

**Racial Equity Achieves Results Amendment Act of 2019,
Bill 23-38**

**Before the
Committee on Government Operations
Council of the District of Columbia**

The Honorable Brandon Todd, Chairperson

**April 25, 2019, 10:00 A.M.
John A. Wilson Building, Room 120**



**Comments by Jeffrey S. DeWitt
Chief Financial Officer
Government of the District of Columbia**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Bill 23-38, the “Racial Equity Achieves Results Amendment Act of 2019” (“REAR Act”). The REAR Act requires the Office of Budget and Planning, an office within the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (“OCFO”), in consultation with the Office of the City Administrator, to design and implement a “racial equity tool that integrates explicit consideration of racial equity into an agency’s operation and performance-based budget . . .” The mission of the OCFO is to enhance the fiscal and financial stability, accountability and integrity of the Government of the District of Columbia. The OCFO does not have the knowledge or expertise to develop a “racial equity tool.” Accordingly, I ask that the Section 3 of the REAR Act, as introduced, be amended to strike the reference to the Office of Budget and Planning as follows:

“The ~~Office of Budget and Planning, in consultation with the~~ Office of the City Administrator, shall design a racial equity tool that integrates explicit consideration of racial equity into an agency's operation and performance-based budget, which, beginning in fiscal year 2020 and for each subsequent fiscal year, shall be implemented and used to review an agency’s programs, policies, and practices, and to ensure alignment between departmental and Districtwide programs and initiatives.”

I am pleased to discuss further or respond to any additional questions you may have.