

**THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES
FY2012 BUDGET HEARING**



**Testimony of
Lucinda Babers, Director
Department of Motor Vehicles**

**Before the
Committee on Public Works and Transportation
Tommy Wells, Chairperson**

**Monday, April 18, 2011
10:00 am – Room 500
The Wilson Building
Washington, DC**

Good Morning, Chairperson Wells, members of the Committee and Council, and your staffs. My name is Lucinda Babers, and I am the Director of the District's Department of Motor Vehicles. Today I am here to share information related to the Mayor's FY12 proposed budget for the Department of Motor Vehicles. I am joined today by DMV's Agency Fiscal Officer, Kimberly Holloway.

Prior to all of my hearings, I like to extend a special thanks to the men and women in the department whose dedication and efforts make it possible for us to service the customers of the District. I am delighted to call such dedicated individuals my "co-workers" and thank them for allowing me to be a part of Team DMV.

The FY12 proposed budget continues to support our Department's mission to provide excellent customer service and to promote public safety by ensuring the safe operation of motor vehicles. DMV provides service to approximately 460,000 licensed drivers/identification card holders and 275,000 registered vehicles at three service centers. We provide adjudication services and collect ticket payments for more than 2.5 million tickets each year. We also conduct over 200,000 annual vehicle inspections. DMV interacts with DC residents and non-residents, with an average of 2,700 daily customer contacts, more than almost any other District government agency.

DMV has seven divisions comprising our FY12 proposed budget of \$37.97M. This represents a 1.1% decrease from the FY11 budget. The FY12 proposed budget maintains our FTE level at 232. The DMV's proposed FY12 \$37.97M budget is composed of the following fund amounts: \$24.5M in local funds which include 185 FTEs, \$8.3M in special purpose revenue funds which include 47 FTEs and \$5.2M in Intra-District funds.

Our proposed FY12 budget, like our FY11 budget, does not contain major operational changes. Instead, it continues to enhance operational efficiencies and maximize customer service by using existing resources.

In FY12, the intra-district budget DMV expects to receive from the Metropolitan Police Department will increase by \$2.5M to fully support the automated traffic enforcement program. The proposed FY12 budget contains an overall 30% decrease (or \$3.5M decrease) in special purpose funds. The decrease is mainly due to a policy decision to eliminate some special purpose funds and to make others lapsing. Due to the large decrease in special purpose funds, it was necessary to propose a \$596k increase in local FY12 funds to maintain critical services for driver license applications. However, the bulk of the special purpose reduction will be offset by the ticket collection contract and cost being transferred to the City Administrator's Office as part of the Collection Unit. Overall, the FY12 proposed DMV budget will allow us to meet our operational responsibilities with some necessary belt tightening.

The FY12 proposed Budget Support Act includes one subtitle specifically related to DMV. This subtitle proposes to increase the duplicate driver license and duplicate registration fees from \$7 to \$15 for an estimated annual revenue increase of \$308k. The Budget Support Act also proposes to make the International Registration Program and the Out of State Vehicle special purpose funds lapsing. This means any excess revenue above what is budgeted and collected during the year will be redirected to the General Fund. The Act also proposes the elimination of the Commercial Driver License and Driver Education special purpose funds; thereby, redirecting the revenue into the General Fund.

DMV's FY12 proposed budget acknowledged our inability to make sweeping changes such as closing additional facilities or further reducing personnel. Instead, the proposed budget allows us to maintain services and meet all performance goals with existing resources. However, we really need the assistance of our customers to use our over 30 online services to reduce customer volume at our locations. For those without online access, most services can also be completed by mail. Lastly, the FY12 proposed budget reiterates that public safety and fiscal stability are major priorities of this Administration....priorities that will not be compromised.

We appreciate the support we've received from the Council, and particularly from this Committee and your staff, under your leadership. We look forward to continuing our efforts to maximize efficiencies to improve the quality of service to the District of Columbia. It would be our pleasure to respond to any questions you may have.

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