

Council of the District of Columbia
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION & THE ENVIRONMENT
MEMORANDUM

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

TO: Chairman Phil Mendelson
FROM: Councilmember Charles Allen
RE: Request to Agendize Measures for the September 19, 2023 Legislative Meeting
DATE: September 14, 2023

I am requesting that the following measures be agendized for the September 19, 2023 Legislative Meeting

- “Buzzard Point Park and Trails National Park Service Grant Emergency Amendment Act of 2023”
- “Buzzard Point Park and Trails National Park Service Grant Temporary Amendment Act of 2023”; and
- “Buzzard Point Park and Trails National Park Service Grant Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2023”

In 2022, the Council approved approximately \$2.5 million in Fiscal Year 2023 funding for the District Department of Transportation (“DDOT”) to use for improvements to parks and trails on National Park Service (“NPS”) land in the Buzzard Point neighborhood, located in the Southwest quadrant of the District. To date, DDOT has not been able to come to an agreement with NPS about how funds can be transferred to NPS to complete the work contemplated by the Council’s appropriation, even as Fiscal Year 2023 will close on September 30, 2023. DDOT and NPS have determined that the only viable path forward to ensure the funding can be used for its intended purpose is for DDOT to grant the funds to NPS. However, Section 3(c) of the Department of Transportation Establishment Act of 2002, effective May 21, 2002 (D.C. Law 14-137; D.C. Official Code § 50-921.02(c)) (“DDOT Organic Act”), limits DDOT’s grantmaking authority to \$1 million per grant—with would prevent DDOT from granting the full amount of funding the Council approved for this purpose.

This emergency and temporary legislation would create an exemption from the general \$1 million limit on grants in the DDOT Organic Act, limited to making grants to NPS for improvements to NPS parks and trails in the Buzzard Point neighborhood. This emergency legislation is necessary to ensure that DDOT can carry out the Council’s intent when providing funding for these Buzzard Point parks and trails—and do so before Fiscal Year 2023 closes.

Drafts of these measures are attached. Please contact Chris Laskowski, Committee Director, at claskowski@dccouncil.gov, with any questions.

cc: Members, Council of the District of Columbia
Office of the Budget Director
Office of the General Counsel
Office of the Secretary