

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Chairman Phil Mendelson  
**FROM:** Councilmember Christina Henderson  
**RE:** Request to Agendize Measures for the October 3, 2023, Legislative Meeting  
**DATE:** September 28, 2023

I request that you place the following measures on the agenda for the October 3, 2023, Legislative Meeting:

### **Emergency Legislation At the Request of the Mayor**

- Let Our Vows Endure Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2023
- Let Our Vows Endure Emergency Amendment Act of 2023
- Let Our Vows Endure Temporary Amendment Act of 2023

The issuance of marriage licenses is considered a non-essential function of the Superior Court. Therefore, in the instance of a federal government shutdown, the Clerk of the Superior Court cannot issue marriage licenses. This feature of the District's judicial system can inconvenience District residents and others who have planned or would have pursued a marriage during a federal government shutdown. Given that federal funding expires on October 1, a federal government shutdown is imminent. This emergency and temporary legislation would amend District law to allow the Mayor to issue marriage licenses during a federal government shutdown, so that District residents and others who intend to celebrate their marriages in the District may proceed with their marriage plans despite the federal government's funding status.

Draft measures are attached. Please contact my Legislative Director, Gabrielle Rogoff, with any questions.