

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Chairman Phil Mendelson  
**FROM:** Councilmember Christina Henderson  
**RE:** Request to Agendize Measures for the December 5, 2023, Legislative Meeting  
**DATE:** November 30, 2023

I request that you place the following measures on the agenda for the December 5, 2023, Legislative Meeting:

### **Emergency Legislation:**

- Retired Firefighter and Police Officer Redeployment Emergency Amendment Act of 2023
- Retired Firefighter and Police Officer Redeployment Temporary Amendment Act of 2023
- Retired Firefighter and Police Officer Redeployment Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2023

This emergency legislation would grant to firefighters retired from the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department and police officers retired from the Metropolitan Police Department eligibility for rehire at the discretion of the Director of the Office of Unified Communications (OUC) as temporary full-time or temporary part-time 911 call takers or 911 dispatchers without decreasing their retirement benefits. Under current law, retired District government employees who collect pension benefits and are rehired by another District agency are subject to an annuity offset. This offset deters retired government employees from pursuing employment at another District agency. This exemption would give OUC access to a new pool of candidates, which, if hired, would help OUC maintain minimum staffing levels for 911 call takers and dispatchers.

OUC has struggled in recent years to maintain minimum staffing levels in these critical departments. In October 2023, 30 out of 67 911 call taker and dispatcher shifts did not meet staffing targets. This was also the case for 26 out of 64 shifts in September 2023, and for 26 out of 66 shifts in August 2023. Call wait times also continue to exceed targets. These staffing gaps complicate OUC's efforts to deliver timely and high-quality frontline emergency response services to District residents. This legislation can help OUC reduce the number of understaffed 911 call taker and dispatcher shifts, reduce call time waits, more frequently limit shifts for 911 call takers and dispatchers to a maximum of 8 hours, and reduce OUC's use of mandatory overtime to fill staffing gaps for these critical roles. It should increase interagency collaboration and understanding, as retired firefighters, police officers, and OUC call takers and dispatchers work together to address urgent medical and safety needs.

Draft measures are attached. Please contact my Legislative Director, Gabrielle Rogoff, at [grogoff@dccouncil.gov](mailto:grogoff@dccouncil.gov) with any questions.