

**Council of the District of Columbia
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
MEMORANDUM**

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

TO: Chairman Phil Mendelson
FROM: Matthew Frumin, Chairperson of the Committee on Human Services *Matthew Frumin*
RE: Request to Agendize Measures for March 31, 2026 Legislative Meeting
DATE: March 25, 2026

I request that the permanent legislation and confirmation resolutions listed below be agendized for the March 31, 2026 additional meeting of the Committee of the Whole, should one be scheduled, or for the March 31, 2026 Legislative Meeting, pursuant to a waiver of Rule 231(c). These measures were marked up by the Committee on Human Services on March 24, 2025, and committee reports were timely filed with the Secretary.

I also request that the below emergency contract approval be agendized for the March 31, 2026 Legislative Meeting.

Permanent Legislation

- **B26-0490, the “Library E-book Licensing Fairness Amendment Act of 2026”**

This legislation prohibits the District of Columbia Public Library (DCPL, or the “Library”) from entering into licensing agreements for electronic literary materials that restrict patrons’ access to books. It will take effect after 10 states with at least 50 million residents pass substantially similar laws. The goal of this measure is to empower DCPL to negotiate fairer, more financially sustainable licensing terms that increase access to e-books and e-audiobooks.

Over the last several years, demand for electronic literary materials has grown substantially, placing new pressures on DCPL’s budget and collections team. Digital collections greatly benefit patrons, allowing residents to borrow books without traveling to a physical location and providing accessibility features for individuals with disabilities, including text-to-speech functionality and adjustable reading formats.

The transition to digital lending has also introduced new challenges. Publishers, for example, limit the number of times an e-book can be borrowed before the license expires, require libraries to repurchase licenses after a fixed period, and impose restrictions that prevent libraries from preserving electronic materials for long-term use. These licensing practices significantly increase the cost of maintaining digital collections. Libraries may be required to purchase multiple licenses for the same title or repeatedly repurchase licenses over time to maintain access to materials that would remain permanently available in a physical collection. Libraries’ limited bargaining power restricts their ability to challenge these unfair licensing terms.

As a result, libraries often pay significantly more for electronic materials that come with restrictions limiting their circulation. These costs reduce the number of titles libraries can acquire and increase wait times for residents seeking to borrow popular books. In recent years, these dynamics have become more pronounced as demand for digital materials has grown.

This legislation places the District in the ranks of states fighting back against unfair licensing practices by prohibiting DCPL from entering into unduly restrictive licensing contracts after 10 states with at least 50 million residents pass substantially similar laws. It is designed to level the negotiating playing field between DCPL and publishers without exposing the District to the risks of market isolation it would encounter acting alone.

- **B26-0157, the “Langston Slater Surplus Declaration and Disposition Approval Act of 2026”**

This measure declares as surplus the real property located at 33-45 P Street, NW, and identified for taxation and assessment purposes as Lot 0827 in Square 0615 (the “Property”). The Property is currently improved by two historic former elementary schools for African-American students: John Fox Slater Elementary School, constructed in 1891, and John Mercer Langston Elementary School. B26-0157 disposes of the Property to the Lebanon Village at Langston Slater Team, which is comprised of CSG Urban Partners, Volunteers of America, Habitat for Humanity Washington, DC, Mount Lebanon CDC, and the Douglas Community Land Trust (LVLS, or “Developer”). The Developer will redevelop the existing historic buildings to provide 40 multifamily rental units and develop an additional three-story infill building on the Property to provide 12 for-sale condominium units. Sixty percent of the 40 multifamily rental units will be affordable, and the for-sale condominium units will be 58 percent affordable.

The committee reports, with attached prints and supporting materials, for these measures were timely filed and are attached.

Confirmation Resolutions

- **PR 26-0488, the “Board of Library Trustees Donella Brockington Confirmation Resolution of 2026”**

This resolution confirms the reappointment of Ms. Donella Brockington to the Board of Library Trustees, for a term to end January 5, 2031.

- **PR 26-0565, the “Board of Library Trustees Holly Flood Confirmation Resolution of 2026”**

This resolution confirms the appointment of Ms. Holly Flood to the Board of Library Trustees, for a term to end January 5, 2031.

- **PR 26-0566, the “Board of Library Trustees Kristi C. Whitfield Confirmation Resolution of 2026”**

This resolution confirms the appointment of Ms. Kristi C. Whitfield to the Board of Library Trustees, for a term to end January 5, 2029.

The committee reports, with attached prints and supporting materials, for these measures were timely filed and are attached.

Emergency Contract Approval at the Request of the Mayor

- **The “Modification Nos. M0005, M0006 and M0007 to Contract No. CW119504 with CORE DC, LLC Approval and Payment Authorization Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2026”**
- **The “Modification Nos. M0005, M0006 and M0007 to Contract No. CW119504 with CORE DC, LLC Approval and Payment Authorization Emergency Act of 2026”**

There exists an immediate need to approve Modification Nos. M0005, M0006, and proposed Modification No. M0007 to Contract No. CW119504 with CORE DC, LLC, and to authorize payment for the goods and services received and to be received under the contract and modifications. The relevant modifications provide for emergency family shelter beds that are necessary for the Department of Human Services (DHS) to meet the demand for shelter for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2026.

On September 25, 2025, by Modification No. M0004, the Office of Contracting and Procurement, on behalf of DHS, exercised option year one of Contract No. CW119504 with CORE DC, LLC, to provide short-term family housing in the not-to-exceed amount of \$2,068,216.18. Modification No. M0005 increased the not-to-exceed amount of option period one by \$865,756.86, from \$2,068,216.18 to \$2,933,973.04. Modification No. M0006 was an administrative modification. Proposed Modification No. M0007 will increase the not-to-exceed amount of option period one by \$865,756.86, from \$2,933,973.04 to \$3,799,729.90.

Drafts of these measures and the associated e-filing package are attached.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please contact Leigh Catherine Miles, Chief of Staff, at lcminutes@dccouncil.gov, with any questions regarding the surplus and disposition measure; Dan Passon, Committee Director, at dpasson@dccouncil.gov, with any questions regarding the emergency contract approval; and Emelie Shany, Legislative Assistant, at eshany@dccouncil.gov, with any questions regarding the DCPL measures.

CC: Members of the Council of the District of Columbia
Office of the Budget Director
Office of the General Counsel
Office of the Secretary
Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs