



OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN MENDELSON  
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**COUNCIL CHAIRMAN MENDELSON MOVES BILL REGULATING DC  
GOVERNMENT WHATSAPP USE**

**WASHINGTON, DC** – Tomorrow DC Council Chairman Phil Mendelson will move emergency legislation to preserve all communication by DC Government employees via the WhatsApp mobile phone application and any similar applications.

“After learning of the use of encrypted messaging apps, by members of the Executive Branch, it is an urgent matter that we boost transparency in District Government,” Mendelson said. “Transparency within the government is imperative for residents to trust their public servants.”

The legislation amends the District of Columbia Public Records Management Act of 1985 to ensure that communications created or received via electronic messaging applications are considered public records and the property of the District of Columbia. The legislation prohibits the use of settings that would automatically delete or destroy these records.

“I get it that many in government would like to conduct their business in private. But that is contrary to long-standing policy. We value open government. We don’t value auto-delete.”