



Council of the District of Columbia

John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Brianne K. Nadeau
Councilmember, Ward 1

Chairperson
Human Services Committee

Committee Member
Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization
Government Operations
Health

February 17, 2021

The Honorable Muriel Bowser
Mayor of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mayor Bowser:

I am writing to share some of my budget priorities as you and your staff prepare the Fiscal Year 2022 budget for the District of Columbia. While I will be working with my colleagues through the Council budget process to support our shared priorities, I felt it was important to highlight several priorities that might not be championed by others. I respectfully request that you consider including these priorities in your Fiscal Year 2022 budget submission to the Council, and I would appreciate an opportunity to meet with your team in order to discuss them in detail.

Housing and Human Services

- Rental assistance:
 - Work with the Council to invest local and federal rental assistance funds in a way that prioritizes eviction prevention.
 - Establish long-term funding for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program
- Invest in the purchase of hotels for short-term use for PEP-V and long-term use for project based PSH
- Commit to paying for the Family Rehousing and Stabilization Program through the end of Fiscal Year 2021
- Maintain FY2021 funding for Project Reconnect, Homeless Prevention Program, *Solid Foundations DC*, Homeless Street Outreach, and the Housing Production Trust Fund
- End chronic homelessness for 3,193 households – 2,761 individuals and 432 families -- by investing in Permanent Supportive Housing
- Enhance Targeted Affordable Housing to add 928 families
- Enhance the Local Rent Supplement Program:
 - Tenant-based vouchers for 800 households on the DCHA waiting list
 - Tenant-based vouchers for 25 LGBTQ+ seniors

- Expand funding for project/sponsor-based vouchers (\$5,000,000)
- Provide funding for the Public Housing Repairs and Maintenance Fund (\$60,000,000)
- Fund housing targeted to 1,100 survivors of domestic violence over three years (\$26,390,000)
- Fund housing pilot program for returning citizens (\$1,800,000)
- Enhance DHS budget for low-barrier shelter for transgender/GNC adult residents
- Enhance DHS budget for Transgender/GNC Workforce Grant and expand to ages older than 24
- Eliminate the waitlist for the Grandparent Caregiver Program
- Increase funding for tutoring and mentorship programs for CFSA foster youth

Youth and Families

- Increase UPSFF funding by 4% to provide funding for adequate supports in schools
- Provide necessary supports to childcare operators, including those not receiving subsidy, to remain open during and after the pandemic
- Increased payment to childcare operators participating in the subsidy program (\$60,000,000)
- Increase funding for Healthy Steps program to expand to a new site (\$300,000)
- Increase funding for Healthy Futures program to increase staffing (\$675,000)
- Increase funding for Immigrant Justice Legal Services Grants to represent each DC resident that is in immigration detention (\$5,000,000)
- Enhance funding for the D.C. Cares program to ensure all eligible excluded workers can receive two rounds of financial support (\$25,000,000)

Public Safety

- Increase funding for the Violence Interruption Program in areas that impact Ward 1 to cover LeDroit Park and Lincoln Westmoreland (Ward 6)
- Expanding funding for programs that prevent violence through a public health approach
- Enhance Office of Victim Services for LGBTQ+ domestic violence housing
- Enhance all core service grants for organizations providing services to survivors of domestic violence (\$5,000,000)

Infrastructure and Business

- Continue funding for the DDOT Bus Priority program in FY22-23 in order to support design and construction of transit priority and protected bike lane infrastructure on Columbia Road NW in Adams Morgan
- Allocate additional FTEs in DDOT's Transportation Engineering and Safety Division and Planning and Sustainability Division to support more rapid project delivery
- Fund the Office of Planning's Columbia Heights Public Life Study
- Fund repairs for Cardozo Education Campus including HVAC, building leaks, stadium, auditorium, gym, armory, building alarm, and marquee
- Fund improvements to Bruce Monroe Elementary School including door locks, wall restructure, and grass overlay

- Fund capital expenses for the LGBTQ Resource & Community Center (\$1,000,000)
- Include Cost of Living Adjustment increases for all Ward 1 Clean Teams
- Enhance funding for the DMV Good Food Fund to sustain and stabilize mission-aligned good food enterprises in the District

Legislative funding priorities

- Fully fund the portion of the *Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Query and Omnibus Health Amendments Act of 2020* related to the Healthcare Alliance program
- Fully fund remaining programs of the *Birth-to-Three for All DC Act of 2018*
- Fully fund the *Direct Support Professional Payment Rate Act of 2019*
- Fully fund the *Women, Infants, and Children Program Expansion Act of 2018*
- Allocate 2 FTEs to OANC to support the *Advisory Neighborhood Commissions Participation in Planning Amendment Act of 2019*
- Enhancements to DC Health and OSSE for *LGBTQ Health Data Collection Amendment Act of 2018* (\$700,000)

I know that you have many important priorities for the Fiscal Year 2022 budget and that you will be weighing input from many stakeholders. I appreciate your consideration of the above listed priorities.

Sincerely,

Brianne K. Nadeau
Councilmember, Ward 1

Cc:

Ronan Gulstone, Director, Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs

Jennifer Reed, Director, Office of Budget and Performance Management