
John A. Wilson Building**



**Testimony of  
Lasana Mack  
Treasurer and Deputy Chief Financial Officer  
Office of Finance and Treasury**

**Natwar M. Gandhi  
Chief Financial Officer  
Government of the District of Columbia**

Good afternoon, Chairman Gray, members of the Committee. My name is Lasana Mack, and I am the District's Treasurer and Deputy Chief Financial Officer in the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO), Office of Finance and Treasury. I am pleased to have the opportunity to testify today regarding PR 17-465, the Fiscal Year 2008 General Obligation Bond Issuance Approval Resolution of 2007. I am joined at the table by James Spaulding, Acting Associate Deputy Chief Financial Officer in the Office of Budget and Planning within the OCFO, who is here to address questions that you may have at the conclusion of my testimony.

This proposed resolution would authorize the issuance of District General Obligation (G.O.) Bonds to finance \$678.3 million of budgeted and approved District capital project expenditures. The District issues G.O. Bonds annually to fund the annual capital expenditures in its on-going Capital Improvements Program.

In the past there has been some degree of mismatch between budgeted capital expenditures and financed capital expenditures, and the result is that in prior years certain projects had expenditures in excess of the financed amounts. The Office of the Chief Financial Officer developed and is implementing a

plan to bring this circumstance back into balance incrementally over the course of several years, and this proposed resolution and upcoming bond issuance are consistent with that plan.

As you are aware, the District's bond ratings have steadily improved over the past ten years, and are now higher than they have ever been, currently at the "A+" level by all three rating agencies. The result of this is that the District's bond issuances are well received in the financial marketplace, and this translates into favorable interest rates for the District, which has a positive effect on the amount of debt service that the District pays annually on its bonds.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. Mr. Spaulding and I would be pleased to respond to any questions that you or other committee members might have.