



OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN MENDELSON COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Tuesday May 15, 2018

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CHAIRMAN MENDELSON STATEMENT ON FY 2019 BUDGET PROPOSAL

WASHINGTON, DC -- DC Council Chairman Phil Mendelson released the following statement regarding the District's Fiscal Year 2019 Budget.

I'm proud of the budget I proposed to the Council today. Once again, the underlying theme of the budget being adopted by the Council is expanding affordability in the District. From a high level, the major highlights include:

- Increasing funding for voucher and voucher-related programs to help low income residents, homeless services, and survivors of domestic violence. We are adding over \$15 million above what the Mayor proposed, which she increased over the current year's budget.
- We're addressing the impact of real property taxes on small businesses by restructuring the commercial property tax rate and creating a circuit breaker for small retail businesses. Under the bill I'm presenting, retail businesses under \$2.5 million in sales will be eligible for a \$5,000 tax credit each year.
- We are finally inserting into the budget dedicated funding for arts & humanities. In dollars, the Fiscal Year 2019 arts budget is similar to what the Executive proposed, however, much of it was one-time funding. Moving forward there will be at least \$30 million in dedicated funding for this important segment of our economy.
- The District is meeting its commitment to provide new dedicated funding for Metro. This means about \$77 million in new taxes, the incidence of which will be slightly different from what was proposed by the Mayor.

When taking a closer look at the budget, you will see a lot of smaller changes proposed by Councilmembers to improve recreation centers, schools, and other infrastructure needs across the city. There are additional initiatives, such as improving school reform, promoting alternative transportation, expanding access to healthy foods and encouraging economic revitalization.

"I'm really proud of the work Councilmembers have done in reaching a consensus on the many different aspects of a budget that will improve our city," Mendelson stated.