


COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER BROOKE PINTO, WARD 2  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC SAFETY  
MEMORANDUM

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

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**TO:** Chairman Phil Mendelson  
**FROM:** Councilmember Brooke Pinto   
Chairperson, Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety  
**RE:** Request to Agendize Measures from the Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety  
for the April 21, 2026, Legislative Meeting  
**DATE:** April 14, 2026

I request that the measures listed below appear on the agenda for the legislative meeting on April 14, 2026, and, where required under Council Rule 231(c), on the agenda for the additional meeting of the Committee of the Whole preceding the legislative meeting.

**Permanent Legislation**

- **B26-461, the “Juvenile Curfew Amendment Act of 2026”**

The District has sought to protect youth and find multiple ways to drive down vulnerabilities to danger and crime. Providing adequate safe, engaging, and age-appropriate programming has been a priority of the District government however, more needs to be done to ensure young people are safe and to reduce vulnerability to danger and crime. Given the recent rise in self-described “takeovers” driven by social media, the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) needs preventative tools to address this relatively new (and increasingly predictable) phenomenon.

B26-461 would do three main things. First, the bill would permanently change the juvenile curfew hours to begin at 11:00pm every day and conclude at 6:00am, including during the summer months and on weekends and extend the curfew to 17-year-olds. Next, the bill would give the Chief of Police the ongoing authority to establish extended juvenile curfew zones where curfew could begin at 8:00pm and remain in effect for up to four consecutive days, and apply to groups of more than 8 people under the age of 18 gathering without an adult. Finally, the bill establishes a process for the Mayor to authorize an emergency juvenile curfew.

The Council unanimously passed the first emergency version of this legislation, B26-286 on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. Subsequently, on November 4, 2025, the Council passed B26-459, the Juvenile Curfew Second Emergency Amendment Act of 2025 along with an accompanying temporary act, B26-460, the Juvenile Curfew Second Temporary Amendment Act of 2025. At the second reading of the temporary version, a sunset provision date of April 15, 2026, was included in the language. This bill is now the permanent version of this legislation.

This bill provides MPD with a limited, but effective preventative tool for protecting young people from potentially endangering situations. Given the data reported from MPD that juvenile curfews have prevented harm and danger to youth; that *no* youth have been arrested as a violation of this curfew; and that the number of curfew violations in the zones have been so small, this has been an effective preventative tool that protects youth from finding themselves in endangering situations

involving violence and destruction of property while being limited in scope and part of a larger efforts to provide positive and expansive programming and supports for youth in the city. The filed packet is attached.

- **B26-399, the “Support, Opportunity, Unity, Legal Relationships (SOUL) Amendment Act of 2026”**

Introduced on October 5, 2025 by Councilmember Zachary Parker alongside co-introducers and jointly referred to the Committee on Youth Affairs and the Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety, this bill creates a new legal permanency option, known as a SOUL family, for children involved with the Child and Family Services Agency. This new permanency option enables you to acquire a stable network of adults who offer support and legal relationships for young people ages 16 and older as they move from foster care to adulthood. The main purpose of this this bill is to expand permanency options for older youth who may not want adoption but still need legal and emotional support. The measure was marked up by the Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety on March 26, 2026.

Filed packet is attached.

- **B26-526, the “Leading Education Access for Reentry and Necessary Success (LEARNS) Amendment Act of 2026”**

This legislation seeks to bridge the educational gaps for youth in our correctional facilities. The bill has four major components.

First, the bill requires the Department of Corrections (DOC) to be the oversight body which will be responsible for choosing a qualified education contractor to provide a Free and Appropriate Public Education (or “FAPE”) to students who are eligible for one. Special Education services at the DC Jail are currently authorized through emergency legislation. With the LEARNS Act, DOC, will be required to continually maintain a contract with an education provider on a permanent basis to avoid lapses in quality educational services provided to students in custody.

Second, the LEARNS Act also requires that DOC provide evaluations for students who were not previously evaluated for special education services before their arrival at DOC facilities. Currently, the District is mandated to evaluate students for special education services if they are enrolled in public school. However, this standard does not consistently apply to students in custody of DOC. This legislation will help ensure that eligible students in custody of the DOC have access to education.

Third, the legislation seeks to strengthen the grievance process at DOC by requiring the agency to establish an online grievance portal where residents and staff can easily submit and track grievances and complaints in real time. This portal will have two layers: one where staff and residents can find contact information for agency leadership and a list of rights for residents in

DOC custody, and a public-facing element that will allow for an individual's families or legal representative to track the status of said requests in real-time, without being able to edit or view personally identifiable or otherwise sensitive information.

And lastly, the bill incorporates several important non-germane technical amendments permanentizing emergency and temporary legislation that Council had moved to correct and clarify prior passed legislation concerning mandatory reporting requirements, probate proceedings, and CJCC report deadlines.

Filed packet is attached.

If you have any questions regarding these measures, please contact Esther Bundens, Legislative Assistant, at [ebundens@dccouncil.gov](mailto:ebundens@dccouncil.gov)

cc: Members, Council of the District of Columbia  
Office of the Secretary  
Office of the General Counsel  
Office of the Budget Director  
Mayor's Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs