

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

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

DRAFT

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**TO:** All Councilmembers

**FROM:** Chairman Phil Mendelson  
Committee of the Whole

**DATE:** September 19, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Report on Bill 25-171, the “Alexander Crummell Way Designation Act of 2023”

The Committee of the Whole, to which Bill 25-171, the “Alexander Crummell Way 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 February 28, 2023, Bill 25-171, the “Alexander Crummell Way Designation Act of 2023” was introduced by Councilmember Zachary Parker. This bill would symbolically designate Gallaudet Street, N.E. between Central Place, N.E. and Providence Street, N.E. as Alexander Crummell Way. The location is in Ward 5. A symbolic naming is for ceremonial purposes and shall be in addition to and subordinate to any name that is an official name.

Alexander Crummell, born in New York City on March 3, 1819, was a pioneering African American scholar, minister, and civil rights advocate. He attended the African Free School No. 2 and later the Canal Street High School. After graduation, Mr. Crummell enrolled in the Noyes Academy in New Hampshire, however a racist mob attacked and destroyed the school. To further his studies, he then enrolled in the Oneida Institute in New York which was known for being a hotbed of abolitionism. While attending, he decided to become an Episcopal priest, building on his reputation as a young intellectual. He tried to further his studies at the General Theological Seminary in New York, but he was denied admission due to his race. Undeterred, Mr. Crummell

went on to study at Yale from 1840 to 1841. In 1842 he was ordained and led a small congregation in Rhode Island. When he petitioned the area Bishop to join his diocese for a larger congregation, it was conditioned on his not having a Black congregation, so Mr. Crummell refused.

In 1847 Mr. Crummell traveled to England to raise funds for his congregation. While there, he preached and spoke extensively about abolitionism. In 1849 he attended Queens College at Cambridge University where he became the first recorded Black student to graduate from the University after taking his finals twice. He continued to travel across England to preach and spread his abolitionist message. He formulated the concept of Pan-Africanism which called for the advancement of the African race regardless of country. He took his message to Liberia in 1853 as a missionary of the American Episcopal Church.

In 1872, having failed to realize his vision for African Americans coming to Liberia to set up a government, he returned to the United States and was called to be the pastor of the St. Mary's Episcopal Mission in the Foggy Bottom Area of Washington, D.C. In 1875, his congregation founded St. Lukes Episcopal Church near Logan Circle where Mr. Crummell served as rector until his retirement in 1894. He also taught at Howard University from 1895 to 1897 and helped found the American Negro Academy which was the first organization to support African American scholars. Mr. Crummell died in New Jersey in 1898. As part of his legacy, a school on the 1900 block of Gallaudet Street was named in his honor in 1911 – the location is adjacent to the proposed street designation.

### ***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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup>

An “official name” refers to the legal designation of an alley or a street for mailing address and other purposes,<sup>3</sup> whereas a “symbolic name” for a street or alley shall be in addition to and subordinate to any name that is an official name.<sup>4</sup> An official name of an alley shall contain the suffix “Alley” or “Court.”<sup>5</sup> A symbolic name of a street or alley shall contain the suffix “Way” or “Plaza.”<sup>6</sup> As established by Bill 25-171, “Alexander Crummell Way” is a symbolic designation of Gallaudet Street, N.E. between Central Place, N.E. and Providence Street, N.E.

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<sup>1</sup> See D.C. Official Code § 9-204.01 *et seq.*

<sup>2</sup> See D.C. Law 21-0161, effective from Oct. 8, 2016, Published in the *DC Register* Vol 63 and Page 12933.

<sup>3</sup> D.C. Official Code § 9-201.01(5A).

<sup>4</sup> D.C. Official Code § 9-204.03a(a).

<sup>5</sup> D.C. Official Code § 9-204.03(c).

<sup>6</sup> D.C. Official Code § 9-204.03a(c).

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 (“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.<sup>7</sup>

Symbolically designating the street fronting the current Crummell School will serve as a reminder of Mr. Crummell’s contributions to history and his connection to the District. Thus, the Committee of the Whole recommends Council approval of Bill 25-171, the “Alexander Crummell Way Designation Act of 2023.”

## II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

February 28, 2023	Bill 25-171, the “Alexander Crummell Way Designation Act of 2023” is introduced by Councilmember Zachary Parker.
March 7, 2023	Bill 25-171 is officially read at a Legislative Meeting and the referral to the Committee of the Whole is official.
March 10, 2023	Notice of Intent to Act on Bill 25-171 is published in the <i>DC Register</i> .
June 23, 2023	Notice of a public hearing on Bill 25-171 is published in the <i>DC Register</i> .
July 13, 2023	The Committee of the Whole holds a hearing on Bill 25-171.
September 19, 2023	The Committee of the Whole marks up Bill 25-171.

## III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

Brant 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 of a portion of Gallaudet Street, N.E. after Alexander Crummell. His testimony is attached.

## IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

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

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<sup>7</sup> D.C. Official Code § 9-204.24(d).

## V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole held a public hearing on several bills, including Bill 25-171 on Thursday, July 13, 2023. The testimony summarized below pertains Bill 25-171.

**Robert King, Public Witness**, testified in support of the designation and spoke to the process of selecting the names for commemoration.

**Diamonte Powell, Ivy City Clubhouse Youth Leader, Empower DC**, testified in support of the designation and stated that it is an important way to preserve shared history.

**Isaiah Neal, Ivy City Clubhouse Youth Leader, Empower DC**, testified in support of the designation and described the positive impact it would have on the residents of Ivy City.

**Messiah Cuthbertson, Ivy City Clubhouse Youth Leader, Empower DC**, testified in support of the designation and stated it will highlight the history of Mr. Crummell.

**Mekhi Gant, Ivy City Clubhouse Youth Leader, Empower DC**, testified in support of the designation and said that it will have a positive effect on the community by making them aware of the history.

**Taleia Howard, Ivy City Clubhouse Youth Leader, Empower DC**, testified in support of the designation and spoke of Mr. Crummell's impact on the community, even outside of Ivy City.

**Maya Lambright, Ivy City Clubhouse Youth Leader, Empower DC**, testified in support of the designation and spoke to Mr. Crummell's work in education.

**Amari Young, Ivy City Clubhouse Youth Leader, Empower DC**, testified in support of the designation and said it is a fitting honor and reminds area youth of Mr. Crummell's legacy.

**Harry Thomas, Jr., Public Witness**, testified in support of the designation and described his ties to the area and that his mother was a graduate of Crummell School.

**Brant 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.

The Committee received no testimony or comments in opposition to Bill 25-171.

## VI. IMPACT ON EXISTING LAW

Bill 25-171 has no impact on existing law. D.C. Official Code § 9-204.01<sup>8</sup> 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."<sup>9</sup> Bill 25-171 symbolically designates Gallaudet Street, N.E. between

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

<sup>9</sup> D.C. Code § 9-204.03(a).

Central Place, N.E. and Providence Street, N.E. as Alexander Crummell Way. Additionally, “a symbolic name of a street or alley shall contain only the suffix Way or Plaza,” such as proposed by Bill 25-171.<sup>10</sup> 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.<sup>11</sup> Mr. Crummell passed away in 1898.

## VII. FISCAL IMPACT

According to the September X, 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 \$380 (\$65 per sign for fabrication and \$125 for installation for four signs), the cost of Bill 25-171 can be absorbed.

## VIII. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

<u>Section 1</u>	States the short title of Bill 25-171.
<u>Section 2</u>	Symbolically designates Gallaudet Street, N.E. between Central Place, N.E. and Providence Street, N.E. as Alexander Crummell Way.
<u>Section 3</u>	Adopts the Fiscal Impact Statement.
<u>Section 4</u>	Establishes the effective date by stating the standard 30-day congressional review language.

## IX. COMMITTEE ACTION

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<sup>10</sup> D.C. Code § 9-204.03(c).

<sup>11</sup> See D.C. Code § 9-204.05.

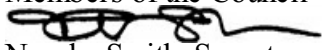
## **X. ATTACHMENTS**

1. Bill 25-171 as introduced.
2. Testimony for Bill 25-171.
3. Map of Proposed Designation.
4. Fiscal Impact Statement for Bill 25-171.
5. Legal Sufficiency Determination for Bill 25-171.
6. Committee Print for Bill 25-171.

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

Memorandum

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To : Members of the Council  
From :  Nyasha Smith, Secretary to the Council  
Date : Monday, March 6, 2023  
Subject : Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Office of the Secretary on Tuesday, February 28, 2023. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "Alexander Crummell Way Designation Act of 2023", B25-0171

INTRODUCED BY: Councilmember Parker

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

Attachment  
cc: General Counsel  
Budget Director  
Legislative Services



## COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING  
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.  
SUITE 102  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

ZACHARY PARKER  
COUNCILMEMBER, WARD 5

**COMMITTEE MEMBER**  
Facilities and Family Services  
Health  
Hospital and Health Equity  
Housing  
Transportation and the Environment

February 28, 2023

Nyasha Smith  
Secretary  
Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 2004

Dear Secretary Smith,

Today, I am introducing the **Alexander Crummell Way Designation Act of 2023**. Please find enclosed a signed copy of the legislation. This bill will symbolically designate the 1900 Block of Gallaudet St NE in Ward 5 in honor of Alexander Crummell, trail-blazing minister, scholar, and community organizer.

Born in 1819, and ordained in 1842 as an Episcopal priest, and traveled as an abolitionist lecturer. During his travels, he studied at Cambridge University in England where he was the first Black student and graduate. His travels further led him to Liberia. Upon his return to the United States in 1872, he was called to St. Mary's Episcopal Mission in Washington, DC, and founded St. Luke's Episcopal Church, the first independent Black Episcopal church in the city in 1875. Additionally, Crummell taught at Howard University from 1895-1897. He was an unwavering advocate for racial solidarity and Black advancement, receiving the honor and praise of later leaders such as W.E.B. Du Bois who paid tribute to Crummell with an essay in his 1903 book *The Souls of Black Folk*.

A school named in Alexander Crummell's honor is located at 1900 Gallaudet St NE, on the block this bill seeks to symbolically designate.

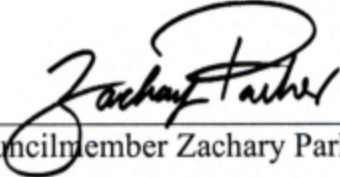
I submit this bill in an effort to help preserve the District's history and acknowledge the contributions of notable residents such as Alexander Crummell.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zachary Parker".

Zachary Parker  
Ward 5 Councilmember



  
Councilmember Zachary Parker

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To symbolically designate the 1900 Block of Gallaudet Street, N.E., in Ward 5, as Alexander Crummell Way.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Alexander Crummell Way Designation Act of 2023”.

Sec. 2. Pursuant to sections 401, 403a, and 423 of 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, 9-204.03a, and 9-204.23), the Council symbolically designates the 1900 Block of Gallaudet Street, N.E., in Ward 5, as “Alexander Crummell Way.”.

Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

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

Sec. 4. Effective date.

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

# Bill 25-171, Alexander Crummell Way Designation Act of 2023



THE AREA SHOWN THUS ■ ■ ■ ■ IS SYMBOLICALLY DESIGNATED AS ALEXANDER CRUMMELL WAY



**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
*District Department of Transportation*



Public Hearing on  
B25-0171, the “Alexander Crummell Way Designation Act of 2023”  
B25-0172, the “William R. Spaulding Way Designation Act of 2023”  
B25-0173, the “Sterling A. Brown Way Designation Act of 2023”  
B25-0174, the “Rayford Logan Way Designation Act of 2023”  
B25-0175, the “John Mercer Langston Way Designation Act of 2023”  
B25-0176, the “Edna Brown Coleman Way Designation Act of 2023”  
B25-0177, the “Julius Hobson Sr. Way Designation Act of 2023”  
B25-0178, the “Dorothy Celeste Boulding Ferebee Way Act of 2023”  
B25-0193, the “Jeanette A. Michael Way Designation Act of 2023”  
B25-0235, the “Catlett Alley Designation Act of 2023”  
B25-246, the “Amigos Park Designation Act of 2023”  
B25-316, the “Gordon Way 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

Thursday, July 13, 2023  
11:30 a.m.  
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 ten symbolic street renaming bills, one official street naming bill and a bill officially naming an area of the public right-of-way:

- B25-0171, the “Alexander Crummell Way Designation Act of 2023”
- B25-0172, the “William R. Spaulding Way Designation Act of 2023”
- B25-0173, the “Sterling A. Brown Way Designation Act of 2023”
- B25-0174, the “Rayford Logan Way Designation Act of 2023”
- B25-0175, the “John Mercer Langston Way Designation Act of 2023”
- B25-0176, “Edna Brown Coleman Way Designation Act of 2023”
- B25-0177, “Julius Hobson Sr. Way Designation Act of 2023”
- B25-0178, “Dorothy Celeste Boulding Ferebee Way Act of 2023”
- B25-0193, “Jeanette A. Michael Way Designation Act of 2023”
- B25-0235, “Catlett Alley Designation Act of 2023”
- B25-246, “Amigos Park Designation Act of 2023”
- B25-316, “Gordon Way Designation Act of 2023”

The stated purpose of **Bill 25-171** is to *symbolically* designate the 1900 Block of Gallaudet Street, N.E., in Ward 5, as *Alexander Crummell Way*. For visualization purposes, I have attached to this testimony a copy of a DDOT-generated map highlighting the 1900 block of Gallaudet Street, N.E. 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 two total signs, totaling \$380.

The stated purpose of **Bill 25-172** is to *symbolically* designate the 1900 though 2200 Blocks of Randolph Street, N.E. in Ward 5 as *William R. Spaulding Way*. For visualization purposes, I have attached to this testimony a copy of a DDOT-generated map highlighting the 1900 though 2200 blocks of Randolph Street, N.E. Sufficient signage requires seven total signs, totaling \$1,330.

The stated purpose of **Bill 25-173** is to *symbolically* designate the 1200 Block of Kearny Street N.E. in Ward 5 as *Sterling A. Brown Way*. For visualization purposes, I have attached to this testimony a copy of a DDOT-generated map highlighting the 1200 block of Kearny Street, N.E. Sufficient signage requires two total signs, totaling \$380.

The stated purpose of **Bill 25-174** is to *symbolically* designate the 100 Block of N Street, N.W., in Ward 5, as *Rayford Logan Way*. For visualization purposes, I have attached to this testimony a copy of a DDOT-generated map highlighting the 100 block of N Street, N.W. Sufficient signage requires two total signs, totaling \$380.

The stated purpose of **Bill 25-175** is to *symbolically* designate the 800 Block of 26th Street, N.E., in Ward 5, as *John Mercer Langston Way*. For visualization purposes, I have attached to this testimony a copy of a DDOT-generated map

highlighting the 800 block of 26th Street, N.E. Sufficient signage requires two total signs, totaling \$380.

The stated purpose of **Bill 25-176** is to *symbolically* designate the 1400 Block of Morse Street, N.E., in Ward 5, as *Edna Brown Coleman Way*. For visualization purposes, I have attached to this testimony a copy of a DDOT-generated map highlighting the 1400 block of Morse Street, N.E. Sufficient signage requires two total signs, totaling \$380.

The stated purpose of **Bill 25-177** is to *symbolically* designate the 4600 through 4800 Blocks of Queens Chapel Terrace Road, N.E., in Ward 5, as *Julius Hobson Sr. Way*. For visualization purposes, I have attached to this testimony a copy of a DDOT-generated map highlighting the 4600 through 4800 blocks of Queens Chapel Terrace Road, N.E. Sufficient signage requires six total signs, totaling \$1,140.

The stated purpose of **Bill 25-178** is to *symbolically* designate the 1800 Block of 2nd Street, N.W., in Ward 5, as *Dorothy Celeste Boulding Ferebee Way*. For visualization purposes, I have attached to this testimony a copy of a DDOT-generated map highlighting the 1800 block of 2nd Street, N.W. Sufficient signage requires two total signs, totaling \$380

The stated purpose of **Bill 25-193** is to *symbolically* designate the 1900 through 2200 Blocks of G Street, N.W., in Ward 2, as *Jeanette A. Michael Way*. For

visualization purposes, I have attached to this testimony a copy of a DDOT-generated map highlighting the 1900 through 2200 Blocks of G Street, N.W.

Sufficient signage requires eight total signs, totaling \$1,520.

The stated purpose of **Bill 25-235** is to *officially* designate the public alley system within Square 3015, bounded by Georgia Ave, N.W., Crittenden Street N.W., 9<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., and Buchanan Street, N.W., in Ward 4, as *Catlett Alley N.W.* For visualization purposes, I have attached to this testimony a copy of the plat of the designated alley system. In fiscal terms, the cost of each installed pole is \$270. Sufficient signage requires four total signs and four poles, totaling \$1,840.

The stated purpose of **Bill 25-246** is to designate the public right-of-way abutting Square 2596, Lot 1057, at the northwest corner of Mount Pleasant Street, N.W., and Kenyon Street, N.W., as *Amigos Park*. For visualization purposes, I have attached to this testimony a copy of the plat of the designated public right-of-way.

The stated purpose of **Bill 25-316** is to *symbolically* designate the public alley system within Square 242, bounded by 14<sup>th</sup> Street N.W., Rhode Island Avenue N.W., Logan Circle N.W., Vermont Avenue N.W., and N Street N.W. as *Gordon Way*. For visualization purposes, I have attached to this testimony a copy of a DDOT-generated map highlighting the designated alley system. Sufficient signage requires three total signs and three poles, totaling \$1,380.

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, alley and public space 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.

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



1 **DRAFT COMMITTEE PRINT**  
2 **Committee of the Whole**  
3 **September 19, 2023**

4  
5 A BILL

6  
7  
8 25-171  
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10  
11 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
12  
13  
14 \_\_\_\_\_

15 To symbolically designate Gallaudet Street, N.E. between Central Place, N.E. and Providence  
16 Street, N.E., as Alexander Crummell Way.

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

20 Sec. 2. Pursuant to sections 401, 403a, and 423 of the Street and Alley Closing and  
21 Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201; D.C. Official  
22 Code §§ 9-204.01, 9-204.03a, and 9-204.23), the Council symbolically designates Gallaudet  
23 Street, N.E. between Central Place, N.E. and Providence Street, N.E., as “Alexander Crummell  
24 Way.”

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.