

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ROBERT C. WHITE, JR., AT-LARGE
COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Memorandum

TO: Chairman Phil Mendelson
FROM: Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr. 
DATE: February 26, 2026
RE: Request to agendaize measure for March 3rd, 2026, Legislative Meeting.

Please include the following legislation on the March 3rd, 2026, Legislative Meeting agenda.

Emergency Legislation

- **Rental Housing Registration Data Integrity Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2026**
- **Rental Housing Registration Data Integrity Emergency Amendment Act of 2026**
- **Rental Housing Registration Data Integrity Temporary Amendment Act of 2026**

This emergency legislation clarifies and preserves the requirement that housing providers report current and prior rent amounts, as well as information regarding utilities, facilities, services, and appliances, for all rental accommodations—including those exempt from rent stabilization—at the time of registration in the District’s RentRegistry database.

Last year, the Council passed the Rental Housing Registration Extension Emergency Amendment Act of 2025 on June 3, 2025, followed by temporary legislation on June 17, 2025, which clarified reporting requirements and extended registration deadlines to allow housing providers additional time to comply. The temporary legislation will expire on April 5, 2026. This emergency legislation removes the now-obsolete deadline extension provisions while preserving the core reporting requirements necessary to maintain the functionality and integrity of the RentRegistry system.

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), which administers RentRegistry, has advised the Council that these reporting requirements are embedded in the database’s programming and cannot be removed without significant additional cost, system redesign, and implementation delays. DHCD has further advised that this legislation is necessary to preserve the agency’s authority to collect complete rental housing data and ensure the continued operation and integrity of the RentRegistry system.

Without this legislation, the expiration of the temporary law on April 5, 2026 would create uncertainty regarding reporting requirements and risk incomplete registration data. Preserving these requirements is necessary to support transparency, effective enforcement of the District’s

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housing laws, and informed policymaking based on accurate and comprehensive rental housing data. The Committee on Housing is working with DHCD to make this legislation permanent.