



OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN MENDELSON
COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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COUNCIL CHAIRMAN MENDELSON STATEMENT ON FY 2017 BUDGET

WASHINGTON, DC – DC Council Chairman Phil Mendelson released the following statement regarding the actions taken today by the Council in consideration of the District’s Fiscal year 2017 Budget along with Bill 21-620, “Homeless Shelter Replacement Act of 2016.” The Council voted earlier today to unanimously approve the proposal put forward by the Chairman.

The approved Budget includes the allocation of \$105 million to fund the land acquisition and construction of seven District-owned family shelters. Bill 21-620 directs the District to utilize city-owned land or purchase the proposed shelter sites. This will save the District \$165 million.

“D.C. General does not meet the needs of families experiencing homelessness and should be closed,” Mendelson said. “This Bill presents a clear plan for how the District will replace D.C. General by 2018 and it will be fully funded.”

The Council’s FY 2017 budget proposal modifies the tax trigger language first implemented in 2014, to push forward tax relief. “This will ensure low and moderate income earners see benefits in 2017, instead of 2018, and bring us one step closer to the most progressive tax system anywhere in the country,” Mendelson added.

The proposal that the Council unanimously voted to approve included the following modifications:

- Dedicate \$5.5 million additional dollars – above the Mayor’s proposal -- for critical **HOMELESS SERVICES** and **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**, including Permanent Supportive Housing, Targeted Affordable Housing, and a new pilot program to help low-income households continue to pay rent.
- Maintain the District’s commitment to a world-class **EDUCATION** system, including

- Increasing – above the Mayor’s proposal – the funding for the Books from Birth program;
 - Adding \$2.3 million to support early invention services for the District’s youngest residents and
 - \$2.5 million more than the Mayor’s request, to fight truancy and help children at risk.
- Promote programs and services that enhance **PUBLIC SAFETY** and **JUSTICE**, including \$1.5 million to fund the Crisis Continuum program at Washington Hospital Center and \$2.6 million for the Crime Victims Assistance Fund.

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