


**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
MEMORANDUM**

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

**TO:** Chairman Phil Mendelson  
**FROM:** Councilmember Christina Henderson   
**RE:** Request to Agendize Measures for the November 7, 2023 Legislative Meeting  
**DATE:** November 2, 2023

Pursuant to Council Rule 426, regarding a waiver of Rule 231(c), I request that the following measure be agendized for the November 7, 2023 Legislative Meeting. I also request a waiver of Committee of the Whole Rule 403(b) so that this measure be agendized for an Additional Meeting of the Committee of the Whole should one be scheduled. This measure was approved by the Committee on November 1, 2023 and timely filed with the Secretary on the same day.

- **PR25-0386: Sense of the Council on the Opioid and Fentanyl Epidemic Resolution of 2023**

PR25-0386 urges the Mayor to declare the opioid and fentanyl crisis in the District a public health emergency, recognizing the seriousness of the situation and committing sufficient resources to safeguard the well-being of District residents. Between 2018 and 2022, opioid-related fatal overdoses in the District more than doubled, from 213 to 461 lives lost. In 2023, the city is on track to experience an increase from 2022, as there were already 238 opioid-related fatal overdoses in the District as of June. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has already declared a nationwide public health emergency in response to the opioid crisis. Neighboring states Virginia and Maryland have also declared public health emergencies. When a public health emergency is declared in the District, it initiates a comprehensive response plan. This includes mobilizing vital resources, such as funds, medical supplies, personnel, and equipment, possibly with the support of federal agencies. It enables the District to implement necessary policy and operational changes and heightens public awareness about the severity of the situation.

Pursuant to Council Rule 314, I also request that the following measures be agendized for the November 7, 2023 Legislative Meeting. These measures were approved by the Committee on November 1, 2023 and timely filed with the Secretary on the same day.

- **PR25-0401: Health Benefit Exchange Authority Executive Board Henry J. Aaron Confirmation Resolution of 2023**
- **PR25-0402: Health Benefit Exchange Authority Executive Board Gabriela Mossi Confirmation Resolution of 2023**

- **PR25-0403: Health Benefit Exchange Authority Executive Board Leighton Ku Confirmation Resolution of 2023 (attending)**
- **PR25-0404: Health Benefit Exchange Authority Executive Board Tamara Watkins Confirmation Resolution of 2023**
- **PR25-0406: Board of Psychology Dr. Jeremy Kozne Confirmation Resolution of 2023**
- **PR25-0407: Board of Psychology Dr. Joette James Confirmation Resolution of 2023**
- **PR25-0408: Board of Psychology Dr. Anthony Jimenez Confirmation Resolution of 2023**
- **PR25-0414: Board of Optometry Dr. Lisa Johnson Confirmation Resolution of 2023**
- **PR25-0415: Board of Optometry Dr. Gregory D. Foley Confirmation Resolution of 2023**
- **PR25-0416: Board of Optometry Dr. David Reed Confirmation Resolution of 2023**
- **PR25-0477 - Board of Occupational Therapy Frank Gainer Confirmation Resolution of 2023**

Please contact Ona Balkus, Committee Director, [obalkus@dccouncil.gov](mailto:obalkus@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  
Mayor's Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs