

CHRISTINA HENDERSON

AT-LARGE DC COUNCILMEMBER

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman Phil Mendelson
FROM: Councilmember Christina Henderson 
RE: Request to Agendize Measures for the September 20, 2022 Legislative Meeting
DATE: September 15, 2022

I request that you place the following measures on the agenda for the September 20, 2022, Legislative Meeting:

Emergency Legislation

- Perinatal Mental Health Task Force Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2022
- Perinatal Mental Health Task Force Emergency Amendment Act of 2022
- Perinatal Mental Health Task Force Temporary Amendment Act of 2022

The Department of Health Care Finance (“DHCF”) plays a critical role in improving maternal health outcomes in the District of Columbia. DHCF has made a commitment to undertake multiple maternal health projects, including covering doula services, expanding postpartum coverage to one year, and extending non-emergency medical transportation benefits to pregnant and postpartum Healthcare Alliance beneficiaries. In order to oversee and effectively implement these projects, DHCF has set up both the Maternal Child Health Advisory Council and the Maternal Health Advisory Group, with appointees named by the agency Director.

The addition of the Perinatal Mental Health Task Force, and the Director’s ability to appoint the task force and begin work, is instrumental to the success of these projects. This emergency would remove the requirement that the Council confirm each appointment as part of the 45-day Council review period and would extend the deadline for the submission of the comprehensive report from August 31, 2023, to October 1, 2023. These changes would expedite the process of appointing members to the task force and would give the task force 75 additional days to complete their work. These changes are necessary to ensure adequate time for the task force to write its report and make the statutorily required nine policy recommendations. Additionally, it is necessary to approve this emergency prior to October 1, 2022, as the law currently requires the Mayor to begin nominating individuals to the Task Force on that date, in alignment with the beginning of Fiscal Year 2023.

The emergency and temporary bill, along with the emergency declaration resolution, are all attached. If you have any questions regarding this measure, please contact Mike Shaffer, Chief of Staff, at mshaffer@dccouncil.gov.

Ceremonial Resolutions

- DC Car Free Day Recognition Resolution of 2022

This resolution declares September 22, 2022, as Car Free Day in the District of Columbia, and encourages residents who are able to use more sustainable methods of travel to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reduce traffic congestion.

The resolution is attached. If you have any questions regarding this measure, please contact Mykelle Richburg, Legislative Assistant, at mrichburg@dccouncil.gov.

cc: Members and Staff, Council of the District of Columbia
Office of the Secretary
Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs