

BUDGET HEARING
FY 2005 BUDGET REQUEST OF THE OFFICE OF THE
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER (OCFO)

Before the
Committee on Finance and Revenue
Council of the District of Columbia

The Honorable Jack Evans, Chairman

April 7, 2004, 9:00 a.m.
Council Chamber



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

Good morning, Chairman Evans and committee members. My name is Anthony Pompa. I am the deputy chief financial officer for the Office of Financial Operations and Systems (OFOS), and I am pleased to present the following testimony about the FY 2005 budget request for OFOS and related matters for the record.

FY 2005 Budget Request

For FY 2005, OFOS is requesting a total budget of 135 FTEs and \$13 million. This represents an increase of 1 FTE and about \$1.2 million, which is a result of union pay increases and funding for FTEs. This level of funding supports two major departments within OFOS: the Office of Financial Operations (Controller) and the Office of Pay and Retirement Services (OPRS).

FY 2004 Accomplishments

As I stated at the February 2004 oversight hearing, we continue to make improvements in overall operations in Fiscal Year 2004. The monthly closings continue, while the March interim closing is currently in progress. We also plan to prepare interim financial statements as of June 2004, in July 2004. The Accounting Systems Managers (ASMs) are providing training to agencies while support to the central financial offices is ongoing. The Office of Pay and Retirement Services (OPRS) continues to meet all payrolls on time, while being heavily involved in the District's ASMP project.

OFOS Programs

As we continue to routinely produce the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), we are publishing interim and year-end closing instructions on the

intranet, allowing agencies to electronically download instructions and submit the majority of requirements electronically. This method facilitates review of instructions by agencies and allows timely feedback from them for clarification and improvements.

In FY 2005 we will continue to provide general SOAR training for employees, as well as targeted training to assist agencies with their specific accounting requirements. Specialized training is being conducted, and other training tailored to meet agencies' requirements is planned.

The Accounting Systems Management (ASM) program remains strong. ASMs are assigned to agencies, not only to advise on day-to-day recording of accounting transactions, but also to provide on-the-spot training. Throughout the interim and year-end closings, ASMs will review agency closing packages to ensure their completeness and accuracy. ASMs, along with other OFOS staff, have formed temporary trouble-shooting teams to assist specific agencies as required and/or requested.

In FY 2005, this office will continue to support the efforts of the District's Administrative Systems Modernization Program (ASMP) by providing expert knowledge in payroll processing and accounts payable operations and approving all ASMP interfaces into SOAR.

The Office of Pay and Retirement Services will continue to serve District employees, as well as annuitants of several federal agencies. Additionally, through OPRS, work will continue with the U.S. Treasury to provide support to annuitants and to enhance the current retirement pay system. OPRS plays an integral role in

the District's effort to simplify its approach to premium pay types, and as mentioned above, is very active in the District's ASMP initiative.

This concludes my formal testimony for the record. I will be happy to answer any questions you or the other members may have.

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