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FROM	NAME & TITLE	Robert Cename, Budget Director	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Bureau of the Budget and Management Research Room 432, City Hall		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 21-0041 – Board of Estimates-Basic Organization and Procurement Thresholds		

TO

DATE:

The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
City Hall, Room 400

April 22, 2021

Position: Does Not Oppose

The Department of Finance is herein reporting on City Council Bill 21-0041, Board of Estimates-Basic Organization and Procurement Thresholds, the purpose of which is to enable the Comptroller to designate the Clerk of the Board of Estimates and codify current procurement threshold policies.

Background

The current law requires the Deputy Comptroller to perform the duties of the Clerk of the Board of Estimates (BOE). This legislation would enable the Comptroller or a designee to perform these duties. In addition, this legislation would codify certain procurement thresholds that require expenditures of certain amounts be approved by the BOE and formally advertised. Currently, these thresholds, \$25,000 or more for BOE approval and \$50,000 or more for formal advertisement, are established as policies that the Department of Finance's Bureau of Procurement works with agencies to enforce.

Fiscal Impact Analysis

The Department of Finance does not anticipate a cost for the City as a result of this legislation.

Other Considerations

The Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer recently announced a request for proposal (RFP) for a comprehensive assessment of the City's procurement policies and practices, with the goal of reforming current procurement policies, systems, processes, and overall capacity. The Department of Finance looks forward to participating in this assessment and reviewing the findings in the hopes of advancing the City's procurement policies and practices. Based on review of other jurisdictions and procurement best practices, Finance anticipates that the current thresholds being codified by this legislation will likely be recommended to be increased by this assessment. As such, further action may need to be taken based on the findings of that assessment to update the City code to reflect recommended expenditure amounts.

Conclusion

This legislation enables the Comptroller to designate someone other than the Deputy Comptroller as the Clerk of the BOE and codifies current procurement policies related to requirements for BOE approval and formal advertisement. These actions will have no fiscal impact for the City.

For the reasons stated above, the Department of Finance does not oppose City Council Bill 21-0041.

cc: Henry Raymond
Natasha Mehu
Nina Themelis