

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Administrative Code - Domestic Violence Shelter-Based Program Fund]

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to change the name of the Status of Women Domestic Violence Program Fund to the Domestic Violence Shelter-Based Program Fund; revise the purpose of the Fund; establish the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development, or other agency designated by the Mayor, as administrator of the Fund with delegated duties; update provisions regarding the Fund to reflect state law changes relating to fees collected by the County Clerk for the Fund; and eliminate the requirement to deposit certain fees collected by the County Clerk into the Same Sex Domestic Violence Project within the Fund.

Existing Law

City law currently provides that the Domestic Violence Program Fund ("Fund") receives eight dollars of each fee collected by the County Clerk when issuing a marriage license or filing a certificate of marriage. These fees are to be used to fund basic services to victims of domestic violence upon the recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women ("COSW") and approval of the Board of Supervisors. City law also specifies that the COSW is the coordinator of this grant program with certain delegated responsibilities, and that up to 10 percent of fees collected by the County Clerk may be used for administrative expenses. City law also requires fees collected by the County Clerk for performing domestic partnership civil ceremonies to be deposited into the Same Sex Domestic Violence Project within the Fund.

Amendments to Current Law

This ordinance would clarify that, pursuant to applicable state law, moneys in the Fund may only be used for domestic violence shelter-based programs, and it would increase to 23 dollars the amount from each marriage license fee to be deposited into the Fund. It would also rename the Fund, change the percentage of such moneys that may be dedicated to administrative expenses to eight percent, and provide examples of such expenses. It would also name the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development, or such other entity within the executive branch as the Mayor may designate, as the administrator of the Fund with certain delegated responsibilities. Finally, it would eliminate the requirement to deposit fees collected by the County Clerk for performing domestic partnership civil ceremonies into the Same Sex Domestic Violence Project within the Fund.

Background Information

The state law authorizing the creation of the Fund has changed to specify that moneys in the Fund may only be used for shelter-based programs, and has updated the amounts to be collected from marriage license fees and used for administrative expenses.