

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Chairman Phil Mendelson

**FROM:** Councilmember Christina Henderson

**RE:** Notice of Intent to Move Amendments at the January 2, 2025, Organizational Meeting

**DATE:** January 2, 2025

I intend to move the following amendments at the January 2, 2025, Organizational Meeting:

- Henderson Amendment #1 to PR26-001, the “Rules of Organization and Procedure for the Council of the District of Columbia, Council Period 26, Resolution of 2025”

This amendment offers 4 changes to the Council Period 26 Rules:

1. Establish the General Counsel as the Council parliamentarian. Parliamentarians are traditionally experts who provide guidance on rules and procedures to legislative bodies. This amendment will put the Council on similar footing with legislative bodies writ large.
  2. Add a new provision that allows members to challenge referrals of measures to committees if the majority of members do not agree with the Chairman’s referral decision. A majority of members would be permitted to challenge the referral and vote to reassign the measure to a committee whose jurisdiction is deemed more appropriate by that majority.
  3. Permit co-sponsorship of a measure until the close of business on the day before the first markup of that measure. This change will enable Councilmembers to support colleagues’ proposals in the event that members miss the deadline for sign-on is missed, if they miss the deadline for co-sponsorship under the current rules, or decide later that they would like to signal support for a measure.
  4. Change the current process for a supplemental committee report. Currently, the Chairperson of a committee may file a supplemental committee report and the supplemental committee report must be adopted by only the committee. This amendment will allow a majority of Councilmembers or the Chairperson of the committee to request that the committee submit an addendum to a committee report that explains the Council reasoning for any amendments where amendments, including amendments in the nature of a substitute, have been passed by the full Council. Additionally, the committee must vote on an addendum to a committee report before it may be filed in the Office of the Secretary.
- Henderson Amendment #2 to PR26-001, the “Rules of Organization and Procedure for the Council of the District of Columbia, Council Period 26, Resolution of 2025”

This amendment offers 2 changes to the Council Period 26 Rules:

1. Require the Council to meet to establish Council-wide priorities either prior to the release of the Mayor's budget submission or one week after the Mayor's budget submission. This change will allow the Council to communicate its priorities in a structured setting and earlier in the budget process.
2. Require that the Committee of the Whole circulate a draft report and print for budget measures that includes the Chairman's recommendations at least 48 hours before consideration by the Committee of the Whole. This amendment will give the Council additional time to consider the Committee of the Whole's recommendations prior to first vote.

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