


COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

MEMORANDUM

To: Chairman Phil Mendelson
From: Councilmember Janeese Lewis George 
Date: September 28, 2023
Subject: Request to Agendize Measures for October 3, 2023 Legislative Meeting

I request that the following measures be included on the agenda of our October 3 legislative meeting.

Emergency and Temporary Measures

- Karin House TOPA Exemption Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2023
- Karin House TOPA Exemption Emergency Act of 2023
- Karin House TOPA Exemption Temporary Act of 2023

Karin House, located at 1395 Aspen St., NW, on the former Walter Reed campus in Ward 4, is an affordable housing property that was developed and is managed by SOME, Inc. The District currently owns a fee interest in the real property where Karin House has been constructed. This property is subject to a ground lease with the master developer of the Walter Reed campus, and in turn the master developer has entered into a ground sublease with SOME. Under the ground lease and sublease, the District will transfer the real property to SOME, Inc. within 1 year of issuance of a certificate of occupancy and the 50% occupancy of Karin House. This transfer is due to be completed by April 2024.

We are not aware of any effort of Karin House residents to purchase the property under the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act of 1980. However, SOME has requested this legislation to eliminate the possibility of another developer purchasing tenants' TOPA rights and taking over the property that SOME has developed as long-term affordable housing for seniors with on-site supportive services. The District and SOME will then proceed toward closing the real estate transfer.

In 2017, the Council unanimously adopted similar legislation in connection with a title transfer involving Anna Cooper House, another affordable housing property managed by SOME. I respectfully request Councilmembers to continue support SOME's work as a provider of affordable housing and services, and to facilitate the real estate transfer as the parties have contemplated.

Congressional Review Emergency Measures

- Walter Reed Development Assistance Congressional Review Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2023

- Walter Reed Development Assistance Congressional Review Emergency Amendment Act of 2023
- Short-Term Disability Insurance Benefit Protection Clarification Congressional Review Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2023 (co-introduced with Councilmember Bonds)
- Short-Term Disability Insurance Benefit Protection Clarification Congressional Review Emergency Amendment Act of 2023 (co-introduced with Councilmember Bonds)

These measures are necessary to avoid a lapse in the law. At the July 11 legislative meeting, the Council unanimously approved emergency versions of these bills. The emergency versions will expire later in October. Temporary versions were unanimously approved on final reading at the September 19 legislative meeting, but they have not yet taken effect because they require mayoral and congressional review. Thus, congressional review emergency measures are now needed.

Ceremonial Resolutions

- Washington Area Women's Foundation Recognition Resolution of 2023
- Karen Feinstein Ceremonial Recognition Resolution of 2023

Should you or your staff have questions about any of these measures, please contact Nikita Easley on my staff at (202) 724-8052.

cc: All Councilmembers
Office of the Secretary
Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs