



OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN MENDELSON
COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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**CHAIRMAN MENDELSON STATEMENT ON DISTURBING
HOLOCAUST LESSON AT WATKINS ELEMENTARY**

WASHINGTON, DC – DC Council Chairman Phil Mendelson released the following statement regarding the report that a teacher had students re-enact the Holocaust as part of a school lesson:

“The re-enactment of the Holocaust by third graders at the direction of a librarian at Watkins Elementary School was shocking and beyond belief,” Mendelson said.

“It’s been rightfully universally condemned. What is important, now, is what DCPS is going to do about it. I wrote the Chancellor early this morning; I have yet to hear back. How thoroughly will DCPS investigate key factors around this incident: what enabled the librarian to think this was appropriate? How did the librarian come to DCPS in the first place? What corrective actions will be taken in response? How is DCPS addressing the ill effects this incident may have had on the students at Watkins?”

“What happened cannot be undone, but what DCPS does about it now is critical. I am committed to pressing the Chancellor to ensure an adequate investigation and appropriate response.”