


COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

MEMORANDUM

TO: Nyasha Smith, Secretary to the Council

FROM: Phil Mendelson, Chairman 

DATE: July 7, 2022

RE: **Request to Place Measure on the Agenda for July 12, 2022 Additional Legislative Meeting**

Please place the following measures on the agenda for the July 12, 2022 Additional Legislative Meeting:

- **Local Rent Supplement Program Eligibility Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2022**
- **Local Rent Supplement Program Eligibility Emergency Amendment Act of 2022**
- **Local Rent Supplement Program Eligibility Temporary Amendment Act of 2022**

On August 10, 2021, the Council approved the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Support Act of 2021 (D.C. Law 24-45). One of the subtitles included in the law, the Local Rent Supplement Program Enhancement Amendment Act of 2021 (the “Act”) required the District of Columbia Housing Authority (DCHA) to issue emergency and final rules that allow applicants to self-certify eligibility factors for locally-funded housing vouchers when an applicant cannot easily obtain documentation.

DCHA issued emergency rules on March 4, 2022, and the final rules on April 6, 2022 via PR 24-692, the District of Columbia Housing Authority Local Rent Supplement Tenant Based Program Regulations Approval Resolution of 2022. Final rules became effective on June 24, 2022.

While the text of the rules adheres to the intent of the Act, DCHA has not implemented the Act with fidelity. In guidance to applicants, DCHA notes that applicants are still required to submit a government-issued photo ID when applying. For individuals experiencing homelessness, this requirement could effectively delay placement into stable housing for a year or more. The guidance also requires applicants to provide a social security number, which automatically excludes people experiencing homelessness who are undocumented.

To ensure that DCHA’s implementation of the Act does not continue to circumvent the Council’s intent, this emergency makes it clear that applicants must be allowed to self-certify *any* eligibility factors and prohibits DCHA from inquiring about or considering citizenship or immigration status.

Copies of the draft measures, which I am co-introducing with Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau and Councilmember Brooke Pinto, are attached. Please call me or Blaine Stum if you have any questions at (202) 724-8092.

cc: All Councilmembers
Council Officers