

**Written Testimony in Opposition
Bill 10 (2026)
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee**

I respectfully submit written testimony in opposition to Bill 10 (2026).

I recognize the importance of maintaining secure, functional, and modern information systems, particularly those supporting tax administration and cybersecurity. However, I am unable to support this measure as drafted due to the manner in which recurring operational obligations are being funded and presented.

The transmittal documents for Bill 10 state that this \$3,000,000 appropriation is intended to cover the cost of Transient Accommodation Tax software for the Department of Finance, upcoming software subscription renewals, and the County's cybersecurity contract. These are not one-time or extraordinary expenditures. They are ongoing operational obligations that will continue beyond Fiscal Year 2026.

Bill 10 proposes to fund these recurring costs using General Fund carryover/savings. Carryover and savings are, by definition, non-recurring resources. Using one-time funds to pay for recurring software subscriptions and contractual services obscures the true, ongoing cost of County operations and shifts known future obligations into later budgets without identified recurring revenue.

The justification offered indicates that procurement delays and higher-than-anticipated costs resulted in these expenditures being deferred into FY2026. While procurement timing issues may explain *when* the costs are incurred, they do not change the underlying nature of the expenses. Funding recurring obligations through carryover masks structural budget requirements and weakens fiscal transparency.

Additionally, approving operational software and cybersecurity costs through a mid-year budget amendment rather than through the regular budget process limits meaningful Council and public review of long-term cost implications, vendor dependence, and future funding commitments.

For these reasons, I oppose Bill 10 (2026) as drafted. At a minimum, recurring operational technology costs should be addressed through identified recurring revenue sources and incorporated transparently into the base operating budget, rather than backfilled with one-time carryover funds.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony for the record.

Submitted by:
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