

Council of the District of Columbia
Memorandum

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

TO: Nyasha Smith, Secretary to the Council

FROM: Councilmembers Charles Allen, Robert C. White, Jr., and Trayon White, Sr.
and Chairman Phil Mendelson

RE: Request to Agendize Emergency and Temporary Measures for the November
17, 2020 Additional Legislative Meeting

DATE: November 12, 2020

We are writing to request that you agendize the following measures for the November 17, 2020 Additional Legislative Meeting.

- “Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Support Additional Clarification Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2020”
- “Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Support Additional Clarification Emergency Amendment Act of 2020”
- “Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Support Additional Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2020”

In the District’s Fiscal Year 2021 budget, the Council identified \$9 million that the Washington Convention and Sports Authority (“Events DC”) was to use to provide financial assistance for District residents who are not eligible for traditional unemployment benefits or for other financial benefits that the District and federal government had identified during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Among the populations eligible for financial assistance from Events DC is District residents who have recently been released from incarceration; because the Council intended for the funds identified for financial assistance to provide relief for those who had been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, returning citizens were required to apply for benefits within 6 months of release from incarceration.

On November 10, 2020, the Council approved the Greater Washington Community Foundation Excluded Worker Relief Emergency Approval Resolution of 2020, effective November 10, 2020 (R23-593; __ DCR __), which approved a contract between Events DC and the Greater Washington Community Foundation to disperse the \$9 million that the Council identified for Events DC to provide financial assistance. Because the contract between Events DC and the Greater Washington Community Foundation was only recently approved, currently no applications have been made for assistance from Events DC, and it is possible that applications may not be available until December. District residents released from incarceration in the early stages of the pandemic were not able to apply for assistance within 6 months of release, because, through no fault of their own, the application was not available—clearly contrary to the Council’s intent.

Approving emergency and temporary legislation clarifying that any District resident who was released from incarceration on or after March 11, 2020, the date the Mayor Bowser declared a public health emergency, will ensure that when the Community Foundation of Greater

Washington opens applications, all District residents who were released from incarceration during the current public health emergency will be eligible to apply for financial assistance.

Drafts of the measures are attached. Please contact Chris Laskowski, Legislative Director, at 741-0929 or claskowski@dccouncil.us if you have any questions.