COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION & THE ENVIRONMENT
MEMORANDUM
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

TO: Chairman Phil Mendelson
FROM: Councilmember Charles Allen CA
RE: Request to Place Measures on the Agenda for the November 10, 2026 Legislative Meeting
DATE: November 5, 2026

I request that the following measure be placed on the agenda for the November 10, 2026 Legislative Meeting:

Permanent Bills Approved by the Committee

- **B26-0602, the "Guiding Renewable Interconnection and Distribution (GRID) Amendment Act of 2026"**

B26-0602, the "Guiding Renewable Interconnection and Distribution (GRID) Amendment Act of 2026", was introduced on February 24, 2026 by Councilmembers Allen, Frumin, Lewis George, Nadeau, Parker, Pinto, and R. White. On March 3, 2026, the bill was referred to the Committee on Transportation and the Environment, which held a hearing on March 26, 2026.

Over the last year, DC residents have seen the worst job downturn since the 2008 financial crisis and more than 80,000 DC residents lost their jobs. Average energy costs in the District surged by nearly 70% between 2017 and 2025. For many low-income households in the DC Metropolitan Area, energy expenses account for nearly 16% of their income–four times higher than for customers in other jurisdictions. High utility rates can exacerbate existing financial burdens for residents, many of whom are already struggling to keep pace with rising costs in the District and are in the uncomfortable position of deciding which essential bills to pay. Unfortunately, DC is a geographically small jurisdiction that imports most of its electricity and gas. This means we are incredibly vulnerable to spikes in the regional electricity market, and better oversight of spending on electric and gas infrastructure is one of the few ways DC can actually lower utility bills for residents. In response to this crisis, the Committee held three extensive hearings and heard testimony from over 120 public and government witnesses on tackling rising utility costs and standing up for District residents and businesses, fast-tracking affordable and clean solar power, and preventing predatory practices by third-party suppliers, among other issues. The Committee Print of B26-0602 is the first major utility and Public Service Commission reform legislation to be advanced in the District in 25 years.

The Print incorporates provisions from B26-0596, the "Utility Rates and Ratemaking Amendment Act of 2026" (introduced by Councilmembers Robert White, Pinto, Nadeau, and Parker), B26-0704, the "Public Trust in Utility Regulation Act of 2026" (introduced by Councilmembers Lewis George, Nadeau, Parker, and T. White), and B26-0750, the "Retail Energy Market Consumer Protection Amendment Act of 2026" (introduced by Chairman Mendelson and

Councilmember Allen). Taken together, its reforms will accelerate the creation of solar energy generation (both traditional rooftop solar and the newly allowed portable solar systems), strengthen the Commission's ability to conduct effective oversight, improve grid resiliency, and better protect customers from rising costs and predatory practices.

- **B26-0697, the "Department of Energy and Environment Reporting Requirements Amendment Act of 2026"**

On May 27, 2026, Bill 26-0697, the "Department of Energy and Environment Reporting Requirements Amendment Act of 2026", was introduced by Chairman Mendelson at the request of the Mayor. The bill was referred to the Committee on June 2, 2026, and the Committee held a hearing on October 1, 2026. The Committee Print of B26-0697 amends or repeals reporting provisions across numerous sections of the D.C. Code. Specifically, the Print amends nine provisions that require reports to be formally transmitted to the Council to instead require publication on DOEE's website. The Committee Print also reduces the frequency of six reports, realigns deadlines to better match data availability, and folds the Renewable Energy Development Fund reports into the Solar for All report. The Committee Print also repeals 16 reporting requirements that are completed, obsolete, or duplicative.

- **B26-0361, the "Shine Safely Act of 2026"**

On September 22, 2025, Bill 26-0361, the "Shine Safely Act of 2026", was introduced by Councilmember Janeese Lewis George; I co-introduced the bill, along with Councilmembers Brianne Nadeau and Brooke Pinto. The bill was referred to the Committee on October 7, 2025, and the Committee held a hearing on December 11, 2025. The Committee Print for B26-0361 would end the sale of mercury-containing compact fluorescent lamps in the District. These lighting options cannot be sold or distributed once the bill takes effect. Pin-base CFLs and linear fluorescent tubes, which light most offices, schools, garages, and stores, would be prohibited one year after the bill takes effect.

The bill does not require removing a lamp already installed in any location. However, as existing lamps fail, under this bill, their replacements must be mercury-free – in other words, moving forward, all new lamps must be light-emitting diodes, or LEDs. Seven categories of specialty lamps that lack a mercury-free substitute are exempt under the bill. DOEE also gains several enforcement tools to enforce the prohibition under this legislation, including the ability to conduct inspections and examine sales records upon request. DOEE may issue a warning for a first violation, after which the agency may pursue civil penalties of up to $500 for a violation and up to $1,000 for subsequent violations. DOEE may also issue cease-and-desist orders or seek injunctive relief. Entities that are subject to these enforcement actions may appeal the matter to the Office of Administrative Hearings.

<u>Emergency Measures</u>

- **Micromobility Fire Safety Standards Emergency Amendment Act of 2026**
- **Micromobility Fire Safety Standards Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2026**

On September 22, 2026, the Council passed the Micromobility Fire Safety Standards Act of 2026 (A26-420; 73 DCR 13450). The act will reduce the fire-related safety risks associated with electronic micromobility devices by requiring that any electric bicycles, electric mobility devices, or traction batteries manufactured, distributed, sold, leased, or rented in the District be certified to meet applicable safety standards. The act is now undergoing congressional review, with a projected law date of December 19, 2026. But since implementation of these safety standards presents no cost to the District, enacting identical provisions on an emergency basis can provide immediate safety benefits to District residents. These emergency measures were develop in collaboration with the Executive.

Copies of these measures are attached. Please contact Kevin Whitfield, Committee Director, at kwhitfield@dccouncil.gov with any questions.

cc: Members, Council of the District of Columbia
Office of the Secretary
Office of the General Counsel