

Council of the District of Columbia
OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER BRIANNE K. NADEAU
MEMORANDUM

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004

TO: Chairman Phil Mendelson
FROM: Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau *Brianne K. Nadeau*
RE: Agenda requests for October 5, 2026, Legislative Meeting
DATE: October 1, 2026

Chairman, please include the measures listed in this memorandum on the agenda for the Legislative Meeting of the Council on October 5, 2026.

Ceremonial resolution

- **Philip Lepanto Memorial Recognition Resolution of 2026**

This ceremonial resolution would honor the life of longtime District resident and former ANC Commissioner Philip Lepanto and his contributions to the community.

Congressional review emergency legislation

- **Private Vehicle-for-Hire Operator Clarification Congressional Review Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2026**
- **Private Vehicle-for-Hire Operator Clarification Congressional Review Emergency Amendment Act of 2026**

For several years, the Department of For-Hire Vehicles (DFHV) and the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) have identified an increase in illegal vehicle-for-hire services wherein certain operators are not registered with a private vehicle-for-hire company that is authorized to operate in the District. This illegal activity has a harmful effect on the broader for-hire vehicle industry, eroding public confidence in legitimate for-hire services and undermining safety, fair competition, and the District's consumer protection framework.

Proceedings in D.C. Superior Court have challenged DFHV's authority to enforce illegal for-hire-vehicle operations, with an unregistered private vehicle-for-hire company attempting to take advantage of ambiguity in the Department of For-Hire Vehicles Establishment Act of 1985. In response, the Council enacted emergency legislation to clarify that DFHV has had and continues to be empowered with the authority to address the range of threats to passenger and driver safety caused by illegal for-hire vehicle operators and companies, allowing DFHV to continue to enforce registration, insurance, and trade dress requirements.

Recently introduced permanent legislation, B26-818, the For-Hire Passenger Service Reform Act of 2026, will further eliminate any ambiguity that bad faith private vehicle-for-hire companies could exploit. In the meantime, renewed legislation is necessary to respond to the ongoing emergency.

- **Language Access Rulemaking Authority Congressional Review Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2026**
- **Language Access Rulemaking Authority Congressional Review Emergency Amendment Act of 2026**

The Language Access Act of 2004 requires District agencies that provide services directly to the public to offer interpretation services and translated materials for people who have limited or no English language proficiency. The Language Access Director and her team within the Office of Human Rights (OHR) provide important coordination, training, and oversight in support of other agencies' compliance with language access requirements.

OHR has promulgated administrative regulations to help implement the language access law. The Attorney General subsequently noted that the Language Access Act does not contain authorization for such rulemaking. The attached legislation grants rulemaking authority, retroactive to the original effective date of the Language Access Law, allowing existing regulations to remain in place.

Identical emergency and temporary legislation has already been in effect for some years, and OHR has not issued new rules in that time. However, OHR has indicated to staff of the Committee on Public Works and Operations that they remain interested in doing so during the anticipated term of this proposed legislation. The Committee will soon advance permanent legislation that would both make Language Access rulemaking authority permanent and expand enforcement of the existing law. Emergency legislation is warranted until the Committee can act on the permanent bill.

Please contact my legislative staff and the staff of the Committee on Public Works & Operations at publicworks@dccouncil.gov with any questions regarding this legislation.