



OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN MENDELSON COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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CHAIRMAN MENDELSON STATEMENT ON FY 2020 BUDGET PROPOSAL

WASHINGTON, DC -- DC Council Chairman Phil Mendelson released the following statement regarding the District's Fiscal Year 2020 Budget.

Putting aside the matter of tax incentives, which are a mistake, the Council's budget represents an eye toward more effective utilization of District resources. The major highlights include:

- Maintaining the District's commitment to a world-class **EDUCATION** system, including
 - Increasing per student funding by a total of 3% -- about \$12 million more than the Mayor
 - Fully funding St. Coletta's of Greater Washington
 - Increasing funding for Early Literacy Grants; over \$2 million will be available
 - Restoring \$8.5 million of the funds removed from the 'Birth-to-Three for All' program
- Restructuring workforce housing to better leverage the private sector; In conjunction with the committee on **HOUSING** & Neighborhood Revitalization, adding \$7.1 million for vouchers; and restoring funding for homeless services outreach to about \$2.4 million dollars.
- There were no organizational cuts with regard to **PUBLIC SAFETY**. However, an additional \$4.3 million was budgeted for violence prevention including \$3.8 million in the Office of the Attorney General for a "Cure the Streets" program. Funding was also increased for Access to Justice programs.
- The Council ensures that an independent **ARTS & HUMANITIES** Commission will continue as intended under the law established in 1979. The Council is making more dollars available for arts organizations and adopting a funding formula that arts groups requested and endorsed, in order to ensure a more uniform and equitable process for funding.

I disagree with the Council's decision to raise taxes in an environment where our revenues are growing by hundreds of millions of dollars annually. These funds will assist some of the most vulnerable residents of the District, but only temporarily, as those initiatives are not getting recurring revenues.

"I am proud the Council increased supports for affordable housing and education," Mendelson said. "We have made a budget that better supports the priorities and needs of District residents."