

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC ROUNDTABLE**

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

RECONVENED

**CHAIRMAN PHIL MENDELSON
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
ANNOUNCES A PUBLIC ROUNDTABLE**

on

DC Public Schools Food Services Contracts

on

Wednesday, September 13, 2023 at 2:30 p.m.

**Hearing Room 412 (Track B)
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
DC Council Website (www.dccouncil.gov)**

Council Chairman Phil Mendelson announces the reconvening of a public roundtable before the Committee of the Whole on *DC Public Schools Food Services Contracts*. The roundtable was originally convened at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, August 22, 2023 and reconvened on Wednesday, September 6, 2023. **The Chairman intends to reconvene the roundtable at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 13, 2023.**

DC Public Schools' (DCPS) has promised that new contracts will be submitted to the Council on August 17. DCPS's food service contracts have not been competitively bid since 2016 when two contracts were awarded to two vendors to provide school meals – SodexoMagic and DC Central Kitchen. Earlier this year, it was discovered that the contracts for the incumbent vendors had expired yet been extended without Council approval. At least since early 2022 DCPS has sought to competitively rebid the contracts and submit them to the Council for approval by July. The Committee notes that the quality of meals has been criticized. This hearing will give the public an opportunity to weigh in on the proposed vendors and for DCPS to explain how the new vendors will deliver healthy and appetizing school lunches beginning in school year 2023-24.

Those who wish to testify must register using the Council's Hearing Management System at <https://lims.dccouncil.gov/hearings> by **5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 18, 2023. Testimony is limited to four minutes.** Witnesses who anticipate needing spoken language interpretation, or require sign language interpretation, are requested to inform the Committee office of the need as soon as possible but no later than five business days before the proceeding by emailing cow@dccouncil.gov. We will make every effort to fulfill timely requests, although alternatives may be offered. Requests received in less than five business days may not be fulfilled. Witnesses will receive instructions on how to participate by Zoom prior to the hearing. If you have additional questions, please contact Evan Cash, Committee and Legislative Director, at (202) 724-8196 or cow@dccouncil.gov.

Public witnesses will participate virtually via the Internet on the Zoom Video Conference platform. Testimony should be submitted through the Council's Hearing Management System (<https://lims.dccouncil.gov/hearings>) in advance of the hearing. Testimony will be publicly accessible upon Committee review. If you are unable to testify at the hearing, written statements are encouraged and will be made a part of the official record. Statements for the record should be submitted through the Hearing Management System or left by voicemail by calling (202) 430-6948 (up to 3 minutes which will be transcribed). The record will close at 5:00 pm on Wednesday, September 20, 2023.