

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION & THE ENVIRONMENT
MARY M. CHEH, CHAIR

NOTICE OF PUBLIC ROUNDTABLE ON

Waste Management and Agency Operations at the Department of Public Works

Friday, October 9, 2020, at 11:00 AM

On Friday, October 9, 2020, Councilmember Mary M. Cheh, Chairperson of the Committee on Transportation and the Environment, will hold a public roundtable on waste management and agency operations at the District Department of Public Works. The roundtable will begin at 11:00 AM and will be broadcast live on DC Council Channel 13 and streamed live at www.dccouncil.us and entertainment.dc.gov.

The primary purpose of the roundtable is for the Committee to discuss waste management at the Department of Public Works. In 2013, the District set a Zero Waste goal of diverting 80% of its waste away from incineration or landfill by 2032. In the ensuing years, the District's waste diversion rate has remained stagnant, and many statutorily required waste diversion initiatives have not been implemented. Recent reporting suggests that the District has been charging rates at its waste management facilities insufficient to cover operating costs, which cuts into resources that could be going toward the District's waste diversion efforts. This roundtable will provide an opportunity for the Committee to learn about DPW's objectives for waste diversion and how they are incorporated into the Agency's strategic planning. In addition, the Committee will discuss how operations across DPW have been affected by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Public Health Emergency.

On March 11, 2020, Mayor Muriel Bowser issued the Declaration of Public Emergency: Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the Declaration of Public Health Emergency: Coronavirus (COVID-19) due to the imminent threat to the health, safety, and welfare of District residents posed by the spread of the coronavirus. These orders require that the Council adapt the methods by which committees may hold public hearings and roundtables to comply with social distancing, large public gathering, and other public health and safety requirements. Therefore, this public roundtable will be held remotely through the WebEx teleconferencing platform.

The Committee invites the public to testify or to submit written testimony, which will be made a part of the official record. Anyone wishing to testify should contact Ms. Aukima Benjamin, Staff Assistant to the Committee on Transportation and the Environment, at (202) 724-8062 or via e-mail at abenjamin@dccouncil.us; witnesses will receive information on how to join the roundtable at that time. Witnesses who anticipate needing language interpretation, or requiring sign language interpretation, are requested to inform the Committee of the need as soon as possible but no later than five business days before the roundtable, which is October 2, 2020. We will make every effort to fulfill timely requests, however requests received in less than five business days may not be fulfilled and alternatives may be offered.

If you are unable to testify at the public roundtable, written statements are encouraged and will be made a part of the official record; testimony may be submitted to abenjamin@dccouncil.us. The public may also leave voicemail testimony for the Committee by calling (202) 350-1344, which will be transcribed and made part of the roundtable record. Members of the public leaving voicemail testimony should speak slowly and clearly, state their full name and the organization they represent, if any, and note the bill, roundtable, or agency that they are submitting testimony on. Members of the public are asked to not provide an e-mail, phone number, or other person contact information in voicemail testimony.

The record will close at the end of the business day on October 23, 2020.