



## Office of Chairman Phil Mendelson Council of the District of Columbia

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 21, 2013

**CONTACT:** Karen Sibert  
202.724.8164  
[ksibert@dccouncil.us](mailto:ksibert@dccouncil.us)

### **LARGE RETAILER ACCOUNTABILITY ACT TRANSMITTED TO MAYOR**

**WASHINGTON, DC** – On the eve of Labor Day weekend, Council Chairman Phil Mendelson has transmitted the “Large Retailer Accountability Act of 2013” to Vincent C. Gray for signature.

In his transmittal letter, Chairman Mendelson noted that this transmittal comes on the heels of recent events celebrating the historic 1963 March on Washington. “One of the nine printed goals of that March was an increase in the minimum wage,” wrote Mendelson. “The cry for freedom and justice recognized that economic equality is essential, too. The demand in 1963 was for a \$2 minimum wage. What is \$2 in 1963 worth today? \$15.27. If Dr. King thought \$15.27 an hour was needed for the dream, the least we can do is \$12.50.”

In response to critics arguing that this legislation goes against the District’s economic development interests, Mendelson’s letter stressed that the creation of low-wage jobs should not be the District government’s goal. “A sound economic development strategy for a sustainable District of Columbia should not be predicated on low wage jobs. The District needs jobs, but they should be decent jobs with decent wages.”

“Good wages are about respect,” Mendelson wrote. “Intertwined with the basic human need for a livable wage is the fundamental value that an hour of a worker’s time is worth something – something more than a poverty wage.”

Mayor Gray has ten business days to return the bill. However, the bill cannot be transmitted to Congress for the required Congressional review until after that body returns next month from summer recess.

###