Council Chairman Phil Mendelson announces a public hearing before the Committee of the Whole on PR 23-892 the “Sense of the Council Woodrow High School Renaming Protocol Resolution of 2020.” The hearing will be held at 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 15, 2020 via a Zoom virtual hearing.

The stated purpose of PR 23-892 is to declare the sense of the Council that the Council supports efforts to reconsider the name of Woodrow Wilson High School and, more broadly, the names of all public schools, to ensure that the individuals for whom the school buildings are named represent the mission, vision, and values of DCPS and the residents of the District, including consideration of whether the building name honors an individual who supported or enabled acts of discrimination; that DCPS should act quickly to update its school naming protocol; that DCPS should provide the Council and members of the public with information regarding when the new protocol will be finalized; and call on DCPS to convene community meetings to consider whether the name of Woodrow Wilson High School should be changed, and if so, what name should be selected.

Those who wish to testify are asked to email the Committee of the Whole at cow@dccouncil.us, or call LeKisha Jordan, Legislative Policy Advisor, at (202) 724-8137, and to provide your name, address, telephone number, organizational affiliation and title (if any) by close of business Friday, September 11, 2020. Witnesses who anticipate needing spoken language interpretation, or require sign language interpretation, are requested to inform the Committee office of the need as soon as possible but no later than five business days before the proceeding. We will make every effort to fulfill timely requests, although alternatives may be offered. Requests received in less than five business days may not be fulfilled.

Persons wishing to testify are encouraged, but not required, to email their written testimony to cow@dccouncil.us. If submitted by 5:00pm on September 11, 2020 the testimony will be distributed to Councilmembers before the hearing. Witnesses should limit their testimony to three minutes; less time will be allowed if there are a large number of witnesses. The hearing will be limited to three hours. Accordingly, the Committee may limit the 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 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, NW, Washington, DC 20004. The record will close at 5:00 p.m. on September 29, 2020.