

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COUNCILMEMBER JANESE LEWIS GEORGE, WARD 4
CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON FACILITIES
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004

Memorandum

TO: Chairman Phil Mendelson
FROM: Councilmember Janeese Lewis George 
RE: Request to Place Emergency Measures on the Agenda for the October 6, 2026
Legislative Meeting
DATE: October 1, 2026

This memorandum is to request that the following measures be placed on the agenda for the October 6, 2026 Legislative Meeting:

- Porchfest Permitting Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2026
- Porchfest Permitting Emergency Amendment Act of 2026
- Porchfest Permitting Temporary Amendment Act of 2026

The Porchfest Permitting Emergency Amendment Act of 2025 was passed by the DC Council on December 2, 2025 to ensure that porchfest performances hosted by individual residents in Spring 2025 would be considered permissible use of the block party permitting process. The accompanying temporary legislation, passed on December 16, 2025 and effective March 6, 2026, is set to expire on October 17, 2026.

Permanent legislation, the Porchfest Permitting Amendment Act of 2025, was introduced on October 7, 2025. A hearing was held on September 24, 2026. Emergency legislation is therefore necessary to provide continuity while the permanent legislation proceeds through the Council's legislative process.

This fall, two porchfest festivals are scheduled to take place, one after the date of the current legislation's expiration: Capitol Hill's inaugural Porchfest on October 10, followed by Adams Morgan's Fall Porchfest on November 7. Organizers across the District are also in the early stages of planning their spring porchfests. Ensuring continuity and certainty in the permitting process is necessary so that both the upcoming fall festivals and those planned for the spring can move forward without disruption.

Prior to the passage of the Porchfest Permitting Emergency Amendment Act of 2025 and accompanying temporary legislation, residents who applied for block party permits to host porchfest musical performances were denied because the events were considered part of a larger porchfest festival. They were told they must instead apply for a special event permit, which is used for major, professionally organized events and is significantly more costly and complex.

This emergency and temporary legislation is necessary to ensure continuity for porchfest organizers for upcoming fall and spring porchfests while permanent legislation makes its way through the Council.

If you have questions, please reach out to Nico Pcholkin at npcholkin@dccouncil.gov.