

**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 31, 2026, Legislative Meeting
DATE: March 26, 2026

This memorandum is to request that the following measures be placed on the agenda for the March 31, 2026, Regular Legislative Meeting:

Emergency Legislation

- **Juvenile Curfew Sunset Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2026**
- **Juvenile Curfew Sunset Emergency Amendment Act of 2026**
- **Juvenile Curfew Sunset Temporary Amendment Act of 2026**

We must ensure our kids are engaged in positive activities to support their development, while also working to prevent dangerous situations. The juvenile curfew emergency legislation passed by the Council last year was one effective preventative tool in reducing juvenile crime without increasing arrests and thus should be available to the Chief of Police and Mayor for several more months through the summer.

Since 2023, the District has seen a rise in concerning behavior by some unaccompanied youth. The District has had numerous instances of large groups of youth engaging in harmful, and at times criminal, conduct in multiple areas around the city, including the Wharf, Navy Yard, and U Street. Multiple fights have broken out and robberies, assaults, and shootings have occurred. According to MPD, these types of gatherings have become increasingly predictable, with young people passing out flyers physically and online indicating that there will be a large gathering or “takeover” on a particular day. While the Metropolitan Police Department (“MPD”) has previously used various methods to address this conduct, including enhanced enforcement of the disturbance of the peace offenses, working with local businesses on signage related to trespassing by unaccompanied minors, and requests for a restricted curfew in the Wharf, these tools proved too limited.

However, the Juvenile Curfew Emergency Amendment Act of 2025 and the Juvenile Curfew Second Temporary Amendment Act of 2025 both allow for the Chief of Police to declare temporary Juvenile Curfew Zones to prevent gatherings of large groups of youth during late evening hours. When this emergency curfew legislation is in place, MPD is able to use information about planned “takeovers” to determine where to designate juvenile curfew zones in an effort to

prevent such gatherings from resulting in violence. Without this legislative mechanism, MPD staffing can become strained requiring MPD to pull officers from other neighborhoods when they must respond.

Under the emergency and temporary legislation, the Chief of Police may designate an area of the District as an extended curfew hours zone when “appropriate to protect public safety or public or private property”; in the zone; the juvenile curfew hours would start earlier than usual. The Chief may establish the zone based on: (1) the occurrence of crime in the zone during the preceding 30 days; (2) information indicating that a gathering of more than 8 juveniles is planned that is likely to result in public safety issues; or (3) other information indicating that unaccompanied minors in the zone are likely to create a public safety risk. The Chief would be required to post notice of the zone online and to post placards in the area of the zone. (No prior notice is otherwise required; that is, the Chief could declare that a zone would take effect in an hour, for example, if placards are placed up during that hour.) Each designation of a zone by the Chief could last for 4 days, with the authority to extend the designation of a zone by a separate order for another 26 days (for a total time limit of 30 days). The extended curfew hours shall not apply to groups of eight or fewer individuals.

The curfew would apply to all youth under the age of 18; currently the curfew only applies to youth under the age of 17. The legislation would also allow an ANC, BID, or Main Street organization to petition the Chief to establish an extended juvenile curfew hours zone in its corresponding areas.

Over the last 8 months, during which 17 Juvenile Curfew Zones have been declared, MPD reports that the zones successfully kept groups of youth from gathering in those specific zones during the extended times and kept young people safe. Unfortunately, during a period in October 2025 when the Juvenile Curfew Emergency of 2025 expired, there were several instances of large gatherings of youth—in Navy Yard, Gallery Place, Rhode Island Avenue, and elsewhere—that resulted in fights and robberies — further demonstrating the need for these tools to remain in place. Most recently, the Chief of Police has used this curfew authority to declare zones at the Wharf, Navy Yard, Chinatown, and U Street during the weekend when MPD had indication that there would be large gatherings of young people in each of those locations. Declaring these zones provided MPD with the authority to disperse large groups of young people and be prepared with the proper resources to anticipate large gatherings.

The Council previously included a sunset provision in the most recent temporary legislation that would have the provisions in the temporary bill expire on April 15, 2026. April 15 is in the middle of DCPS Spring Break and prior to the summer months when the District has, over the last year and a half, seen an increase in youth gathering in large groups that have become violent. After seeing the continued success of the juvenile curfew zones throughout the last 8 months, including last summer when incidents of violence tend to tick upward, the District is seeking continued flexibility in the juvenile curfew to allow MPD to ensure the safety of both young people and the public in order to more nimbly address significant safety concerns. Therefore, it is

determined that circumstances exist to continue these measures through the spring and summer to ensure the safety of our young people, District residents, and visitors. **By repealing the sunset, these provisions would remain in effect until September 25, 2026.**

Last summer, the Mayor instituted “Late Night Hype” events to provide positive programming for youth. The Juvenile Curfew Zones must be paired with this type of programming to ensure that young people have positive and productive activities and opportunities, particularly in the evenings. The Executive has committed to additional programming for youth this spring and summer.

Therefore, emergency legislation is needed to continue maintaining the safety of young people and the public in the District.

- **Proposed Contract No. CW128791 with HME, Inc. Disapproval Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2026**
- **Proposed Contract No. CW128791 with HME, Inc. Emergency Disapproval Resolution of 2026**

The District’s Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department (Fire & EMS) responds 24/7 to an extremely high volume of calls. All vehicles used to respond to emergencies in the District are used with high frequency, so a strategic system of maintenance and ordering is vital to ensure that our Fire & EMS members are able to respond in a timely and safe manner. This strategic system is especially important because, nationwide, fire department vehicles have both increased in price and wait times from order to receipt. The District, therefore, must prioritize maintaining the fleet that we have and ordering reliable new vehicles at regular intervals.

This proposed contract with HME, Inc., would be the first contract that DC Fire and EMS has held with this manufacturer. Due to the contracting structure for many fire departments nationwide, this contract was decided upon via a cooperative agreement, not a traditional bid system. While the cooperative agreement model is effective for efficient ordering timelines, DC Fire and EMS should use caution when making purchases from manufacturers for the first time and avoid bulk orders from vendors that are new to the District.

In the Fire & EMS performance oversight hearing on February 19, 2026, the union, IAFF Local 36, sounded the alarm about this contract and suggested that the District should have contracted for a smaller order of pumpers to assess the quality before committing to such a large order. Additionally, it is concerning that the only other major cities that have received HME engines so far are Cleveland and Detroit. In Detroit, the feedback on HME engines has been mixed, with the Department communicating satisfaction with the product and the union stating that the engines were very poor quality. Given such mixed reviews, DC Fire & EMS should be cautious in making such a large order from a manufacturer with which it has no personal experience.

Additionally, the BDA Global report from 2020, which analyzed the current operations of the Apparatus Division, made it clear that bulk orders such as this order of up to 24 pumpers from HME, Inc., are not best practice. The report states that “Delays in apparatus procurement can be so lengthy that they can result in multi-year impacts. That includes years when the Department does not receive enough new apparatus followed by years when the Department receives too much new apparatus. The latter situation causes many, if not more, problems than the former. When too much new apparatus is received, a “bubble” is created which results in too much apparatus moving into reserve status, and then too much apparatus needing to be replaced at one time when the newly acquired units reach the end of their service life. This creates strains on the budget. The far better option is to ensure that apparatus moves steadily through its lifecycle in even and predictable numbers – this makes budgeting, apparatus preparation, and apparatus maintenance considerably easier to do.”

It is vital that the Department spend District dollars in a responsible manner. Given that the District has never had a contract with HME prior to this proposed contract and given that such a bulk order from any manufacturer is not best practice, I have introduced this disapproval resolution to reassess this contract.

Disapproval of this contract will not cause the Department to be in a crisis for engines. While it is important to continue ordering all vehicles for the Department, it is even more important to order quality vehicles that will last, given the usage of vehicles in the District. The Department currently has 16 engines on order from other manufacturers that are not HME—four of which should be delivered to the Department by the end of the year. The Department should therefore not rush order 18 pumpers—over half of the total number of engine companies in the District—from a company never used before.

The Council should disapprove of this contract that is both too large and too fast to ensure that the District is getting a good deal. I encourage the Executive to either order a smaller number of HME pumpers or instead order from manufacturers that have proven to deliver quality products in the past.

Draft measures are attached. For any questions, please contact Esther Bundens, Legislative Assistant, at ebundens@dccouncil.gov, or Linn Groft, Committee and Legislative Director, at lgroft@dccouncil.gov.