Council Chairman Phil Mendelson announces the scheduling of a public hearing of the Committee of Whole on Bill 23-91, the “Department of Buildings Establishment Act of 2019,” and the Office Inspector General’s (OIG) Prospective Evaluation of Bill 23-91 and Evaluation of DCRA Business Processes. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at 11:30 a.m. in Room 412 of the John A. Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW.

The stated purpose of Bill 23-91 is to establish a Department of Buildings (DOB) as a new subordinate agency within the Executive branch, redesignating the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs as the Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection (DLCP) to reflect the revised responsibilities of that agency. The Department of Buildings will be responsible for the administration and enforcement of construction compliance, rental housing safety, and residential property maintenance activities. On May 31, 2019, Chairman Mendelson requested that the Office of Inspector General (OIG) conduct a prospective evaluation of Bill 23-91 and analyze the business processes of DCRA to recommend where the agency and Council can improve the agency’s performance. The OIG contracted with Federal Management Systems, Inc. to conduct these evaluations and produce a report that will be the subject of this hearing in addition to Bill 23-91 more generally.

Those who wish to testify are asked to email the Committee of the Whole at cow@dccouncil.us, or call Blaine Stum, Legislative Policy Advisor at (202) 724-8092, and provide your name, address, telephone number, organizational affiliation and title (if any) by close of business Friday, December 6, 2019. Persons wishing to testify are encouraged, but not required, to submit 15 copies of written testimony. If submitted by the close of business December 6th the testimony will be distributed to Councilmembers before the hearing. Witnesses should limit their testimony to four minutes; less time will be allowed if there are a large number of witnesses. Copies of the legislation can be obtained through the Legislative Services Division of the Secretary of the Council’s office or on http://lims.dccouncil.us. Hearing materials, including a draft witness list, can be accessed at, http://www.chairmanmendelson.com/circulation, 24 hours in advance of the hearing.

If you are unable to testify at the hearing, written statements are encouraged and will be made a part of the official record. Written statements should be submitted to the Committee of the Whole, Council of the District of Columbia, Suite 410 of the John A. Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004. The record will close at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 27, 2019.