

Council of the District of Columbia
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY & PUBLIC SAFETY
MEMORANDUM

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

TO: Chairman Phil Mendelson
FROM: Councilmember Charles Allen
RE: Request to Agendize Measures for the July 11, 2017, Committee of the Whole Meeting and Additional Legislative Meeting
DATE: July 6, 2017

I am requesting that you agendize the following measures for the July 11, 2017, Committee of the Whole Meeting and, should one be scheduled, for the Additional Legislative Meeting, pursuant to Committee of the Whole Rule 403(b).

Measures from Committee

- PR22-0318, the “Commission on Human Rights Eleanor Collinson Confirmation Resolution of 2017”
- PR22-0327, the “Homeland Security Commission Philip McNamara Confirmation Resolution of 2017”

These measures were marked up by the Committee on July 6, 2017, and the Committee Reports and Prints were timely filed to waive COW Rule 403(b).

Emergency Legislation

- “Voter Rolls Protection Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2017”
- “Voter Rolls Protection Emergency Act of 2017”
- “Voter Rolls Protection Temporary Act of 2017”

On May 11, 2017, President Trump signed Executive Order 13799 to establish the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity to purportedly “study the registration and voting processes used in Federal elections”. On June 28, the Commission sent a letter to all fifty states and the District of Columbia requesting registered voters’ personal information. The letter did not specify how the Commission plans to use the personal information, but it did state the data will be made available to the public.

District law provides that some information in the voter rolls is public, but it does not authorize the release of all the information requested, including social security numbers, dates of birth, and information regarding felony convictions. Moreover, compliance with this request even for already public information would only serve to intimidate voters and support rhetoric that undermines the electorate’s confidence in states’ abilities to carry out their elections. Thus far, 44 states have refused to comply with the Commission’s request, either in whole or in part.

This emergency legislation will protect registered voters’ personal information by prohibiting the Board of Elections from complying with any requests from the Commission.

Current laws and regulations regarding what information in the voter rolls is otherwise public would be unaltered.

Draft copies of the emergency measures are attached. Please contact Kate Mitchell, Committee Director, at 727-8275 or kmitchell@dccouncil.us if you have any questions.

cc: Members, Council of the District of Columbia
Office of the Secretary
Office of the General Counsel
Office of the Budget Director
Mayor's Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs