

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
COMMITTEE REPORT**

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

DRAFT

TO: All Councilmembers

FROM: Chairman Phil Mendelson
Committee of the Whole

DATE: May 16, 2023

SUBJECT: Report on Bill 25-22, the “Allen Y. Lew Place Designation Act of 2023”

The Committee of the Whole, to which Bill 25-22, the “Allen Y. Lew Place Designation Act of 2023” was referred, reports favorably thereon with technical amendments and recommends approval by the Council.

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I. BACKGROUND AND NEED

On January 11, 2023, Bill 25-22, the “Allen Y. Lew Place Designation Act of 2023” was introduced by Councilmember Gray and five Councilmembers to officially redesignate Mount Vernon Place, N.W. between 7th Street N.W. and 9th Street, N.W. as Allen Y. Lew Place, N.E. The location is in Ward 5. An official naming typically involves the designation of postal addresses and enables the placement of the primary entrance to residences or offices.

Official Naming

Allen Y. Lew joined the District government in 1996, as the Managing Director of the Washington Convention Center Authority (now known as EventsDC). In that role, he oversaw the planning, development and construction of the new Washington Convention Center which was completed in 2003 at a total cost of over \$850 million, one of the District’s largest public building projects. From 2004 to 2007, Mr. Lew served as Chief Executive Officer of the District of Columbia Sports and Entertainment Commission (another precursor of EventsDC) from 2004 to 2007 where he managed the renovation and operation of the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium for the Washington Nationals baseball and D.C. United soccer teams. He also managed the

planning, site selection, development, and construction of a new Washington Nationals Ballpark which was completed in 2008.

In 2007, Mr. Lew was appointed Executive Director of the District of Columbia Office of Public Education Facilities Modernization which was responsible for construction, renovation, and stabilization of District of Columbia Public Schools facilities. During his time there, many long-neglected education facilities were brought up to 21st Century standards, with many projects hailed as examples of urban academic architecture for which the District received a number of awards for design innovation, construction excellence and environmental sustainability.

Mr. Lew was appointed City Administrator by then-Mayor Vincent C. Gray where he managed the District's budget and overall operations. This included a number of capital projects as well such as a major flood control project, a new streetcar system, and undergrounding electric power lines. In this role, he served on a number of boards, commissions, authorities, councils and special task forces, including DC Water, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, EventsDC, and the Inter-Agency Council on Homelessness, just to name a few. He served as City Administrator until the end of Mayor Gray's term.

Allen Lew had a reputation as an eccentric, innovative builder and problem solver and exhibited innovative leadership. He demonstrated an ability to deliver projects on-time and on-budget. His leadership style focused on delivering results and changing the status quo when things weren't proceeding as they should. Unfortunately, Allen Y. Lew succumbed to complications associated with the COVID-19 on June 23, 2020.

Legal Background

The Street and Alley Closing and Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201; D.C. Official Code § 9-204.01 *et seq.*) (“Act”) establishes procedures for closing streets and alleys, opening new streets and alleys, naming public spaces, and other procedures related to streets and alleys. Specifically, the Act authorizes the Council to symbolically or officially designate or change the name of any public space in the District of Columbia, including streets and alleys.¹ In October 2016, the Act was amended to create a clear distinction between official and symbolic street and alley namings and to establish distinct processes and requirements for each type of naming.²

An “official name” refers to the legal designation of an alley or a street for mailing address and other purposes,³ whereas a symbolic name for a street or alley shall be in addition to and subordinate to any name that is an official name.⁴ Streets that do not form an essential part of the rectangular system of streets shall be named after a prominent local feature in their vicinity, or by such other distinguishing designation as the Council may determine to be appropriate..⁵ “Allen Y. Lew Place” will be an official street designation.

¹ See D.C. Official Code § 9-204.01 *et seq.*

² See D.C. Law 21-161, effective from Oct. 8, 2016, Published in DC Register Vol 63 and Page 12933.

³ D.C. Official Code § 9-201.01(5A).

⁴ D.C. Official Code § 9-204.03a(a).

⁵ D.C. Official Code § 9-204.02(4).

The Act also establishes notice requirements for official designations. First, at least 15 days, but not more than 60 days prior to the scheduled public hearing, the initiator of the proposed designation shall: 1) give written notice of the date, time, and location of the hearing to each owner of property and household occupying property that abuts the alley or street, or portion thereof, proposed to be designated with an official name; and 2) post signs that indicate the date, time, and location of the Council hearing at each intersection with any other alley or street of the portion of the alley or street proposed to be designated.⁶ The initiator shall certify to the Council that the notice required has been given.⁷ These notice requirements may be waived if the ANC has weighed in in support of the designation. Second, at least 30 days prior to the scheduled public hearing, the initiator shall submit a copy of the proposed legislation for review and comment to each Advisory Neighborhood Commission (“ANC”) in which the portion of the alley or street to be designated is located.⁸ Third, at least five days prior to the hearing, the initiator shall submit to the Council letters or a petition in support of the proposal that have been signed by a majority of the owners of property and households occupying property that abuts the portion of the alley or street proposed to be designated with an official name.⁹

Lastly, prior to consideration of a designation by the Council, the Mayor shall provide to the Council a surveyor’s plat of the alley or street and adjacent properties.¹⁰ The plat is attached.

Regarding Bill 25-22, the spirit of the notice and posting requirements were met by the initiator. The initiator worked with Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2G to elicit support for the new name. In addition, while no petition was presented to the Committee, the only address on the currently designated Mt. Vernon Place is the Convention Center which also serves as the headquarters for EventsDC. EventsDC has written a letter of support for the redesignation. Therefore, the Committee recommends adoption of the Bill 25-22, notwithstanding the notice and petition requirements.

After the official street or alley designation legislation becomes law and all conditions required by the Council and the Act have been satisfied, DDOT will install signage indicating the official name of the alley or street or portion thereof, and remove signs, if any, with a previous name.¹¹ The Mayor shall update relevant records of the District of Columbia to reflect the official name of an alley or street, or portion thereof, including: Fire and Emergency Medical Service records, Homeland Security and Emergency Management records, District of Columbia maps, and any other record that the District of Columbia uses for way-finding or address purposes.¹² The Mayor shall also notify the United States Postal Service, other relevant government agencies as determined by the Mayor, and relevant private sector entities.¹³ Additionally, the Surveyor of the

⁶ See D.C. Official Code § 9-204.21(b).

⁷ D.C. Official Code § 9-204.21(e).

⁸ D.C. Official Code § 9-204.21 (d).

⁹ D.C. Official Code § 9-204.21(f). However, if the Mayor or a Councilmember introduces the designation without an initiator, then the petition requirement does not apply. D.C. Official Code § 9-204.21(i).

¹⁰ See D.C. Official Code § 9-204.21(g).

¹¹ See D.C. Official Code § 9-204.24(a)(3). There is no previous name that the Committee is aware of.

¹² See D.C. Official Code § 9-204.24(a)(1).

¹³ See D.C. Official Code § 9-204.24(a)(2).

District of Columbia shall record a copy of the legislation and the Surveyor’s plat in the Office of the Surveyor.¹⁴

Officially redesignating the street in front of the convention center that Allen Lew shepherded as Allen Y. Lew Place recognizes Mr. Lew’s contributions to the District, especially with regard to public buildings. For these reasons, the Committee of the Whole recommends the approval of Bill 25-22, the “Allen Y. Lew Place Designation Act of 2023.”

II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| October 17, 2022 | Bill 24-1025 the “Allen Y. Lew Place Designation Act of 2022” is introduced by Councilmember Gray together with Councilmember Pinto. |
| November 11, 2022 | Notice of a Public Hearing on Bill 24-1025 is published in the <i>District of Columbia Register</i> . |
| November 18, 2022 | Revised notice of a Public Hearing on Bill 24-1025 is published in the <i>District of Columbia Register</i> . |
| December 2, 2022 | Revised notice of a Public Hearing on Bill 24-1025 is published in the <i>District of Columbia Register</i> . |
| December 12, 2022 | The Committee of the Whole holds a hearing on Bill 24-1025. |
| January 11, 2023 | Bill 25-22 the “Allen Y. Lew Place Designation Act of 2023” is introduced by Councilmember Gray together with Councilmembers Bonds, Frumin, McDuffie, Pinto, and R. White. |
| January 17, 2023 | Bill 25-22 is “read” at a regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole and the referral to the Committee of the Whole is official. |
| January 20, 2023 | Notice of Intent to Act on Bill 25-22 is published in the <i>DC Register</i> . |
| May 16, 2023 | The Committee of the Whole marks up Bill 25-22. |

III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

Matthew Marcou, Chief of Staff, District Department of Transportation, testified on behalf of the Executive that it had “no objection” to the street naming in Bill 25-22.

¹⁴ D.C. Official Code § 9-204.24(c).

IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

ANC 2G, in which the proposed official designation is located, voted on April 12, 2023 (6-0-0) to support redesignating the street Allen Y. Lew Place. That resolution is attached.

V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole held a public hearing on several bills, including Bill 25-1025 (now Bill 25-22), on Monday, December 12, 2022. The testimony summarized below pertains to Bill 25-1025.

Alexander Padro, Executive Director, Shaw Main Streets, testified in support of the redesignation on behalf of the organization and recalled Mr. Lew's contributions to the Shaw neighborhood.

Warren Graves, Chairman, Allen Lew Memorial Committee, testified in support of the redesignation on behalf of the organization and spoke of Mr. Lew's contributions to the District.

Jon di Domenico, Partner, di Domenico + Partners, testified in support of the redesignation and of his long friendship and work with Mr. Lew.

Matthew Marcou, Chief of Staff, District Department of Transportation, testified on behalf of the Executive that it had "no objection" to the street naming.

The Committee received no testimony or comments in opposition to the designation.

VI. IMPACT ON EXISTING LAW

Bill 25-22 has no impact on existing law. D.C. Official Code § 9-204.01¹⁵ authorizes the Council to designate any public space. D.C. Official Code § 9-204.02 authorizes the Council to designate an official name for a street."¹⁶ Further, the Act provides that, with limited exception, no public space shall be named in honor of any living person or in honor of any person who has been deceased less than two years.¹⁷ Mr. Lew passed away in 2020.

VII. FISCAL IMPACT

According to the March 30, 2023 Fiscal Impact Statement of the Chief Financial Officer, funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2023 through fiscal year 2026 budget and financial plan to implement the provisions of the proposed legislation. The cost to the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) is an estimated \$65 per official sign for fabrication and \$125 for installation, totaling \$760 for four signs. The cost of Bill 25-22 can be absorbed.

¹⁵ Street and Alley Closing and Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201).

¹⁶ D.C. Code § 9-204.02.

¹⁷ See D.C. Code § 9-204.05.

VIII. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

- Section 1 States the short title of Bill 25-22.
- Section 2 Officially redesignates Mount Vernon Place, N.W. between 7th Street N.W. and 9th Street, N.W. as Allen Y. Lew Place (as depicted in the attached plat).
- Section 3 Adopts the Fiscal Impact Statement.
- Section 4 Establishes the effective date by stating the standard 30-day Congressional review language.

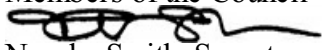
IX. COMMITTEE ACTION

X. ATTACHMENTS

1. Bill 25-22 as introduced.
2. Written Testimony.
3. Surveyor's Plat.
4. Fiscal Impact Statement for Bill 25-22.
5. Legal Sufficiency Determination for Bill 25-22.
6. Committee Print for Bill 25-22.

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20004

Memorandum

To : Members of the Council
From :  Nyasha Smith, Secretary to the Council
Date : Monday, January 16, 2023
Subject : Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Office of the Secretary on Wednesday, January 11, 2023. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "Allen Y. Lew Place Designation Act of 2023", B25-0022

INTRODUCED BY: Councilmembers Gray, Bonds, Frumin, Pinto, McDuffie, and R. White

The Chairman is referring this legislation to Committee of the Whole.

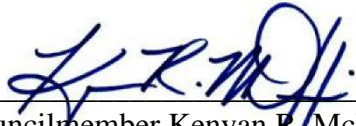
Attachment
cc: General Counsel
Budget Director
Legislative Services



Councilmember Brooke Pinto



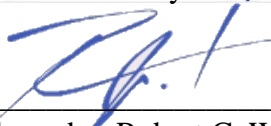
Councilmember Vincent C. Gray



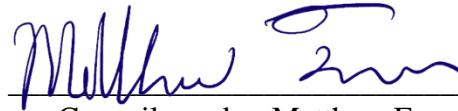
Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie



Councilmember Anita Bonds



Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.



Councilmember Matthew Frumin

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

1 To officially designate the 700 and 800 blocks of Mount Vernon Place, N.W. as Allen Y. Lew.
2 Place, N.W.

3
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
5 act may be cited as the “Allen Y. Lew. Place Designation Act of 2023”.

6 Sec. 2. Pursuant to sections 401, 402 and 421 of the Street and Alley Closing and
7 Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201; D.C. Official
8 Code §§ 9-204.01, 9-204.02. and 9-204.21), the Council officially designates the 700 and 800
9 blocks of Mount Vernon Place, N.W. as “Allen Y. Lew Place, N. W.”.

10 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

11 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal

12 impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,
13 approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

14 Sec. 4. Effective date.

15 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
16 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as
17 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December
18 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of
19 Columbia Register.



Where DC Comes Together

TESTIMONY OF SHAW MAIN STREETS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ALEXANDER M. PADRO ON BILL 24-1025, THE ALLEN Y. LEW PLACE DESIGNATION ACT OF 2022 AT THE HEARING ON “STREET AND ALLEY CLOSURES AND NAMINGS” BEFORE THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, DECEMBER 12, 2022

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee and Committee Staff. I am Alexander M. Padro, Executive Director of Shaw Main Streets since 2004, and a former 10 term ANC Commissioner and current Commissioner-Elect representing central Shaw.

As the historic preservation organization serving central Shaw’s commercial corridors, Shaw Main Streets supports Bill 24-1025, the Allen Y. Lew Place Designation Act of 2022, which would officially rename Mount Vernon Place to honor the late Allen Lew. This support is consistent with our organization’s past support for ceremonial namings of streets, alleys and public spaces in Shaw to honor individuals, institutions and businesses important to the neighborhood and city’s history. These include Carter G. Woodson Park, Edward Kennedy “Duke” Ellington Plaza, Chuck Brown Way, Shiloh Way, Cecelia’s Way, Holzbeirlein Bakery Way, Joe and Mae Hurd All Sports Club Way, and Wiltberger Club House Way, the last three of which are currently under Congressional review.

The proposal to permanently rename Mount Vernon Place in honor of Allen Lew is particularly significant to me as for the first time, I am able to support honoring someone I knew personally. In my early days as a Shaw neighborhood activist and Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner, I had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Lew as Director of the Washington Convention Center Authority as he worked to build the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. In my dealings with him, I always found Mr. Lew to be approachable, straightforward and responsive to community concerns and relentless in ensuring that his magnum opus, the Convention Center, was completed on time. His other DC accomplishments, including building the Nationals Stadium, renovating DC public schools and service as City Administrator notwithstanding, it is his connection to the Convention Center, a community anchor in the middle of our neighborhood, that makes naming the street whose address the Convention Center bears important to Shaw.

Having a DC street permanently named for Mr. Lew is a fitting tribute to a man who committed much of his professional career to building and improving our city’s built environment. It will also help Shaw residents and visitors alike learn more about the honoree and his accomplishments and his relevance to our neighborhood. Shaw Main Streets hopes that when residents and visitors alike learn that the Walter E. Washington Convention Center’s address is 801 Allen Y. Lew Place, they will search the Internet for the answer to the question, “Who was Allen Lew and why is this street named for him?”

Thank you for the opportunity to express Shaw Main Streets’ support for this legislation. I am available to answer any questions you may have for me, now or after the hearing.

#

**Testimony of Warren Graves on Bill 24-1025,
“The Allen Y. Lew Place Designation Act of 2022”**

**Before the Committee of the Whole
Monday, December 12, 2022/12:30 PM**

Good afternoon, Chairman Mendelson and members of the Committee of the Whole, I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you in support of Bill 24-1025, the Allen Y. Lew Place Designation Act of 2022.

My name is Warren Graves and I am representing the Allen Lew Memorial Committee, which numbers some 100 members and is composed of Allen’s friends, colleagues and former staff and consultants. I also worked with Allen from 2004 until 2015. During this period I served as his chief of staff when he served as Executive Director of the District of Columbia Sports and Entertainment Commission, when he served as Executive Director of the Mayor’s Office of Public Education Facilities Modernization and when he served as City Administrator.

On June 23, 2020, Allen Y. Lew succumbed to complications associated with COVID. Allen’s illness and passing was a shock to all who knew him and left a void in the lives of the many friends and colleagues that Allen came to know during his time in the District of Columbia.

On September 11, 2020, former staff members, long-time friends, colleagues and associates participated in a Zoom event to remember Allen and to observe and celebrate what would have been his 70th birthday.

During this virtual birthday celebration participants recalled Allen’s warmth, his generosity, his devotion to staff, his attention to detail and, most importantly, his contributions to the District of Columbia. The celebration lasted for some two hours and a consensus of opinion was formed that Allen needed to be remembered and honored for his contributions to the District of Columbia.

Allen’s passing occurred at the height of the COVID pandemic and his family was not provided the opportunity to give him a proper funeral or memorial service. On October 28, 2021, our committee, the Allen Lew Memorial Committee, organized and hosted a Memorial Celebration at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. Some twenty-two members of Allen’s family came from California, Illinois, New York and Connecticut to participate in the Memorial Celebration.

When we modernized the District’s public schools, Allen used to say that he wanted the children to want to come to school and he wanted them to be filled with a sense of awe when they entered the school building. Allen attracted world renowned architects to create the spaces that children love to enter. The new and modernized District Public Schools and facilities have amenities that are on par with those of private institutions, one only has to look at Dunbar Senior High School, Duke Ellington’s School of the Performing Arts, the Wilson Aquatic Center, Roosevelt Senior High School, Cardozo Senior High School to see the care and attention that was given to design and construction.

Warren Graves Testimony

Page 2

When Allen was working on the city's new convention center, now named the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, he said that he wanted the convention center to rival the federal buildings in the city. He wanted the convention center to reflect a sense of permanence.

Most of the work that Allen performed as City Administrator was less visible than the iconic buildings he constructed that altered the cityscape of the District. He shepherded the District government through the October 2013 federal government shutdown. During the shutdown, the District government remained open, employees, contractors and vendors were paid on time, and there was no break of services provided to District residents.

As City Administrator, Allen tackled and solved a 100 year flooding problem in the Bloomingdale and Le Droit Park neighborhoods. He chaired the Mayor's Power Line Undergrounding Task Force, which was formed to address the black outs and loss of electricity that happened with regularity after heavy winds and thunderstorms. These efforts were not seen by the public but Allen made things happen and in so doing, strengthened the unseen fabric that holds neighborhoods together.

On all the construction projects that Allen oversaw, particularly the District public schools and the Washington Nationals Ballpark, he made sure that contracting firms that were minority and/or female owned were provided opportunities to bid on projects. And when those companies were awarded contracts, Allen instituted a system that paid minority and female owned companies every two weeks. In addition, he established a revolving fund from which these companies could borrow or access funds necessary to purchase supplies and equipment.

Allen was eccentric, an innovative builder, a problem solver and a can-do manager. He established a well-deserved reputation for completing projects on-time and on budget.

Allen changed this city and he changed it for the better.

Allen deserves to be remembered and honored for the contributions he made to this city. He deserves an official and permanent memorial, naming a street symbolically does not do honor to his name. I cannot imagine anyone opposing the passage of this legislation and I urge the Council to pass Bill 24-1025 unanimously.

Again, I appreciate your attention to this legislation and thank you for allowing me to testify.

Testifying in Support of Bill 24-1025, the Allen Y. Lew Place Designation Act of 2022.

Submitted by John di Domenico, AIA

My name is John di Domenico. I am an Architect, Urban Designer, and a Board Member of the Washington Architectural Foundation.

When an individual through their actions initiates and oversees extraordinary change in a city – change effecting its, look and the quality of life in the community, the individual has permanently changed the physical and social landscape and merits recognition that is a permanent designated street name.

Allen Y. Lew was a colleague and friend for 50 years. I had the privilege of working with Allen on a Convention Center, and the modernization of D.C. schools.

Allen had a talent, indeed magic, to get complex projects done. He was hard driving and no nonsense. You had to get to his level of intensity to be a part of the team for change. But it was a thrill because you were a part of a vision beyond that of your project.

In 1996 Allen Y. Lew arrived in Washington where he was responsible for directing the design and construction of the Washington Convention Center. Upon its completion he moved on to oversee the design and construction of the Nationals Stadium.

Perhaps his most significant legacy is the design of new public schools and the plan for the extensive modernization of the entire D.C. public school system.

As we reflect on equity, and community building, Allen is a role model for our time. He was not a convention goer, but he built a world class center that redistributed income to underrepresented neighborhoods.

He never played baseball, yet he completed an admired stadium that served as a catalyst for the revitalization of the entire area where it stood.

Most of all, as an architect he never designed a school. Yet he advocated for design excellence, developed and implemented plans for new and modernized schools across the District. Thousands of students were impacted by learning within inspiring state-of-the-art spaces.

The District's Street names tell the story. Through his actions, Allen Y. Lew shaped, across the city, iconic places for assembly, recreation, and education. The story of this District-wide change should be told at a prominent icon where local and international audiences come together. This can happen with the renaming of Mt. Vernon Place to Allen Y. Lew Place at the Washington Convention Center.

I urge you to support this action with the passage of Bill 24-1025.

Committee of the Whole (Council)

From: Paul J Cohn <iampjc@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 12:39 PM
To: Committee of the Whole (Council)
Subject: Testimony in support of 24-1025, the Allen Y. Lew place designation act of 2022

Mr. Chairman & members of the City Council. My name is Paul J Cohn I was a member of the Washington Convention Center Authority that hired Allen Lew to be in charge of the construction of our new Convention Center. I had the pleasure of working with Allen for over 8 years. At that time little did we realize what an impact Allen would have on changing the face of our Capitol City. At the time it was being built the Center was the largest steel project under construction in the country. Allen delivered the award winning project on time and in budget. He then went on to build the National's Park Stadium on time and in budget. He was also in charge of the city's school renovation project. We was the City Administer under Mayor Gray. It is a fitting award to be able to honor a man that gave so much of his life to the betterment of our Great City. Thanks for you consideration of approving this Bill Paul J Cohn

December 9, 2022



801 Mount Vernon Place NW
Washington, DC 20001

P: 202.249.3000
F: 202.249.3255

eventsdc.com

Via E-Mail and Delivery

Committee of the Whole
The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 504
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

On behalf of the Events DC Board of Directors and the President and Chief Executive Officer, this letter is in reference to Bill 24-1025, "Allen Y. Lew Place Designation Act of 2022." As owner of the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, the sole property fronting and abutting Mount Vernon Place, NW - the street proposed to be designated with an official name change - we are pleased to support this legislation.

Allen was instrumental in executing projects that were foundational to the growth and success of the development of local and national landmarks across our city, paving the path for what is widely considered a legendary cityscape of iconic venues and space. A native of New York City, Allen Lew was recruited to the District in 1996 as the Washington Convention Center Authority Managing Director of Development to build the award-winning Walter E. Washington Convention Center. He oversaw the planning, development, and construction of the \$850 million project, which was completed on-time and on-budget while achieving 46% CBE participation and implementing innovative labor practices and job training programs. Mr. Lew also worked on numerous other major projects in our city, including the transformation of RFK Stadium to a major league-ready ballpark in preparation for the return of baseball after a 34-year absence, the construction of the Nationals Park, the construction and modernization of 126 DC Public Schools and DC Government facilities, and the development of Audi Field.

Events DC recognizes the significant impact of Allen Lew's contributions to our venues and to buildings across the District of Columbia.

Thank you for your consideration. You are more than welcome to contact us via Chief of Staff Sheila Miller at smiller@eventsdc.com.

Sincerely,

Max Brown

Max Brown, Chairman
Events DC Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angie M. Gates". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a circled "G" at the end.

Angie M. Gates
President and Chief Executive Officer

Cc: The Honorable Vincent C. Gray
The Honorable Brooke Pinto

TESTIMONY OF

LINDA GREENAN

IN SUPPORT OF

B24-1025, THE ALLEN Y. LEW PLACE DESIGNATION ACT OF 2022

BEFORE

THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

DECEMBER 12, 2022

My name is Linda Greenan. I live in Ward 2 at 2700 Virginia Avenue, NW. Thank you for allowing me to testify on Bill 24-1025, the Allen Y. Lew Place Designation Act of 2022. Thank you, Chairman Mendelson for holding a hearing on this bill and thank you Councilmembers Gray and Pinto for introducing it. I strongly support the bill and urge the Council to approve it as written.

I knew and worked with Allen Lew when I served as a board member on the DC Sports & Entertainment Commission, which returned Major League Baseball to DC in 2005 and then built and opened in 2008, Nationals Ball Park in the Capitol Riverfront neighborhood, an area largely unknown in the city at the time. Allen was recruited by the Commission from the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, to ready RFK Stadium for the Washington Nationals inaugural season while simultaneously building Nationals Ball Park as the permanent location for the team. At the time, RFK was home to DC United, the city's Major League Soccer team. One of the things that largely went unnoticed but was emblematic of Allen and his ability to get really big things done without attention or fanfare, was the need to reconfigure RFK between every baseball game and every soccer game. It was literally a feat of engineering. In order to keep DC United at RFK and to maintain the soccer field, the bleachers had to be removed from the third baseline and the pitcher's mound was made to be retractable, having to be raised for every baseball game and lowered for every soccer game, then covered with turf to configure the playing field for soccer. Again, this happened for every baseball game and every soccer game for 3 years without a hitch and nearly unknown to fans and players.

At the same time, Allen was overseeing the site selection, development, pre-construction and hiring a slew of companies needed to build Nationals Ball Park, completed on-time and on-budget, opening as planned in 2008, a mere 3-years after the team arrived in DC.

Just before Nationals Ball Park opened in 2007 Allen was recruited by then-Mayor Fenty to head up the newly created Office of Public Education Facilities and Modernization where he managed and oversaw \$3.5 billion of construction and renovation of every DC public school, returning them to their glory. Not only were the buildings renovated as state-of-the-art academic institutions but the auxiliary spaces such as the playing fields were also upgraded as world class sports facilities. Allen Lew transformed DC Public Schools into facilities that are recognized models of urban academic architectural design, sustainable construction and innovative excellence.

From his work on the school system, Allen became then-Mayor Gray's City Administrator where he administered nearly \$10 billion annually in city operations and \$7 billion in capital initiatives guiding to fruition such large infrastructure projects as a new streetcar system and undergrounding electric power lines to enhance reliability during storm events.

In essence, when you look across the District, there are an amazing number of really big projects that Allen Lew managed, supervised and completed that changed the landscape of the city. It is only fitting that his name should be permanently affixed to the street in front of the

Walter E. Washington Convention Center since this is the building where Allen first began his work in the District of Columbia. Completed nearly 20-years ago in 2003, the Convention Center, today, still ably competes with other more newly built convention facilities, serving as one of the top 10 convention centers in the country.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Council to pass Bill 24-1025 as written and permanently name the street in front of the Convention Center, Allen Y. Lew Place, thereby giving Allen a well-deserved place in this city's history and honoring the critical role he played in amplifying the city's built environment. And which, for at least two of those big projects – Nationals Park and the Walter E. Washington Convention Center – enhance the city's economic well-being.

Thank you, again, for holding this hearing and allowing me to testify.



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2G

ANC 2G01: Anthony Brown, *Treasurer*
ANC 2G02: Alexander M. Padro, *Chair*
ANC 2G03: Alex Lopez, *Secretary*
ANC 2G04: Steven McCarty
ANC 2G05: Sheena Berry
ANC 2G06: Rachelle P. Nigro, *Vice Chair*

PO Box 26181
Washington, DC 20001-9997

2G@ANC.DC.GOV

April 17, 2023

ANC 2G RES. 2023-019

PHIL MENDELSON
CHAIRMAN
COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVE NW
WASHINGTON DC 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

Regarding B25-0022, "Allen Y. Lew Place Designation Act of 2023":

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2G conducted a public meeting on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, virtually via Zoom, at which the subject legislation was reviewed.

At the Commission's meeting, duly noticed, with this case listed in the notice, with a quorum present (four out of six Commissioners required to be in attendance to achieve a quorum), ANC 2G voted unanimously (6 in favor, 0 opposed, and no abstentions) to support the Council's approval of B25-0022 and the renaming of the 700-800 blocks of Mount Vernon Place, NW as Allen Y. Lew Place, NW and that said support be communicated in writing to the Council of the District of Columbia.

In considering this matter, the Commission determined the following:

- 1) The street which the proposed legislation would rename is located in Single Member District 2G05.
- 2) Allen Y. Lew (1950-2020), as Managing Director of the Washington Convention Center Authority, oversaw the planning, development and construction of the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, located in ANC 2G. Later in his career, as Chief Executive Officer of the District of Columbia Sports and Entertainment Commission, he managed the renovation and operation of the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium and the planning, site selection, development, and construction of the Washington Nationals Ballpark. As Executive Director of the District of Columbia Office of Public Education Facilities Modernization, Lew oversaw \$3.5 billion of construction, renovation, and stabilization work on District of Columbia Public Schools buildings and facilities. He also served as City Administrator during the Gray administration.
- 3) Lew died in 2020 from the novel coronavirus, COVID-19.
- 4) The Allen Y. Lew Memorial Committee identified the official designation of the 700 and 800 blocks of Mount Vernon Place, NW as Allen Y. Lew Place, NW as an appropriate means of honoring Lew and his contributions to the District of Columbia, and to recognize the lasting impact of his work on the cultural, business and civic life of the city. The main entrance to the Walter E. Washington Convention Center is located on the street to be renamed for Lew.
- 5) No objections to the Commission's proposed action were registered prior to or at the Commission's meeting.

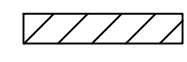
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2G recommends that the Council of the District of Columbia approve B25-0022, thereby granting ANC 2G's recommendation the Great Weight provided for in the ANC statute.

Sincerely,



Alexander M. Padro
Chair, ANC 2G

cc: Sheena Berry
Evan Cash
Vincent Gray

PURSUANT TO D.C. ACT _____ EFFECTIVE _____,
THE STREET SHOWN THUS:  IS OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED
AS "ALLEN Y. LEW PLACE, N.W."

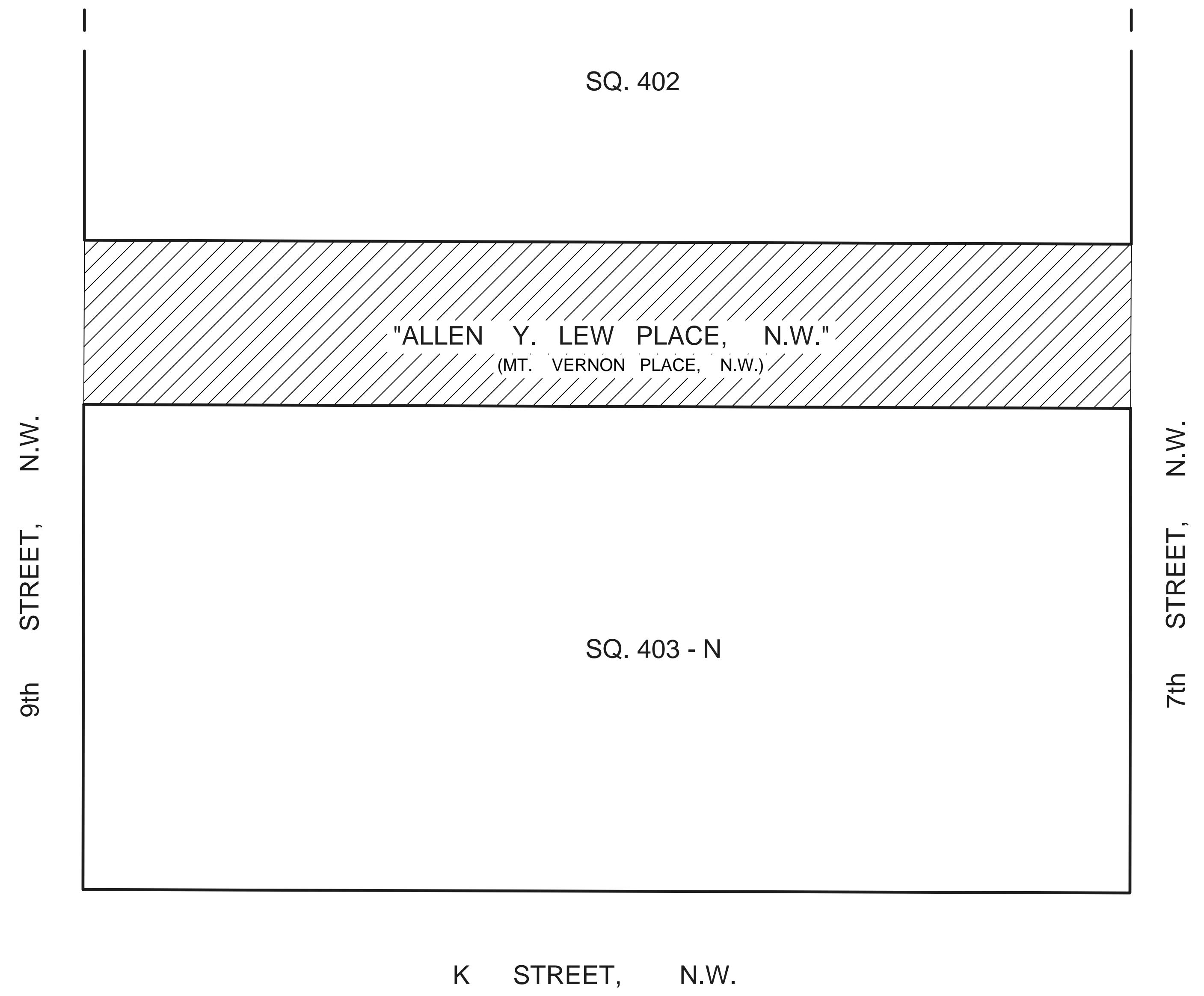
OFFICIAL NAMING OF STREET

"ALLEN Y. LEW PLACE, N.W."

OFFICE OF THE SURVEYOR, D.C.
_____, 2022

I CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAT IS CORRECT AND IS RECORDED.

SURVEYOR, D.C.



SURVEYOR'S OFFICE, D.C.	
Made for: <u>DDOT B24-01025</u>	
Drawn by: <u>A.S.</u> Checked by: <u>AB</u>	
Record and computations by: <u>B. MYERS</u>	
Recorded at: _____	
Recorded in Book _____ Page _____	SR-23-0000
Scale: 1 inch = 40 feet	File No. 23-11111

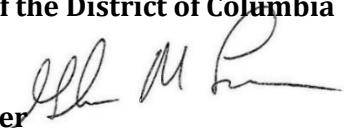
Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



Glen Lee
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Glen Lee
Chief Financial Officer 

DATE: March 30, 2023

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Allen Lew Place Designation Act of 2023

REFERENCE: Bill 25-22, Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on February 17, 2023

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2023 through fiscal year 2026 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

Background

Allen Lew was a city planning executive who led some of the city's most expansive capital projects, including the new Walter E. Washington Convention Center (Convention Center) as the general manager of the Washington Convention Center Authority, and both the renovation of RFK Stadium and the development of Nationals Stadium as head of the D.C. Sports and Entertainment Commission. He joined District government to oversee the renovation and rebuilding of public school buildings and later served as the District's City Administrator under Mayor Vincent Gray. Mr. Lew died of COVID-19 on June 23, 2020.

The bill officially renames Mount Vernon Place, N.W. between 7th Street, N.W. and 9th Street, N.W. as Allen Lew Place, N.W.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2023 through fiscal year 2026 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) will fabricate and install four signs to officially designate the roadway as Allen Lew Place. The signs will cost \$760 and DDOT can absorb the cost within its existing budgeted resources.

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: Bill 25-22, "Allen Lew Place Designation Act of 2023," Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on February 17, 2023

The Convention Center is managed by Events DC¹ and is the only property located along Mount Vernon Place, N.W. Events DC will need to update any references to its location to reflect Allen Lew Place, N.W.

¹ <https://eventsdc.com/about>

1 **DRAFT COMMITTEE PRINT**
2 **Committee of the Whole**
3 **May 16, 2023**

4
5 A BILL

6
7
8 25-22
9

10
11 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
12

13
14 _____
15 To officially redesignate Mount Vernon Place, N.W. between 7th Street N.W. and 9th Street,
16 N.W., as Allen Lew Place, N.W.
17

18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
19 act may be cited as the “Allen Lew Place Designation Act of 2023”.

20 Sec. 2. Pursuant to sections 401, 402(4), and notwithstanding section 421, of the Street
21 and Alley Closing and Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law
22 4-201; D.C. Official Code §§ 9-204.01, 9-204.02(4), and 9-204.21), the Council officially
23 redesignates Mount Vernon Place, N.W. between 7th Street N.W. and 9th Street, N.W, as “Allen
24 Lew Place, N.W”.

25 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

26 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal
27 impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,
28 approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

29 Sec. 4. Effective date.

30 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
31 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as
32 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December
33 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code §1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of
34 Columbia Register.