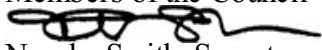


COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20004

Memorandum

To : Members of the Council

From : Nyasha Smith, Secretary to the Council
Date : Wednesday, April 15, 2026
Subject : Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Office of the Secretary on Tuesday, April 14, 2026. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "Fiscal Year 2027 Local Budget Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2026",
PR26-0639

INTRODUCED BY: Chairman Mendelson, at the request of Mayor

Retained by the Council with comments from the Committee on Committee of the Whole.

Attachment
cc: General Counsel
Budget Director
Legislative Services



MURIEL BOWSER
MAYOR

April 14, 2026

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

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

On behalf of the more than 700,000 residents of Washington, DC, I am pleased to submit to the Council of the District of Columbia my Fiscal Year 2027 Proposed Budget and Financial Plan, *Grow DC*.¹ This budget reflects our resilience, our values, and our continued commitment to building a stronger, safer, and more vibrant city.

It's worth repeating that Washington, DC is a world-class city, delivering first-class services and projects to our residents. We have the number one park system in the nation; built 36,000 new homes in less than five years; lead the nation in office-to-residential conversions; have the fastest improving urban school district; and have driven down crime to its lowest levels in at least three decades. And last year, we secured the city's largest private investment with the announcement that our Washington Commanders would come back home to a new RFK Stadium.

With this budget we remain laser focused on growing our local economy. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the city's economic growth was predictable. We had a fast-growing population and strong downtown demand that led to steady revenue growth which allowed us to expand our programs and services. However, this is not the economy we have today. While our population is still growing that growth is happening slowly widespread teleworking continues to strain our commercial office market, and federal job losses have impacted thousands of District households, all of which contribute to slower revenue growth. The *Grow DC* budget faces these new economic realities head on so that we can continue growing our economy and delivering world-class city services.

Investing in High-Quality Education

Our years of investing in public education have delivered results our city can be proud of—our highest ever graduation rate, continued enrollment gains, and great schools in all eight wards. That's why the

¹ Included in this submission are the Fiscal Year 2027 Local Budget Act of 2026, the Fiscal Year 2027 Federal Portion Budget Request Act of 2026, and the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Support Act of 2026. In addition, I am submitting the following accompanying measures: the Fiscal Year 2026 Revised Local Budget Emergency Act of 2026, the Fiscal Year 2025 Revised Local Budget Temporary Act of 2026, and the Fiscal Year 2026 Revised Local Budget Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2026.

Grow DC budget increases the Uniform Per Student Funding Formula by 2.55 percent, bringing the foundation level to \$15,455 per student, and supports nearly 100,000 public and public charter students. We are expanding the Advanced Technical Centers, which give our high school students hands-on career and technical education, and we are expanding high-impact tutoring to help more students recover and grow academically.

The *Grow DC* budget provides continued support to the DC Futures Program² to ensure residents pursuing degrees at the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) can finish their programs. Our six-year capital plan includes more than \$2 billion to modernize public school facilities, upgrade technology, and support improvements at UDC, including funds necessary to unlock its first-ever student housing through a public-private partnership.

Continuing Historic Progress in Public Safety

We have made significant progress in driving down crime since it spiked in 2023, resulting in the lowest amount of violent crime in at least 30 years. The *Grow DC* budget builds on this momentum by ensuring MPD has the resources to hire, recruit, and retain officers, while also supporting full funding for the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department, Office of Unified Communications, Department of Corrections, Department of Forensic Sciences, and other core agencies in our public safety ecosystem.

We are investing more than \$500 million in our six-year capital plan to modernize public safety facilities, purchase new firetrucks and ambulances, replace aging and outdated equipment, increase housing capacity at our juvenile justice facilities, and upgrade critical communications and public safety technology so our first responders have the tools they need to help keep us safe.

Growing Our Local Economy and Making It Easier to Do Business

To keep DC competitive and ensure the city's strong economic future, the *Grow DC* budget reduces the cost of doing business by lowering business-related fees, supports major redevelopment projects through targeted incentives, and continues to invest in grant programs to help our small businesses thrive.

We continue to diversify our economy through the Vitality Fund³, the Tech Ecosystem Fund⁴, and new housing tax abatements to encourage production of moderate-income, "missing middle" housing. We are also investing significantly in the revitalization of Downtown and unlocking underutilized spaces citywide—from Hill East to Poplar Point to the RFK campus.

Expanding Health Care Access and Supporting Residents in Need

Nearly four in ten DC residents depend on our Medicaid, Basic Health Plan, or Alliance programs. The *Grow DC* budget maintains comprehensive coverage while also responding to rising health care costs. We are adding new dental and vision benefits for Basic Health Plan and Alliance enrollees, funding new chip cards for our SNAP participants to help prevent benefit theft, and expanding bridge housing and homelessness prevention programs. We are funding the replacement of key shelter facilities and capital improvements that support residents experiencing homelessness. And to support our seniors,

² <https://www.udc.edu/dc-futures/>

³ <https://dmped.dc.gov/page/vitalityfund>

⁴ <https://dmped.dc.gov/page/TEF>

this budget protects programs and services at the Department of Aging and Community Living and continues our investment in a new Senior Wellness Center in Ward 2.

Protecting Core Public Services

Residents need clean neighborhoods, reliable transportation, accessible recreation, and responsive services. The *Grow DC* budget maintains strong funding for the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), DC Public Libraries (DCPL), Department of Public Works, District Department of Transportation, Department of Energy and the Environment, and Department of Motor Vehicles to ensure reliable core public services for our residents and businesses.

We continue to support community programs offered at DCPL and DPR, including the newly opened Fort Dupont Ice Arena, and we are maintaining the Clean Corridors program to keep commercial areas safe and welcoming. To maintain our innovative edge, the *Grow DC* budget funds the development of digital drivers' licenses which will let residents have secure, electronic versions of their drivers' licenses stored in their digital wallets.

Major capital investments across the city will modernize recreation centers, all public libraries, and fund planning and design work on the 125-acre Kenilworth Park North, which could lead to the creation of a state-of-the-art destination park in Ward 7. Our capital plan also includes nearly \$900 million to improve major bridges and continue our work to maintain our roads, sidewalks, and alleys. We also continue our transportation funding commitments to WMATA, Capital Bikeshare, and expanded trails and pedestrian networks.

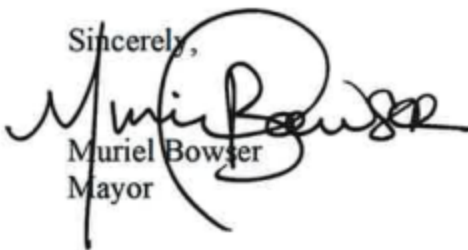
Looking Forward

We have faced significant challenges over the past few years. But Washington, DC, remains strong because of our residents and businesses and because we have been strong stewards of taxpayer dollars over the past three decades.


Today, focusing on growth is more important than it ever was in Washington, DC. For all the things we love about our city—our great schools, parks, transportation, arts, culture, and restaurants—they all require us to have robust revenues to make robust investments. For that, we need a pro-growth budget which we are now delivering with *Grow DC*.

Thank you for your continued trust and engagement.

Sincerely,



Muriel Bowser
Mayor


Chairman Phil Mendelson
at the request of the Mayor

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6 A PROPOSED RESOLUTION
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10 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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14 To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to adopt the local portion of
15 the budget of the District of Columbia for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2027.
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17 RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
18 resolution may be cited as the “Fiscal Year 2027 Local Budget Emergency Declaration
19 Resolution of 2026”.

20 Sec. 2. (a) The Council is expected to adopt the Fiscal Year 2027 Local Budget Act of
21 2026 in late June, after which it will be transmitted to the Mayor for the Mayor’s review and
22 approval. The act will then be transmitted to Congress for a 30-day passive review period
23 required by section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December
24 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)).

25 (b) In order for the District government to operate fully and provide necessary services to
26 District residents, visitors, businesses, and others in Fiscal Year 2027, legislation approving the
27 Fiscal Year 2027 budget must be effective prior to October 1, 2026, the start of Fiscal Year 2027.

28 (c) Due to the timing of the submission and adoption of the Fiscal Year 2027 budget and
29 the congressional recess schedule, the Fiscal Year 2027 Local Budget Act of 2026 may not
30 complete the congressional review period before October 1, 2026.

31 (d) The Mayor therefore transmitted to the Council the Fiscal Year 2027 Local Budget
32 Emergency Act of 2026, which is not subject to a congressional review period but is limited in
33 its duration of effectiveness, so that an approved budget and financial plan for Fiscal Year 2027
34 may be effective before the start of the fiscal year while the Fiscal Year 2027 Local Budget Act
35 of 2026 completes its congressional review period.

36 Sec. 3. The Council determines that the circumstances enumerated in section 2 constitute
37 emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Fiscal Year 2027 Local Budget
38 Emergency Act of 2026 be adopted after a single reading.

39 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.