


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 15, 2022, Additional Legislative Meeting
DATE: November 9, 2022

I request that the following measures be agendized for the November 15, 2022, Additional Legislative Meeting.

Emergency and Temporary Legislation:

- **“The Small Business Relief Grant Program Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2022”**
- **“The Small Business Relief Grant Program Emergency Amendment Act of 2022”**
- **“The Small Business Relief Grant Program Temporary Amendment Act of 2022”**

As part of the Fiscal Year 2023 budget, the Council approved an \$8 million allocation to the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED) to support the District’s Small Business Relief Grant Program, i.e. Bridge Fund. As in prior years, DMPED plans to partner with a third-party grant managing entity to manage the Small Business Relief Grant Program. DMPED’s current grant making authority allows for up to 2% of funding for the Small Business Relief Grant Program to be used to cover administrative costs associated with administering the grant program.

Also, as part of the Fiscal Year 2023 budget process, the Committee on Business and Economic Development amended the Small Business Relief Grant Program’s authorizing legislation to allow sole proprietors and home-based businesses to participate alongside traditional brick and mortar establishments to broaden the type of small businesses that would be eligible to receive funding. Experience from prior grants indicates that businesses require extensive assistance to be grant ready and a substantial amount of effort is required to review applications, determine awards, and ensure compliance with grant requirements after award. Accordingly, dedicating 2% of funds to cover administrative costs is not sufficient to cover the amount of work required to administer these grant funds. As a result, emergency action is necessary to ensure that DMPED can select a grant administrator and launch the Small Business Relief Grant Program in a timely manner this fall.

The draft measures 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