



OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN MENDELSON
COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Tuesday, May 31, 2016

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**CHAIRMAN MENDELSON'S STATEMENT ON VOTE
APPROVING FAMILY SHELTER PLAN**

WASHINGTON, DC – Phil Mendelson, Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, issued the following statement regarding the Council's unanimous approval of the plan initially adopted on May 17, 2016, to close and replace the DC General Family Shelter.

"Today's vote marks an important step to address chronic homelessness," Mendelson stated. "Closing DC General is important; more important is replacing DC General with new facilities designed to meet the service and support needs of homeless families."

"The facilities the Council has approved will enable the District to meet the needs of parents and children experiencing homelessness in a more humane and dignified manner, consistent with the values of all District residents."

In February, Mayor Bowser introduced a plan to replace DC General with smaller, service-enriched shelters located throughout the District. After reviewing the Mayor's plan, the Council refined it to maximize the District's financial investment: requiring that facilities be owned instead of leased, located at sites appropriate for children and families, and, in most cases, located on land already owned by the District.

On approving a comprehensive, cost-effective plan that addresses the service needs of shelter residents, Mendelson stated, "the Council, the Mayor, advocates, and all District residents should be proud of today's vote."

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