

**PUBLIC HEARING ON  
BILL 16-173, “UNIFORM REAL PROPERTY  
ELECTRONIC RECORDING ACT OF 2005”**

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

**The Honorable Jack Evans, Chairman**

**March 14, 2005, 10:30 a.m.  
Council Chamber, John A. Wilson Building**



**Testimony of  
Daniel L. Black, Jr.  
Deputy Chief Financial Officer  
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 Daniel L. Black, Jr., Deputy Chief Financial Officer for the Office of Tax and Revenue. I am pleased to present testimony today on Bill 16-173, the “Uniform Real Property Electronic Recording Act of 2005.”

The purpose of this bill is to permit electronic recordation of deeds of title, security instruments, economic interests and certain liens with the Recorder of Deeds. If enacted, this bill would place the District at the forefront of a national effort to move towards electronic recordation. The time for a bill of this import is long overdue given the technological advances of the new millennium.

Electronic recordation would streamline and expedite the settlement process, which is a cumbersome and time-consuming process for District residents. Additionally, electronic recordation may significantly reduce the costs of closing that District residents and businesses presently incur.

This bill represents the culmination of efforts of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws to provide uniform legislation permitting electronic recordation. The bill states that its interpretation must be in furtherance of uniformity amongst the several States and the District of Columbia. Given the size of the District of Columbia, passage of a uniform act would be beneficial to its citizens and practitioners alike, as there will be ample case law not only from the District but also from other jurisdictions to provide guidance concerning the construction of its provisions.

The Office of Tax and Revenue respectfully requests that it be permitted to work with the committee to offer technical amendments to Bill 16-173 in order to clarify certain provisions to carry out the intent of the legislation. Our staff will be available to assist the committee at any time convenient to the committee.

**Fiscal Impact of Bill 16-173**

Enactment of this bill would not impact the District's budget and financial plan, as determined by the Office of the Chief Financial Officer's Office of Revenue Analysis.

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.

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