

PUBLIC HEARING

ON

Bill 19-248 “Clean Hands Amendment Act of 2011”

**Before the
Committee on Finance and Revenue**

The Honorable Jack Evans, Chairman

**June 20, 2011, 10:15 AM
John A. Wilson Building, Room 120**



**Testimony of
William Bowie
Senior Counsel in the Office of the General Counsel
Office of Tax and Revenue**

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

Good morning, Chairman Evans, and members of the Committee on Finance and Revenue. I am William Bowie, Senior Counsel in the Office of General Counsel for the Office of Tax and Revenue (“OTR”) of the District of Columbia (“District”). I am pleased to present testimony today on Bill 19-248, the “Clean Hands Amendment Act of 2011.”

Under Bill 19-248, DC Code § 47-2862(a), the Clean Hands before Receiving a License or Permit law, would be amended to include applicants who have failed to file required District tax returns be included in the group of applicants who would be denied a District government issued license or permit.

The amendment to the District Tax Code we are asking for today had been included in the Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Support Act of 2006 (D.C. Law 16-192), but was inadvertently eliminated in the Department of Motor Vehicles Service and Safety Amendment Act (D.C. Law 16-279), , where the Council included an amendment to the Clean Hands law.

OTR strongly supports enactment of Bill 19-248, as it is an important enforcement tool in the collection of delinquent District taxes and reinforces the purpose of the Clean Hands law because all debts to the District government must be satisfied before receiving a District issued license or permit.

Thank you, Chairman Evans, for the opportunity to comment on this bill. I would be happy to answer any questions you or other Councilmembers might have at this time.