



OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

Greg Wagner
Controller
ChiaYu Ma
Deputy Controller

Ms. Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

July 18, 2024

RE: File 240692 – Initiative Ordinance – First Responder Student Loan Forgiveness Fund

Dear Ms. Calvillo,

The cost of the proposed ordinance would be dependent on decisions that the Mayor and Board of Supervisors make through the budget process, as an ordinance cannot bind future Mayors and Boards of Supervisors to provide funding for this or any other purpose. Should the proposed Charter amendment be approved by the voters, in my opinion, it would have no impact to a minimal impact on the cost of government of up to approximately \$315,000 annually for staff to administer the program once established.

The proposed ordinance would establish the First Responder Student Loan Forgiveness Fund (the Fund). The Fund would receive money appropriated by the Mayor and Board of Supervisors or private donations made to cover student loan payments and education costs of first responders employed by the City including paramedics, registered nurses, 911 dispatchers, and sworn members of the Police Department, Fire Department, and Sheriff's Department.

The ordinance specifies that the Department of Human Resources may establish a program to start making payments once the Fund contains at least \$1 million. No single employee may receive more than \$25,000. To be eligible, an employee must have started in 2025 or later and worked full-time for at least three consecutive years. Any disbursements from the Fund must be consistent with any relevant labor MOU's.

To the extent that future City funds are appropriated to the Fund, it may impact the cost of government but at a level that cannot be determined at this time. Should policymakers choose to fund this program, and should the Fund reach \$1 million, administrative costs could range from approximately \$125,000 to \$315,000 annually for one to two new staff within DHR to adopt rules and procedures and implement the Fund.

Sincerely,

Janice Levy FOR
Greg Wagner
Controller

Note: This analysis reflects our understanding of the proposal as of the date shown. At times further information is provided to us which may result in revisions being made to this analysis before the final Controller's statement appears in the Voter Information Pamphlet.