

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
CONTROLLER'S OFFICE FY2021 OPERATING BUDGET
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2020**

Good morning, Council President Clarke and members of City Council. I am City Controller Rebecca Rhynhart. Joining me is Kellan White, First Deputy City Controller. Today, I am pleased to provide testimony on the Controller's Office's Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Budget, proposed at \$9.6 million.

This reflects a 5% budget cut for fiscal year 2021 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on City finances. The proposed 5% cut was achieved through not filling certain vacancies and reorganizing units within our office in FY21.

We do not expect this temporary decrease in our budget to impede our work as the independent financial watchdog for the City of Philadelphia. We will continue to promote the efficient and effective operation of City government by identifying cost savings, recommending best practices and modernization, and exposing fraud and mismanagement throughout the fiscal year.

As we navigate the short- and long-term effects of the pandemic, we remain committed to transparency, accountability and good government. Our staff has continued conducting audit work for both required and performance audits; auditing and approving citywide payroll for employees and expenditures; and investigating fraud, waste and abuse.

We have also continued our work to make important government information more accessible through data releases and policy analysis. Since the beginning of the stay-at-home order, we have released several reports on the effect of the COVID-19 emergency on the City's finances.

As City Controller, it is my goal that the Controller's Office is seen as a resource, providing valuable information, data and audits that help move the city forward, especially during this unprecedented crisis. This concludes my testimony. I am happy to answer any questions that you may have at this time.