

Council of the District of Columbia

Memorandum

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

TO: Chairman Phil Mendelson

FROM: Councilmembers Charles Allen and Kenyan McDuffie

RE: Request to Agendize Emergency and Temporary Measures for the September 22, 2020 Legislative Meeting

DATE: September 17, 2020

I am writing to request that you agendize the following measures for the September 22, 2020 Legislative Meeting.

- “Retail Establishment Grant Parity Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2020”
- “Retail Establishment Grant Parity Emergency Amendment Act of 2020”
- “Retail Establishment Grant Parity Temporary Amendment Act of 2020”

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the entire District of Columbia, across all neighborhoods and all commercial corridors. The Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development has announced a grant that would provide needed technical assistance to small, local businesses in Great Streets corridors, that will begin to receive applications soon. But limiting the funds to retail businesses inside of corridors that were created prior to the pandemic adversely impacts retail across the city, which relatedly impacts the city as a whole. Funding for all retailers will help business retention and attraction programs, mitigate blight and vacant property growth, and support the pivoting of business operations into the digital market space.

Drafts of the measures are attached. Please contact Chris Laskowski, Legislative Director, at 741-0929 or claskowski@dccouncil.us if you have any questions.