

INTRODUCED: March 27, 2017

A RESOLUTION No. 2017-R021

To encourage the Director of Finance to seek an audit by the City Auditor of the revenue administration operations of the Department of Finance and to make available to the City Auditor such information as the City Auditor deems necessary for the proper verification of the assessments and collections of local taxes and other local revenues.

Patron – Ms. Trammell

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: APR 24 2017 AT 6 P.M.

WHEREAS, it was reported on March 14, 2017, that the Director of Finance would not seek an audit of the revenue administration operations of the Department of Finance; and

WHEREAS, the last audit of the Department of Finance’s revenue administration operations occurred in 2012, and this audit found that the Department of Finance’s revenue administration operations needed “improvements to effectively and efficiently carry out its fiduciary responsibilities and maximize revenue collections [and that] deficiencies [were] potentially resulting in a loss of substantial uncollected and un-assessed revenues;” and

AYES: 9 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: _____

ADOPTED: APR 24 2017 REJECTED: _____ STRICKEN: _____

WHEREAS, section 58.1-3.1 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, affords a revenue assessing or tax collecting officer the discretion to make available to certain auditors or their representatives information required to be kept confidential pursuant to section 58.1-3 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Richmond believes that it is in the best interests of the taxpayers of the City of Richmond that the City Auditor conduct an audit of the revenue administration operations of the Department of Finance;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND:

That the Council supports the performance of an audit or audits by the City Auditor of the revenue administration operations of the Department of Finance and, in connection therewith and to the maximum extent permitted by state law, the provision to the City Auditor of such information as the Department possesses relating to local tax returns, reports, and other data on file in the Department as the City Auditor deems necessary for the proper verification of the assessments and collections of local taxes and other local revenues including any abatements or exonerations thereof or exclusions therefrom in accordance with law.



Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

Office of the Council Chief of Staff

Ordinance/Resolution Request

TO Allen Jackson, City Attorney

THROUGH Lou Ali, Council Chief of Staff *LA*

FROM Steven Taylor, Council Policy Analyst *ST*

COPY Reva Trammell, 8th District Council Member
Rick Bishop, 8th District Liaison
Haskell Brown, Deputy City Attorney
Meghan Brown, Council Deputy Chief of Staff *MLB*

DATE March 17, 2017

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TITLE Supporting Audit(s) of the City's Revenue Administration in the Department of Finance

RECEIVED

MAR 20 2017

OFFICE OF CITY ATTORNEY

This is a request for the drafting of an **Ordinance** **Resolution**

REQUESTING COUNCILMEMBER/PATRON

R. Trammell

SUGGESTED STANDING COMMITTEE

Government Operations

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION SUMMARY

The patron requests that a resolution be prepared for City Council's consideration that expresses Council's support of the City Auditor conducting an audit of the Revenue Administration Division of the Finance Department.

BACKGROUND

The CAO and Finance Director have stated at Audit Committee meeting held on March 14th that they will not request audits of the City's Revenue Administration. It has been determined that State law requires that the Finance Director invite the Auditor to conduct audits allowing access to tax records and information in the Department's possession. The patron believes that it is necessary to conduct an audit of the City's Revenue Administration in the Finance Department to shed light on how best to improve collection of various taxes owed to the City and to make certain taxes are accurately levied. The City Auditor has not conducted an audit of this area of City government since 2012. The 2012 audit determined that millions of dollars may not be properly collected each year and there are numerous reports of residents and property owners being inaccurately taxed and billed. An audit would allow Council to get more accurate and up-to-date information in order to address these known concerns.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Fiscal Impact	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Budget Amendment Required	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Estimated Cost or Revenue Impact	\$ N/A	

Attachment/s Yes No