



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

MEMORANDUM

TO: Nyasha Smith, Secretary to the Council

FROM: Chairman Phil Mendelson 
Councilmember Anita Bonds 

DATE: December 1, 2022

RE: **Request to Place Emergency Measures on the Agenda for the December 6, 2022
Legislative Meeting**

We are writing to request the following measures be placed on the December 6, 2022 legislative meeting, at the request of the Mayor:

- **District of Columbia Housing Authority Stabilization and Reform Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2022**
- **District of Columbia Housing Authority Stabilization and Reform Emergency Amendment Act of 2022**
- **District of Columbia Housing Authority Stabilization and Reform Temporary Amendment Act of 2022**

The emergency and temporary measures would create a seven-member Stabilization and Reform Board at the District of Columbia Housing Authority (DCHA) to replace the current thirteen-member Board of Commissioners. The Stabilization and Reform Board would include individuals with expertise in affordable housing development or operation, federal housing law and regulation, and capital project financing, as well as a resident member and the Chief Financial Officer or his designee. The Stabilization and Reform Board would not only aid the Executive Director of DCHA in adequately addressing the findings of the United States Department of Housing and Urban (HUD) development's recent assessment of DCHA but would be required to submit recommendations to the Mayor and the Council on the structure of a successor Board.

This Stabilization Board will be temporary. It will guide the Mayor, the Council, and the current DCHA Executive Director, as well as the new Executive Director next year, to achieve higher operating standards.

The measures would also direct the Executive Director of DCHA to submit quarterly reports to the Mayor and the Council on reform activities undertaken by DCHA to address the findings of the HUD assessment. Some of the many deficiencies cited in the HUD assessment include that Board members lacked knowledge of HUD regulations, that DCHA is operating with outdated and incomplete policies and procedures, that DCHA properties have high vacancy rates and many substandard units, and that the waitlist for public housing units lacks up-to-date information. The required reports would detail the progress being made in addressing these issues.

Please contact us or Mayor Bowser if you have any questions about this legislation.