

New York City Council

Christine C. Quinn, Speaker

Finance Division Preston Niblack, Director Jeffrey Rodus, First Deputy Director

Hearing on the Mayor's Fiscal Year 2012 Executive Budget

Landmarks Preservation Commission

May 25, 2011

The Committee on Finance

Hon. Domenic M. Recchia, Jr., Chair

The Committee on Land Use

Hon. Leroy Comrie, Chair

The Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Siting & Maritime Uses

Hon. Bradford Lander, Chair

Latonia McKinney, Deputy Director Anthony Brito, Senior Legislative Financial Analyst

Overview

The Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) protects the City's architectural, historic, and cultural resources. The Commission identifies, designates, and regulates buildings, districts, sites, and interiors, surveys potential landmarks and historic districts, evaluates proposals for landmark designations, and regulates alterations to designated sites and structures.

| Landmarks Preservation Commission | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--|--|
| Dollars in Thousands | | | | | | | | |
| | 2009 Actual | 2010 Actual | 2011 Adopted | 2011 Exec. Plan | 2012 Exec. Plan | Difference 2011–2012 | | |
| Budget by Unit of Appropriation | | | | | | | | |
| Personal Services | \$3,878 | \$4,115 | \$4,489 | \$4,136 | \$4,131 | (\$359) | | |
| Other Than Personal Services | 721 | 493 | 1,094 | 1,093 | 627 | (467) | | |
| TOTAL | \$4,599 | \$4,608 | \$5,583 | \$5,230 | \$4,758 | (\$825) | | |
| Funding | | | | | | | | |
| City Funds | N/A | N/A | \$4,963 | \$4,610 | \$4,138 | (\$825) | | |
| Federal - Community Development | N/A | N/A | 619 | 620 | 620 | 1 | | |
| TOTAL | \$4,599 | \$4,608 | \$5,583 | \$5,405 | \$4,758 | (\$825) | | |
| Positions | | | | | | | | |
| Full-Time Positions | 54 | 58 | 64 | 61 | 61 | (3) | | |

Fiscal 2012 Executive Budget Actions

Budget Actions in the Executive Plan

| | FY 2011 | | | FY 2012 | | |
|---|---------|----------|---------|---------|----------|---------|
| Dollars in Thousands | City | Non-City | Total | City | Non-City | Total |
| Agency Budget as of February 2011 Plan | \$4,652 | \$753 | \$5,405 | \$4,180 | \$620 | \$4,800 |
| Other Adjustments | | | | | | |
| Heat, Light and Power | (\$4) | \$0 | (\$4) | (\$41) | \$0 | (\$41) |
| Total, Other Adjustments | (\$4) | \$0 | (\$4) | (\$41) | \$0 | (\$41) |
| Agency Budget as of Executive 2011 Plan | \$4,648 | \$753 | \$5,401 | \$4,139 | \$620 | \$4,759 |

The LPC's Fiscal 2012 Executive Budget is approximately \$4.7 million, \$784,000 less than the agency's Fiscal 2011 Adopted Budget of approximately \$5.5 million. The agency's headcount will decrease from 64 positions in Fiscal 2011 to 61 positions in Fiscal 2012 due to the following actions taken by the agency since the Fiscal 2011 Adopted Budget:

Program to Eliminate the Gap (PEGs)

- ☑ Landmark Permit Fee Increase. LPC will collect additional revenue for the City's general fund as a result of a fee increase for landmark permits. Permits are required for landmark properties that are undergoing certain alterations to the property. The Commission and the Department of Buildings then reviews alteration proposals and determines if there is any significant effect on the features of a building or historic district. In previous fiscal years, the projected revenue from these fees has been approximately \$2 million. With the fee increase, the projected revenue will now be \$2.5 million starting in Fiscal 2012, a 22 percent increase. In particular, the current permit fee is \$50 for all work that is valued at \$25,000, which makes up 40 percent of the total revenue. The remaining 60 percent consist of a \$4 fee for every \$1,000 above \$25,000. For example, \$26,000 of work would therefore require a \$54 permit fee. The Commission will now increase the base fee to \$95 for work valued at \$25,000 and a \$5 increase for every \$1,000 above \$25,000.
- ✓ Personal Services Reduction. The LPC will eliminate three positions through attrition from the Buildings Operations Unit for a savings of \$191,422 in Fiscal 2012, with that savings increasing to \$214,978 by Fiscal 2013. This action will reduce the agency's headcount from 64 in Fiscal 2011 to 61 in Fiscal 2012.
- ☑ **Surplus Savings from the Personal Services Budget.** In the Fiscal 2011 November Plan the agency identified \$311,000 in savings in its personal services (PS) budget. This is due to an unusual amount of LPC employees who were on maternity leave in Fiscal 2011.

Appendix A: Budget Actions in the November and February Plans

| | FY 2011 | | | FY 2012 | | |
|--|---------|----------|---------|---------|----------|---------|
| Dollars in Thousands | City | Non-City | Total | City | Non-City | Total |
| Agency Budget as of June 2010 Plan | \$4,963 | \$620 | \$5,583 | \$4,007 | \$620 | \$4,627 |
| Program to Eliminate the Gap (PEGs) | | | | | | |
| Personal Services Reduction | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$191 | \$0 | \$191 |
| FY11 Personal Services Surplus | (311) | 0 | (311) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total, PEGs | (\$311) | \$0 | (\$311) | \$191 | \$0 | \$191 |
| Other Adjustments | | | | | | |
| Personal Services Reduction-Fringe | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | (\$18) | \$0 | (\$18) |
| Roll CD funds to FY11 | 0 | 133 | 133 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total, Other Adjustments | \$0 | \$133 | \$133 | (\$18) | \$0 | (\$18) |
| Agency Budget as of February 2011 Plan | \$4,652 | \$753 | \$5,405 | \$4,180 | \$620 | \$4,800 |