



## OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN MENDELSON COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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### **PROCUREMENT REFORM BILL APPROVED; 'PAY-TO-PLAY' PROVISION DEFEATED**

**WASHINGTON, DC** – Procurement Reform legislation, authored by DC Council Chairman Phil Mendelson, was preliminarily approved today by unanimous vote. A pay-to-play provision banning political contributors from getting government contracts, however, was defeated.

A proposal to stop companies that want to do business with the District from contributing to District political races or PACs was defeated by a 7-6 vote. "This would reduce the perception that companies contributing to District officials and candidates are given preferential treatment," said Mendelson.

Other provisions were not controversial. One would prohibit contracts that outsource government decision making. "We need to limit contracts that essentially give third-party contractors the ability to make decisions on behalf of the government," Mendelson stated. "If we do not, it ends up costing us in terms of our ability to maintain management control of District programs and taxpayer funds."

"I'm disappointed the campaign contribution provision was defeated," Mendelson said. "This was a very simple provision, similar to the law in other states and the federal government. It speaks to the need to be sensitive to how the public perceives the integrity of government."

First reading on Bill 21-334 will take place during the June 28<sup>th</sup> Legislative meeting.

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