

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

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20004

TO: Chairperson Phil Mendelson
FROM: Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie 
RE: Request to Agendize Measures for the November 1, 2022, Legislative Meeting
DATE: October 27, 2022

I write to request that the following measures be placed on the agenda for the November 1, 2022, Committee of the Whole and Legislative Meetings.

The measures were marked up by the Committee on Business and Economic Development and have been timely filed with the Secretary's Office:

Measures from the Committee:

- **B24-0798, the “New Market Tax Credit Real Property Tax Exemption Amendment Act of 2022”**

This measure will provide a real property tax exemption for real property belonging to Qualified Active Low Income Community Businesses (“QALICB”) that participate in transactions qualifying for the New Markets Tax Credit. It would also streamline the real property tax exemption application timeline, and process, by which the Office of Tax and Revenue (OTR) must review real property tax exemption applications for QALICB applicants and communicate its decision with applicants.

The need for this bill arose during a February 2022 hearing the Committee held at which a consortium of local non-profit housing organizations testified to the obstacles their members face when trying to secure financing for much-needed projects in low-income communities of the District of Columbia. In one example, a local non-profit housing provider noted that it took five years to obtain approval of its tax exemption from OTR. Without this bill, several worthwhile affordable housing and workforce development projects may not come to fruition.

- **B24-0823, the “206 Elm St. N.W. Real Property Tax Abatement Amendment Act of 2022”**

This bill will approve a real property tax abatement for property located at 206 Elm St. NW, during Tax Year 2023. The Council set aside \$30,000 in the Fiscal Year 2023 budget to fund this measure.

- **B24-0851, the “State Small Business Credit Initiative Venture Capital Program Grant-Making Establishment Act of 2022”**

This bill will permanently establish a local venture capital program in the District, funded by the US Department of Treasury and in accordance with that agency's guidelines. The bill will also provide the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development with limited grant-making authority to issue grants to a local program administrator for the purpose of making long-term investments in local District-based businesses. Emergency and Temporary versions of this legislation have already been approved by the Council.

- **B24-0894, the “Whitman-Walker Entities at St. Elizabeths Tax Rebate Amendment Act of 2022”**

This bill will rebate real property taxes assessed and paid on real property located on Square 5868, Suffix S, Lot 965 for as long as the property is leased by the Whitman-Walker Health and Whitman-Walker Health System, up to a maximum of 25 years. The measure will support Whitman-Walker’s expansion at the new St. Elizabeths Campus.

- **B24-0935, the “UDC Leased Property Tax Abatement Amendment Act of 2022”**

This measure will provide a real property tax abatement for property leased by the University of the District of Columbia, located at 4225 Connecticut Ave. NW, so long as the property is leased and used by the University for educational purposes. The Council set aside funds to support this abatement during its FY23 budget deliberations.

- **B24-940, the “Performing Arts Promotion Tax Rebate Clarification Amendment Act of 2022”**

This bill will strengthen the District’s existing tax rebate program for eligible small performing arts venues that host performing artists. The Council previously approved the emergency and temporary versions of this measure. The bill will make permanent reduced hourly requirements during a declared public health emergency and it would identify the Office of Cable, Television, Film, Music, and Entertainment (“OCTFME”) as the entity to manage the application process for the rebate. Once approved, OCTFME will certify to the Office of Tax and Revenue which venues are entitled to the rebate.

- **PR24-0927, the “Mundo Verde Bilingual Public Charter School Revenue Bonds Project Approval Resolution Act of 2022”**

This Resolution will authorize the issuance, sale, and delivery of tax-exempt revenue bonds, notes, or other obligations, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$60 million to assist the Mundo Verde Bilingual Public Charter School in the financing, refinancing, or reimbursing of costs associated with an authorized project located in Ward 5. The project includes refinancing of bonds received in 2014 to renovate its campus at 44 P St. NW; acquisition of a facility located at 4401 8th St. NE, which the school currently leases as a charter school campus; acquisition and construction of a new campus at 817 Varnum St. NE; and financing the issuance and other costs associated with this project.

Ceremonial Resolution

- **“Pearline Danner Preston 75th Birthday Recognition Resolution of 2022”**

Mrs. Danner is a longtime District resident who retired from the Federal government after 38 years of service. This resolution recognizes her 75th birthday and service in the District of Columbia.

The draft measures along with their supporting materials are attached. Feel free to contact Committee Director Alicia DiFazio, at adifazio@dccouncil.us, with any questions.

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