



OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN MENDELSON
COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Monday May 15, 2023

CONTACT: Lindsey Walton

lwalton@dccouncil.us

CHAIRMAN MENDELSON STATEMENT ON HIS FY 2024 BUDGET PROPOSAL

WASHINGTON, DC -- Chairman Phil Mendelson released the following statement ahead of the first vote on the Council's proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Budget and Financial Plan.

"This budget proposal focuses on supporting Education, Housing, Public Safety, and Downtown Recovery," Mendelson said. "We did our best to provide funding for many of the Councilmembers' priorities and to make sure this budget truly is a fair shot for District residents."

The details on the proposed budget proposal include:

- **\$23.9 MILLION** in additional funding to make individual District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) whole after cuts proposed in the Mayor's budget. These **ADDITIONAL EDUCATION FUNDS** will go **DIRECTLY** to schools, as required by the Schools First in Budgeting Amendment Act. We're also increasing the at risk concentration to 0.07.
- **\$15 MILLION** more to the Charter education sector for educator pay to total **\$73.6 MILLION**.
- **\$3.9 MILLION** for flexible teacher scheduling.
- **\$6.3 MILLION TO UDC** over the next four years to subsidize a new **DEGREE PROGRAM PIPELINE FOR SOCIAL WORKERS**.
- **\$35 MILLION** toward one-time **EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE (ERAP) FUNDING** for a total of \$43 MILLION.
- **\$18.6 MILLION TO THE ACCESS TO JUSTICE INITIATIVE**. This restoration for civil legal services will provide legal representation for residents facing eviction and denial of benefits.
\$9.7 MILLION for 230 units of **PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING VOUCHERS**. This includes 150 vouchers for individuals, 80 vouchers for families and 16 FTEs to get vouchers out the door faster.
- **\$10.5 MILLION TO VICTIM AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES in FY24**, for a total of \$27.4 million.
- Shifts crime scene workers from Metropolitan Police Department back to the Department of Forensic Science.
- Reinstates **26 NEW INSPECTORS** at the Department of Buildings.
- **\$11.97 MILLION TO CREATE A 24-HOUR BUS NETWORK** for the 13 most frequently used WMATA bus routes. This is vital to aid in the revitalization of the downtown by providing public transportation for late-night workers and customers. We're also restoring the Circulator Bus routes for one year.
- Funding for **"SAFE COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR GRANTS"**.
- **\$3 MILLION IN RETAIL GRANTS FOR DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES**.
- **\$8 MILLION FOR PLANNING OF K STREET TRANSITWAY**.
- **RESINSTATES FESTIVAL FUND** to support events that promote neighborhood vibrancy.

“What the Mayor put forth was a much tighter budget than we’ve had in recent years,” Mendelson continued. “I think if you add up what we’ve managed to do, we were able to find considerable resources for these needs.”

The Council will hold its first vote on the proposed budget tomorrow, May 16th and a second vote on the in two weeks on May 30th.