


**Council of the District of Columbia
COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
MEMORANDUM**

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

TO: Chairman Phil Mendelson
FROM: Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie 
RE: Request to Agendize Measures for the April 6, 2021 Legislative Meeting
DATE: April 1, 2021

I am writing to request that the following emergency and ceremonial measures be agendized for the Legislative Meeting scheduled on April 6, 2021.

Emergency Measures

- **“Medical Cannabis Emergency Amendment Act of 2021”**
- **“Medical Cannabis Temporary Amendment Act of 2021”**
- **“Medical Cannabis Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2021”**

The “Medical Cannabis Emergency Amendment Act of 2021” and the underlying temporary measure would amend the current law, D.C. Official Code § 7-1671.01 *et seq.*, to remove the blanket prohibition on individuals with felony convictions to work, own, or operate medical cannabis dispensary, cultivation, and testing centers (“medical cannabis centers”). The bills however would still restrict individuals with certain felony convictions from obtaining a medical cannabis license. Individuals who within 3 years preceding the date of submitting a medical cannabis license application with the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (“ABRA”) and have a felony conviction for a crime of violence, gun offense, tax evasion, fraud, or credit card fraud would be prohibited from obtaining medical cannabis license to own or operate, or work in, a medical cannabis center.

The underlying emergency would also ban straw ownership to protect the integrity of the medical cannabis certified business enterprise application and licensure process, and the legitimate awarding of the preference points. Under current law, applicants who meet the eligibility criteria for a medical cannabis certified business enterprise may be awarded a preference point equal to 50 points or 20% of the available scoring points, whichever is higher during the application process.

Lastly, the underlying emergency would amend the current law to allow more testing laboratory permits in the District but to a limit of no more than 2 per an election ward. Since the District currently does not have any testing laboratories, medical cannabis cultivators and dispensaries have had to rely on out of state mobile testing laboratories to come into the District to test their products. In moving this emergency, it opens more opportunities for businesses to apply for testing laboratory permits which will overall improve the quality control of medical cannabis products in the District.

- **“Equitable Impact Assistance for Local Businesses Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2021”**
- **“Equitable Impact Assistance for Local Businesses Emergency Amendment Act of 2021”**

In the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Support Act of 2020, the District enacted the Equitable Impact Assistance for Local Businesses Act of 2020, effective December 3, 2020. This measure established the Equity Impact Fund to be managed by a fund manager selected by the Mayor, with the initial funding of \$1.25 million to be provided by the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED) for the purpose of aiding and investing in eligible businesses that otherwise lack access to capital. Funds were put in DMPED’s Fiscal Year 2021 budget for this purpose.

The emergency legislation amends the 2020 act to provide that the selected fund manager will establish and manage the Equity Impact Fund and to clarify that the initial funding of \$1.25 million provided by DMPED, and subsequent funding, will be in the form of a grant. The emergency legislation also clarifies what types of investments the selected fund manager is authorized to provide to the eligible businesses. To ensure the 2020 act is implemented expeditiously and the funds are invested as intended, the Council of District of Columbia determines that an emergency exists making it necessary that the Equitable Impact Assistance for Local Businesses Emergency Amendment Act of 2021 be adopted after a single reading.

Congressional Review Emergency Measure

- **“Adams Morgan Business Improvement District Congressional Review Emergency Amendment Act of 2021”**
- **“Adams Morgan Business Improvement District Congressional Review Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2021”**

In February of this year, the Council passed the Adams Morgan Business Improvement District Emergency Amendment Act of 2021, effective February 26, 2021 (D.C. Act 24-19; 68 DCR 2592) (“emergency legislation”), to establish the expiration date of the first term of the Adams Morgan Business Improvement District. The emergency legislation will expire on May 2, 2021. The Adams Morgan Business Improvement District Temporary Amendment Act of 2021, enacted on March 24, 2021 (D.C. Act 24-40; 68 DCR ___) (“temporary legislation”), must still complete the 30-day review period required by 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 will not become law until after the emergency legislation has expired.

Congressional review emergency legislation is necessary to prevent a gap in the law between the expiration of the emergency legislation and the effective date of the temporary legislation.

Ceremonial Resolutions

- **“Vernon E. Jordan Jr. Posthumous Memorial Recognition Resolution of 2021”**

Vernon Jordan was a pioneering civil rights activist, remarkable attorney, and astute businessman. This ceremonial resolution recognizes and honors Mr. Jordan for his activism, service, and contribution to the Black community, District of Columbia, United States, and world, on the occasion of his death at 85 years of age.

- **“Henry Allen Stewart Posthumous Memorial Recognition Resolution of 2021”**

Henry Allen Stewart was a native Washingtonian, minister, mentor, Morehouse College graduate, and Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity member. This ceremonial resolution recognizes and honors the indelible mark Mr. Stewart left on his family, Washington, D.C. community, fraternity, and friends on the occasion of his sudden passing.

- **“Ricardo Duren Posthumous Memorial Recognition Resolution of 2021”**

Ricardo Duren was born and raised in Washington, D.C. He graduated from Dunbar Senior High School and Bowie State University. Ricardo was a father, well-known Dunbar basketball coach, DC Parks and Recreation Roving Leader, and overall man of the community. This ceremonial resolution recognizes and honors him and his tireless commitment to the youth and families of the District of Columbia.

- **“Capital Pool Checkers Club Day Recognition Resolution of 2021”**

Established in 1968, the Capital Pool Checkers Club is a Washington, D.C. cultural institution. The Club was founded by approximately 60 African American men to continue the socially and historically significant African American game of Pool Checkers. Despite the Club’s continued history, camaraderie, and cultural significance, the impact of COVID-19 has challenged its viability by causing a reduction in the Club’s membership and loss of its gathering space. The Club, however, is determined to remain in the District of Columbia. Accordingly, this ceremonial resolution recognizes and honors the Capital Pool Checkers Club’s determination, community support, and cultural significance as it fights to remain a District-based institution by declaring June 19, 2021 as Capital Pool Checkers Club Day.

Drafts of the measures are attached. If you have any questions regarding these measures, please contact Ms. Alicia DiFazio at adifazio@dccouncil.us.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

cc: Members, Council of the District of Columbia
Office of the Secretary
Office of the General Counsel
Office of the Budget Director