

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY & PUBLIC SAFETY
BROOKE PINTO, CHAIRWOMAN**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman Phil Mendelson
FROM: Councilmember Brooke Pinto *BE Pinto*
Chairwoman, Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety
RE: Request to Place Measures on the Agenda for the March 3, 2026, Legislative Meeting
DATE: February 25, 2026

This memorandum is to request that the following measures be placed on the agenda for the March 3, 2026, Legislative Meeting:

Legislation

- **B26-0358 - First Responder Retention Efforts Amendment Act of 2026**

Bill 26-358, the “First Responder Retention Efforts Amendment Act of 2025,” was introduced on September 17, 2025, by Councilmember Brooke Pinto, Chairman Phil Mendelson, and Councilmembers Anita Bonds, Wendell Felder, Matthew Frumin, Kenyan McDuffie, and Brianne Nadeau. The bill was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety. The Committee held a public hearing on the bill on December 4, 2025.

Fully staffing our public safety agencies is critical to ensuring the safety and security of our communities. Recruitment and retention of first responders have proven to be nationwide issues, and the District is not immune to these difficulties. As of September of last year, the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) had just under 3200 sworn officers – continuing the lowest sworn staffing level in more than 50 years. The Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department (Fire and EMS) also continues to seek additional staffing, particularly of paramedics.

This bill would eliminate the mandatory retirement age of 60 years old for both MPD police officers and Fire & EMS members. Eliminating the retirement age is a helpful tool to increase retention and help with the continuity of those with institutional knowledge to pass on to newer recruits. Current law requires that all those who work for MPD and Fire & EMS must have regular physical examinations performed by the Police and Fire Clinic to ensure that all members can complete full-duty physical performance standards. These standards will remain in place, so no matter the age of the member, that individual would have to pass these physical examinations.

- **Bill 26-0411 - Child Fatality Review Committee Amendment Act of 2026**

Bill 26-411, the “Child Fatality Review Committee Amendment Act of 2025,” was introduced on October 6, 2025, by Councilmember Zachary Parker. The bill was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety. The Committee held a public hearing on the bill on December 4, 2025.

This bill would revise the composition of the Child Fatality Review Committee (CFRC) to include the Chair of the Council Committee with oversight over the Child and Family Services Agency. The CFRC is a multidisciplinary team of District residents, community-based providers, child advocates, physicians, and government leaders who convene monthly to conduct retrospective reviews of child fatalities. The mission of the CFRC is to reduce the number of preventable child fatalities in the District of Columbia through identifying, evaluating, and improving programs and systems responsible for protecting and serving the District's children and their families.

Under current law, at least one member from a variety of public safety agencies shall be appointed by the Mayor to serve as a member of the CFRC, as well as the Council chairpersons with jurisdiction over judiciary and human services matters, or their designees. This bill amends that language by striking the phrase “human services” and inserting the phrase “child and family services” in its place so that it instead reads “The Council Chairpersons with jurisdiction over judiciary and child and family matters, or their designees, shall serve as Committee members.”

- **Bill 26-0400, the Statutory Neglect Amendment Act of 2026**

B26-0400 was introduced on October 6, 2025, by Councilmembers Zachary Parker and Anita Bonds. The bill was sequentially referred to the Committee on Youth Affairs and then the Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety. The Committees held a joint hearing on November 13, 2025.

B26-0400 would, first, consolidate, standardize, and update the statutory definition of neglect by creating separate definitions for abuse and abandonment. Second, it would adjust code language to promote a focus on the condition of the child rather than the parent. And third it would eliminate the potential for racial and economic bias by establishing that poverty and housing instability cannot be the sole basis for a finding of neglect.

- **Bill 26-0408, Promoting Parental Engagement at DYRS Amendment Act of 2025**

B26-0408 which was introduced by Councilmember Zachary Parker and myself along with Councilmembers R. White, Lewis George, and Allen. The bill was sequentially referred to the Committee on Youth Affairs and then the Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety. The Committees held a joint hearing on November 13, 2025.

The bill would require the Department of Youth Rehabilitative Services (DYRS), following a youth’s scheduled predisposition meeting, to make a recurring effort at least every 6 months to contact the child’s parent, guardian, or custodian and inform them of the child’s progress on their individualized rehabilitation plan. This bill also requires DYRS to keep an electronic log of all reasonable efforts made to contact the child’s parent, guardian, or custodian and provide this electronic log to the Chair of the Council committee with oversight of DYRS upon request.

Confirmation Resolution

- **PR26-0404-Chief Medical Examiner Francisco Diaz Confirmation Resolution of 2026**

PR26-0404, the Chief Medical Examiner Francisco Diaz Confirmation Resolution of 2026, reappoints Francisco Diaz as the Chief Medical Examiner for a term ending on April 31, 2031.

- **PR26-0481- Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department Medical Director Dr. Sean Morgan Confirmation Resolution of 2026**

PR26-0481- Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department Medical Director Dr. Sean Morgan Confirmation Resolution of 2026, confirms the appointment of Dr. Sean Morgan as the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department Medical Director to serve at the pleasure of the Mayor.

Timely filed committee reports are attached. For any questions, please contact Linn Groft, Committee and Legislative Director, at lgroft@dccouncil.gov, or Eloy LaBrada, Deputy Committee Director, erodriguezlabrada@dccouncil.gov.