

**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: June 20, 2023

SUBJECT: Report on Bill 25-70, the “St. Augustine School Way Designation Act of 2023”

The Committee of the Whole, to which Bill 25-70, the “St. Augustine School Way Designation Act of 2023” was referred, reports favorably thereon with technical amendments and recommends approval by the Council.

CONTENTS

I.	Background and Need.....	1
II.	Legislative Chronology.....	3
III.	Position of the Executive	3
IV.	Comments of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions	3
V.	Summary of Testimony.....	4
VI.	Impact on Existing Law	4
VII.	Fiscal Impact.....	4
VIII.	Section-by-Section Analysis.....	4
IX.	Committee Action.....	5
X.	Attachments	5

I. BACKGROUND AND NEED

On January 25, 2023, Bill 25-70, the “St. Augustine School Way Designation Act of 2023” was introduced by Councilmember Nadeau. This bill would symbolically designate the 1400 block of V Street, N.W. as St. Augustine School Way. The location is in Ward 1. A symbolic naming is for ceremonial purposes and shall be in addition to and subordinate to any name that is an official name.

St. Augustine Catholic Church, established in 1858, is one of the District’s oldest churches having served the community for over a century. The church stands as a testament to the rich history and spiritual legacy of the Catholic faith and in particular is known as the “Mother Church of Black Catholics” as it was a beacon to the enslaved and free Black population of the District after the Civil War. The church is located at the northeast corner of 15th and V Streets, N.W.

Alongside the church, St. Augustine Catholic School (fronting V Street) offers pre-kindergarten through eighth grade education opportunities. The school prides itself on fostering a

nurturing and inclusive environment that promotes academic excellence and spiritual growth. The school focuses on holistic development, combining rigorous academics with religious teachings and character formation. St. Augustine's was also an important player in the original Reeves Center Development where the church ceded some land and developed affordable housing. As a community partner the church and the school have always made their buildings available for community meetings and provided office and meeting space for many affordable housing developers and nonprofits.

St. Augustine Catholic Church and School are deeply committed to community outreach and engagement. The church hosts various ministries and programs that aim to uplift and support the local community. From food drives to youth programs, they actively strive to make a positive impact on the lives of those in need. Through its educational and outreach efforts, St. Augustine Catholic Church and School continue to be a pillar of faith, education, and service in the heart of the District.

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. 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 An official name of an alley shall contain the suffix “Alley” or “Court.”⁵ A symbolic name of a street or alley shall contain the suffix “Way” or “Plaza.”⁶ As established by Bill 25-70, “St. Augustine School Way” is a symbolic designation of the 1400 block of V Street, N.W.

The Act also establishes a notice requirement for symbolic designations. Pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 9-204.23(b), the ANC in which the symbolic designation is located must be put on notice of the public hearing regarding the proposed naming.

After the symbolic street or alley designation legislation becomes law and all conditions required by the Council and the Act have been satisfied, the District Department of Transportation

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

² See D.C. Law 21-0161, effective from Oct. 8, 2016, Published in the *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 § 9-204.03(c).

⁶ D.C. Official Code § 9-204.03a(c).

(“DDOT”) shall install signage indicating the symbolic name of the alley or street, or portion thereof. Such signage shall be uniform and distinct from signs for official names.⁷

Symbolically designating this portion of V Street N.W. will memorialize the contributions of St. Augustine’s to the community. Thus, the Committee of the Whole recommends Council approval of Bill 25-70, the “St. Augustine School Way Designation Act of 2023.”

II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

January 25, 2023	Bill 25-70, the “St. Augustine School Way Designation Act of 2023” is introduced by Councilmember Nadeau.
January 3, 2023	Notice of Intent to Act on Bill 25-70 is published in the <i>DC Register</i> .
February 7, 2023	Bill 25-70 is officially read at a Regular Legislative Meeting and the referral to the Committee of the Whole is official.
February 24, 2023	Notice of a public hearing on Bill 25-70 is published in the <i>DC Register</i> .
March 14, 2023	The Committee of the Whole holds a hearing on Bill 25-70.
June 20, 2023	The Committee of the Whole marks up Bill 25-70.

III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

Brandt Miller, Interim Manager, Policy and Legislative Affairs Division, District Department of Transportation, testified on behalf of the Executive that it had “no objection” to the symbolic street naming in Bill 25-70. DDOT testified at the hearing that the cost of the signage contemplated in the bill is \$190 (there are two street signs on the 14th Street end of the block and one on the 15th Street end). His testimony is attached.

IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

The Committee received no testimony or comments from any Advisory Neighborhood Commission.

⁷ D.C. Official Code § 9-204.24(d).

V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole held a public hearing on two bills, including Bill 25-70 on Tuesday, March 14, 2023. Copies of additional comments for the record are attached.

Brandt Miller, Interim Manager, Policy and Legislative Affairs Division, District Department of Transportation, testified on behalf of the Executive that it had “no objection” to the designation.

Carolyn Matthews, Member of St. Augustine Church and School, provided written comments in support of the proposed designation in which she described many of the valuable contributions of the church and school to the community.

The Committee received no testimony or comments in opposition to Bill 25-70.

VI. IMPACT ON EXISTING LAW

Bill 25-70 has no impact on existing law. D.C. Official Code § 9-204.01⁸ authorizes the Council to name any public space. D.C. Official Code § 9-204.03(a) authorizes the Council to designate a symbolic name for an alley “that shall be in addition to and subordinate to any name that is an official name.”⁹ Bill 25-70 symbolically designates the 1400 block of V Street, N.W. as St. Augustine School Way. Additionally, “a symbolic name of a street or alley shall contain only the suffix Way or Plaza,” such as proposed by Bill 25-70.¹⁰ Lastly, 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.¹¹

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 proposed legislation. Because the cost to the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) is estimated at \$190 (\$65 per sign for fabrication and \$125 for installation), the cost of Bill 25-70 can be absorbed.

VIII. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1 States the short title of Bill 25-70.

Section 2 Symbolically designates the 1400 block of V Street, N.W. as St. Augustine School Way.

⁸ Street and Alley Closing and Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201).

⁹ D.C. Code § 9-204.03(a).

¹⁰ D.C. Code § 9-204.03(c).

¹¹ See D.C. Code § 9-204.05.

Section 3 Adopts the Fiscal Impact Statement.

Section 4 Establishes the effective date by stating the standard 30-day congressional review language.

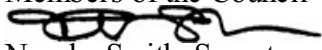
IX. COMMITTEE ACTION

X. ATTACHMENTS

1. Bill 25-70 as introduced.
2. Testimony for Bill 25-70.
3. Map of Proposed Designation.
4. Fiscal Impact Statement for Bill 25-70.
5. Legal Sufficiency Determination for Bill 25-70.
6. Committee Print for Bill 25-70.

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 : Friday, January 27, 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 25, 2023. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "St. Augustine School Way Designation Act of 2023", B25-0070

INTRODUCED BY: Councilmember Nadeau

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

Attachment
cc: General Counsel
Budget Director
Legislative Services

Brianne K. Nadeau

Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

1 To symbolically designate the 1400 Block of V Street, N.W., in Ward 1, as St. Augustine School
2 Way.

3
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
5 act may be cited as the “St. Augustine School Way Designation Act of 2023”.

6 Sec. 2. Pursuant to sections 401, 403a, and 423 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, 9-204.03a, and 9-204.23), the Council symbolically designates the 1400
9 Block of V Street, N.W., in Ward 1, as “St. Augustine School Way”.

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 after 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.

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
District Department of Transportation



Public Hearing on
B25-70, the “St. Augustine School Way Designation Act of 2023”
B25-111, the “Rev. Lloyd N. Young Court Designation Act of 2023”

Testimony of
Brant Miller
Interim Manager, Policy and Legislative Affairs Division
District Department of Transportation

Before the
Committee of the Whole
Council of the District of Columbia

Tuesday, March 14, 2023
11:00 a.m.
Live via Zoom Video Conference Broadcast
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20004



Good morning, Chairman Mendelson, members of the Council, staff, and District residents. My name is Brant Miller, Interim Manager of the Policy and Legislative Affairs Division at the District Department of Transportation, commonly referred to as DDOT. I am here today to present testimony on behalf of Mayor Muriel Bowser and DDOT Director Everett Lott regarding the following bills:

- B25-70, the “St. Augustine School Way Designation Act of 2023”
- B25-111, the “Rev. Lloyd N. Young Court Designation Act of 2023”

The stated purpose of **Bill 25-70** is to *symbolically* designate the 1400 Block of V Street, N.W., in Ward 1, as *St. Augustine School Way*. For visualization purposes, I have attached to this testimony a copy of a DDOT-generated map highlighting the 1400 block of V Street, N.W.. In fiscal terms, the cost of each installed sign for this designation is approximately \$190 (\$65 for sign fabrication and \$125 for sign installation). Sufficient signage requires three total signs, totaling \$570.

The stated purpose of **Bill 25-111** is to *officially* designate the public alley system within Square 4546, bounded by 17th Street, N.E., E Street, N.E., 18th Street, N.E. and D Street, N.E. as *Rev. Lloyd N. Young Court NE*. For visualization purposes, I have attached to this testimony a copy of the plat of the designated

alley system. DDOT notes that in addition to new signage, this newly designated alley system will require new poles. In fiscal terms, the cost of each installed pole is approximately \$270. Sufficient poles and signage requires four total poles and four total signs, totaling \$1,840.

DDOT can absorb the costs of these signs and poles within its current budget and does not foresee any operational impact that these official and symbolic namings would have on the District's transportation network. Therefore, the Administration has no objection to these street and alley namings. DDOT stands ready to assist the Council and all other stakeholders with any ceremonial unveiling activities that may materialize as a result of these bills being passed.

This concludes my testimony. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify before you today. I am available to answer any questions that you may have.

From: [Carolyn Matthews](#)
To: [Committee of the Whole \(Council\)](#)
Cc: [CAROLYN MATTHEWS](#); [CAROLYN MATTHEWS](#)
Subject: B25-0070-ST. AUGUSTINE SCHOOL WAY DESIGNATION ACT 2023
Date: Monday, March 20, 2023 4:52:14 PM

Committee of the Whole: B25-0070 SAINT AUGUSTINE WAY DESIGNATION ACT 2023
Introduced by Councilmember Nadeau Jan. 25, 2023

I fully support the symbolically designation of 1400 V Street, N.W., in Ward 1 as St. Augustine School Way Designation Act of 2023.

I have been a member of St. Augustine school as well the church all of my 74 years. My relationship began with the school 1953 when it was located on Johnson Avenue, N. W. I believe the last graduating class at that location in 1975 and I graduated in 1966. The school was relocated to the 1400 block of V Street in the fall of 1976.

Saint Augustine was run by the Oblate Sisters of Providence. This was an order of Black nuns that taught grades K-8th grade. It was during a time of racial disparity and the education was of the highest caliber.

This was during a time where it did take a village to raise the children. Oftentimes there were several sisters and brothers attending the school at the same time. With each child there was a deduction in the price. Some parents paid this debt by working in the rectory, school, or church. Against the hostile racial climate this school succeeded because of the investment of the Sisters, parents, and community.

Money was raised through the selling of dinners and the school sold hamburgers and hot dogs for \$.25. I remember Ms. Verdon the school secretary who ran a most efficient office. Repairs and maintenance was a concerted effort by the fathers who worked construction, garbage details, GPO to ensure the safety of the children. We worked as a community and a village.

There are no words to describe what a honor this designation would be St. Augustine School. When the Archdiocese of Washington decided to close all of the Black Catholic schools in Washington, Father Patrick Smith held firm and fought to keep St. Augustine open. The honor goes to all of the parents that continue to send their children to this highly qualified school at this centralized location.

I thank you once again, Councilmember Nadeau for the recognition of all the hard work put forth by the Black students, teachers and parent as well as Father Patrick Smith. It was a long time coming but well received.

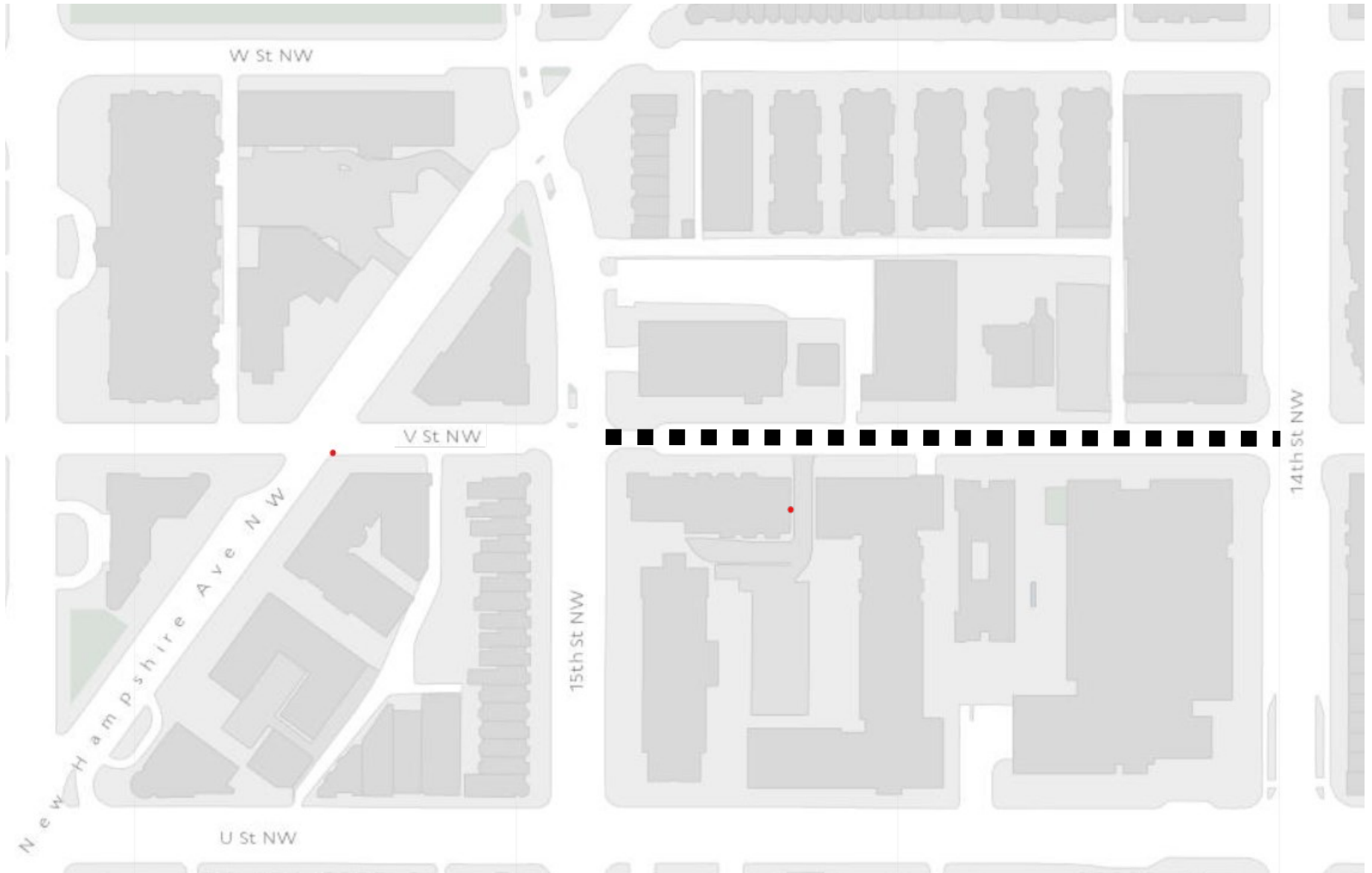
Vice Chair DAFL Commissioners

Carolyn T. Matthews

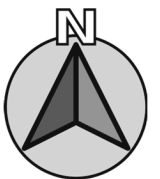


CAROLYN T. MATTHEWS - GOD IS OUR ALL AND ALL THE CHOCOLATE LADY!

Bill 25-70, St. Augustine School Way Designation Act of 2023



THE AREA SHOWN THUS ■ ■ ■ ■ IS SYMBOLICALLY DESIGNATED AS ST. AUGUSTINE SCHOOL WAY




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 – St. Augustine School Way Designation Act of 2023

REFERENCE: Bill 25-70, Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on March 20, 2023

Conclusion

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

Background

St. Augustine Catholic School¹ was established in 1858 as the first Catholic school in the Archdiocese of Washington dedicated to educating African-American children. The school serves approximately 175 students in grades pre-kindergarten through 8th. The school is located at 1421 V Street, N.W.

The bill symbolically designates the 1400 block of V Street, N.W. as St. Augustine School Way.

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 three signs to designate the roadway as St. Augustine School Way. The signs will cost \$570 and DDOT can absorb the cost within its existing budgeted resources.

¹ <https://staug-dc.org/>

4
5 A BILL

6
7
8 25-70
9

10
11 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
12
13 _____
14

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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
18 act may be cited as the “St. Augustine School Way Designation Act of 2023”.

19 Sec. 2. Pursuant to sections 401, 403a, and 423 of the Street and Alley Closing and
20 Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201; D.C. Official
21 Code §§ 9-204.01, 9-204.03a, and 9-204.23), the Council symbolically designates the 1400
22 Block of V Street N.W., as “St. Augustine School Way.”

23 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

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

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29 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as
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31 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code §1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of
32 Columbia Register.