



OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN MENDELSON
COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Tuesday, May 30, 2017

CONTACT: Lindsey Walton
lwalton@dccouncil.us

CHAIRMAN MENDELSON STATEMENT ON FY 2018 BUDGET

WASHINGTON, DC – After two months deliberation, today the DC Council unanimously approved the District’s Fiscal Year 2018 Budget. FY 2018 begins October 1, 2017.

“The approved local budget reflects a lot of work from the Council’s 11 committees and input from the Councilmembers. It also reflects our priorities: public education, affordable housing, and a diverse city,” said Mendelson.

The proposal that the Council unanimously approved includes the following modifications:

- Fully funds the capital needs for the city’s new **PAID FAMILY LEAVE** program.
- Increases resources in the **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER & REGULATORY AFFAIRS** for housing inspectors and permit processing.
- Improves affordability for the **FIRST TIME HOMEBUYER ACT** adopted by the Council last year.
- Maintains the District’s commitment to a world-class **EDUCATION** system by the following methods:
 - Doubles **UNIFORM PER STUDENT FUNDING FORMULA** beyond the Mayor’s recommendation.
 - **ACCELERATES THE MODERNIZATION** of seven public and DC public charter schools including West and Logan Montessori.
 - Adds \$4.5 million to Office of the State Superintendent of Education to increase the value of child care vouchers, expanding access to **HIGH QUALITY CHILDCARE** for low-income District families.

- Reforms **TANF BENEFITS** so extremely poor families are less likely to fall into homelessness; funds a “civil Gideon” program to provide counsel to indigent families to **STAVE OFF EVICTIONS**; Directs \$8.7 million toward housing and supportive services for the homeless and TANF.
- Increases budget for the Commission on the **ARTS & HUMANITIES** by \$8.3 million.

“We can celebrate our spending plan, but it is equally important that these tax dollars be spent wisely,” Mendelson added. “Throwing more at problems does not necessarily solve them, and spending carefully and effectively does mean each dollar goes farther. It is on us, the Council, through our oversight powers, to press for careful and effective spending.”

Second reading and vote on the FY 2018 Local Budget Act will take place Tuesday June 13 in the Council Chamber.