COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

MEMORANDUM

TO: Nyasha Smith, Secretary to the Council

FROM: Phil Mendelson, Chairman

DATE: September 17, 2026

RE: **Request to Place Emergency Measures on the Agenda for the September 22, 2026 Additional Legislative Meeting**

This memorandum is to request that the following measures be placed on the agenda for the September 22, 2026 Additional Legislative Meeting:

- **Ballpark Bonds Loan Repayment Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2026**
- **Ballpark Bonds Loan Repayment Emergency Amendment Act of 2026**
- **Ballpark Bonds Loan Repayment Temporary Amendment Act of 2026**

Under current law, after all principal and interest on the bonds issued to build the Nationals Ballpark have been paid, the sports facilities fee is to be deposited into the RFK Campus Infrastructure Fund. The law also directs those funds to be used in Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027 to pay the debt service on any ballpark early redemption borrowing, with any excess then going to the General Fund. Current law also provides that those funds may be used to pay debt service on the bonds for the RFK infrastructure financing and fund any reserves required under the associated indenture.

The approved Fiscal Year 2027 Local Budget Act did not include the RFK Campus Infrastructure Fund in the list of enterprise agencies, meaning that there is no associated budget authority for the Fund in FY27; however, the funds associated with the above uses are certified.

In order to ensure that the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) has the necessary authority to repay the ballpark early redemption borrowing and to meet the timeline for the borrowing required for the RFK project, this emergency and temporary legislation directs the sports facilities fee in Fiscal Year 2027 to the Ballpark Preservation and Improvement Fund for the same purposes currently in law. These measures will not alter the policy previously approved by the Council or the amount of funding needed to achieve that policy. The legislation only changes the vehicle—the enterprise fund—through which the repayment occurs and makes necessary conforming amendments.

It is necessary to move this change on an emergency basis because the OCFO must do the ballpark early redemption borrowing by mid-October in order to meet the designated financial timelines. The September 22, 2026 Legislative Meeting is the only opportunity for the Council to act to timely provide this authorization. The retroactive applicability is to align the authority with the fiscal year.

Draft copies of the measures are attached. Please call me or Blaine Stum, Deputy Committee Director, at (202) 724-8092 if you have any questions.