

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

ROBERT C. WHITE, JR., CHAIR
COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman Phil Mendelson
FROM: Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.
Chair, Committee on Housing
DATE: September 28, 2023
RE: Requests for October 3, 2023



I request that the following measures be placed on the agenda for the legislative meeting of the Council on October 3, 2023:

Congressional Review Emergency Legislation

- **Migrant Services and Supports Extension Congressional Review Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2023**
- **Migrant Services and Supports Extension Congressional Review Emergency Amendment Act of 2023**

Since October 6, 2022, more than 10,000 migrants have arrived in Washington, DC from Texas and Arizona on over 300 buses. To help these migrants, the Council passed the Migrant Services and Supports Temporary Act of 2022 on October 4, 2022. This law expired on August 3rd, 2023. To continue providing support, on September 19th, 2023, the Council passed the Migrant Services and Supports Extension Temporary Amendment Act of 2023, along with the Migrant Services and Supports Extension Emergency Amendment Act of 2023, which expires on October 25, 2023.

Now, as we await Mayoral and congressional reviews for the Migrant Services and Supports Extension Temporary Amendment Act of 2023 and with the previous emergency set to expire on October 25th, 2023, it's crucial to enact this congressional review emergency measure to ensure migrants in the District receive continuous support without any disruption.

- **Family Re-Housing Stabilization Program Protection Congressional Review Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2023**
- **Family Re-Housing Stabilization Program Protection Congressional Review Emergency Amendment Act of 2023**

Data from the Department of Human Services (DHS) indicates that approximately 207 participants in the Family Re-Housing Stabilization Program (FRSP) may exit the program without housing matches between August 2023 and February 2024. Participants currently can request program extensions based on DHS regulations, requiring them to demonstrate sincere efforts toward their goals and an inability to maintain housing stability independently. Emergency and temporary legislation, the Family Re-Housing Stabilization Program Protection Emergency Amendment Act of 2023 and the Family Re-Housing Stabilization Protection Temporary Amendment Act of 2023, have been passed, subject to Mayoral and congressional review to maintain that opportunity for these exiting residents. Given the pending reviews and

the prior emergency's impending expiration on October 29th, 2023, it is crucial to pass this congressional review emergency legislation to avoid gaps in the law.

Contract Approval Legislation at the Request of the Executive

The following legislation at the request of the executive would approve contracts retroactively. This legislation was not submitted timely due to a misunderstanding within the administration regarding the expiration date of OMS's emergency procurement authority. According to the Migrant Services and Supports Emergency Act of 2022, OMS's emergency procurement authority expired in December 2022. However, the administration failed to recognize this change and believed incorrectly that this authority extended until the temporary measure expired in August 2023. Emergency legislation is necessary to ensure that migrant services can continue without lapse.

- **Contract No. CW105986 with Axar Management, LLC d/b/a Quality Inn & Suites Approval and Payment Authorization Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2023**
- **Contract No. CW105986 with Axar Management, LLC d/b/a Quality Inn & Suites Approval and Payment Authorization Emergency Act of 2023**

This legislation approves Contract No. CW105986, and Modification Nos. 1 and 2 to the contract between the Department of Human Services (DHS) on behalf of the Office of Migrant Services (OMS) and Axar Management, which is currently accommodating 123 migrant families in a District hotel. Presently the District works with hotels to house vulnerable migrant families. The contract's primary purpose is to provide emergency temporary accommodations for migrants in a hotel with the capacity to house 130 families. The contract has a not-to-exceed value of \$9,763,004.60. The contract and its modifications cover payments between February 15, 2023, through June 30, 2024.