

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman Phil Mendelson
FROM: Councilmember Janeese Lewis George *Janeese Lewis George*
DATE: October 27, 2022
SUBJECT: Request to Agendize Measures for the November 1, 2022 Legislative Meeting

I request that the following measures be agendized for the November 1st Regular Legislative Meeting:

- **Foreclosure Moratorium and Homeowner Assistance Fund Coordination Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2022**
- **Foreclosure Moratorium and Homeowner Assistance Fund Coordination Emergency Amendment Act of 2022**
- **Foreclosure Moratorium and Homeowner Assistance Fund Coordination Temporary Amendment Act of 2022**

These measures would extend foreclosure protections to homeowners who applied for funding from the DC Homeowner Assistance Fund (“DC HAF”) program before September 30, 2022, and whose application remains under review, pending approval, pending payment, or under appeal with the Department of Housing and Community Development (“DHCD”).

Earlier in the year, the Council passed the Foreclosure Moratorium Extension Temporary Amendment Act of 2022 which extended pandemic-related foreclosure protections to prevent displacement of low- and moderate-income homeowners while DHCD stood up the federally-funded DC HAF program this spring. The temporary was later amended to extend the moratorium a month further and to require homeowners to apply for DC HAF funding by September 30, 2022 in order to remain protected from foreclosure actions while an application to cure debts was pending. The underlying temporary measure will expire on November 19, 2022 yet nearly 1,000 DC HAF applications are still being processed by DHCD. Extending the moratorium protections previously guaranteed by the Council to those homeowners who met the September 30th deadline will provide DHCD the time needed to make accurate determinations while preventing unnecessary foreclosures and avoiding confusion about homeowner rights.

- **Iowa & Arkansas Avenues Traffic Calming Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2022**
- **Iowa & Arkansas Avenues Traffic Calming Emergency Amendment Act of 2022**

This emergency would require DDOT to install one of the following traffic calming or control measures at the intersection of Iowa & Arkansas Avenues, N.W. before January 1, 2023: a speed table in the 4600 and 4700 blocks of Arkansas Avenue, a raised crosswalk across Arkansas Avenue, or all-way stop control (stop signs).

This emergency is necessary because DDOT has yet to install adequate traffic calming or control measures at this intersection, despite repeated and ongoing evaluations, ample budget, and evidence that excessive speeding remains a problem at this location.

This intersection has proven to be extremely dangerous, with seven documented crashes in the past year and three in the last three months. A 2013 [petition](#) calling for traffic calming in this location garnered 788 signatures but no major improvements from DDOT. Councilmember Lewis George visited this location with DDOT Director Lott in November of 2021, where DDOT pledged to consider further safety measures including a traffic signal. Earlier this summer, DDOT shared that the results of their analysis, finding that a traffic signal was not warranted, and that signal timing changes “alleviated the major concerns” at Iowa and Arkansas. They also committed to installing pedestrian warning signs, more striping and new flex posts. **Unfortunately, crashes have continued primarily because of speeding on Arkansas Avenue.**

The most recent crash at this intersection occurred late on Sunday, October 16th. CM Lewis George [visited the scene the following Tuesday evening](#) with neighbors to share their frustrations with DDOT’s lack of proactive safety improvements. DDOT has so far pledged to complete another ongoing evaluation in Quarter 2 of FY23 (January-March 2023), meaning this location will remain unsafe for several more months, if not indefinitely, if DDOT engineers determine again that additional traffic control or calming measures would impede vehicle throughput.

Draft copies of each measure is attached. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Joanna Blotner, Legislative Director, at jblotner@dccouncil.us or 202-288-8985.

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
Mayor’s Office Policy and Legislative Affairs