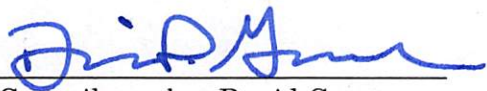
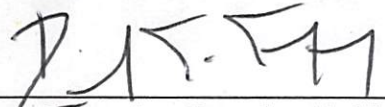




Chairman Phil Mendelson




Councilmember David Grosso



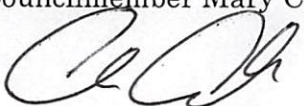
Councilmember Brandon Todd



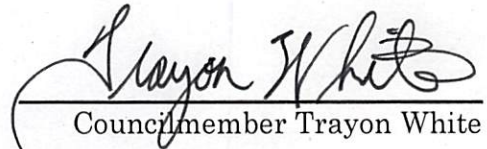
Councilmember Anita Bonds



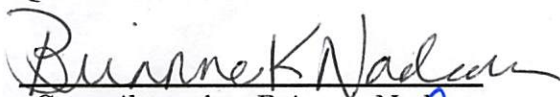
Councilmember Mary Cheh



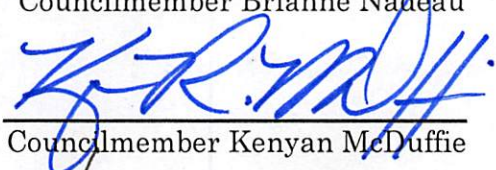
Councilmember Charles Allen



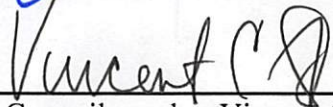
Councilmember Trayon White



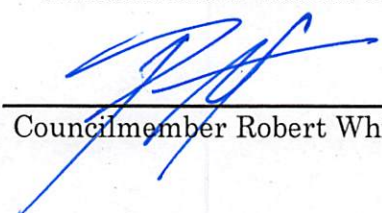
Councilmember Brianne Nadeau



Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie



Councilmember Vincent C. Gray



Councilmember Robert White, Jr.

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To establish a Commission on Literacy to develop comprehensive strategy recommendations to address literacy disparities across the District of Columbia, provide support to advance literacy organizations, and organize and plan programming and events related to literacy in the District's schools.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the "Commission on Literacy Act of 2019".

47 Sec. 2. Commission on Literacy; establishment, organization, members, duties,
48 meeting.

49 (a) There is established a Commission on Literacy to develop comprehensive strategy
50 recommendations to address literacy disparities across the District of Columbia, provide support
51 to advance literacy organizations, and organize and plan programming and events related to
52 literacy.

53 (b) The Commission shall:

54 (1) Conduct research and analyze literacy rates in the District of Columbia;

55 (2) Review and submit to the Mayor and the Council a biennial report that
56 includes current data related to literacy rates in the District of Columbia and recommends
57 actions to reduce illiteracy;

58 (3) Issue grants to non-profit organizations that provide literacy resources to
59 District residents, including books and other reading materials, as well as assistance with
60 learning to read and other related services;

61 (4) Partner with local groups, churches, and schools to create year-round
62 programming in Wards 5, 7 and 8;

63 (5) Receive and distribute books and literacy resources to carry out the duties
64 and responsibilities of the Commission, in accordance with section 115 of the District of
65 Columbia Appropriations Act, 2003, approved February 20, 2003 (117 Stat. 123; D.C.
66 Official Code § 1-329.01);

67 (6) Accept volunteer services and funds from the public and private sectors to
68 supplement the budget of the Commission in carrying out its duties and responsibilities, in
69 accordance with section 115 of the District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 2003, approved
70 February 20, 2003 (117 Stat. 123; D.C. Official Code § 1-329.01);

71 (7) Cooperate with the Office of the State Superintendent of Education
72 (“OSSE”) to develop materials that support the teaching of reading comprehension and
73 literacy in District public and charter schools; and

74 (8) Work with District government agencies to promote inter-agency
75 collaboration, problem-solving and cooperation.

76 (c) The Commission shall consist of 9 members appointed by the Mayor, with the
77 advice and consent of the Council, pursuant to section 2(f) of the Confirmation Act of 1978,
78 effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-142; D.C. Official Code § 1-523.01(f). Members shall be
79 appointed with due consideration given to input provided by established public, nonprofit
80 and volunteer community organizations, prominent business and community leaders, and
81 individuals who have shown dedication to and knowledge of literacy issues.

82 (d) Each member of the Commission shall be a resident of the District.

83 (e) Each member of the Commission shall serve a term of 3 years and shall remain a
84 member until his or her successor is appointed and confirmed. A member of the
85 Commission may be reappointed to serve a consecutive term; provided, that no member of
86 the Commission may serve more than 3 consecutive terms.

87 (f) Whenever a vacancy occurs on the Commission, the Mayor shall, within 90
88 working days of the occurrence of the vacancy, appoint a successor to complete the
89 unexpired portion of his or her predecessor’s term.

90 (g) The Mayor shall designate, from among the members appointed, a Chairman of
91 the Commission, who shall serve in that capacity at the pleasure of the Mayor.

92 (i) The Mayor may remove, after notice and hearing, any member of the
93 Commission for neglect of duty, incompetence, misconduct, or malfeasance in the office.

94 Sec. 3. Regulations and requirements for award of grants.

95 (a) The Commission shall develop its own rules and procedures, including rules
96 governing the issuing of grants pursuant to section 2(b)(3); provided, that any grant shall
97 be administered in accordance with the requirements of the Grant Administration Act of
98 2013, effective December 24, 2013 (D.C. Law 20-61; D.C. Official Code § 1-328.11 *et seq.*)

99 (b) On or before December 1 of each year the Commission shall submit to the Council
100 a report on the status of all grants it has issued.

101 Sec. 4. Fiscal impact statement.

102 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal
103 impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,
104 approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

105 Sec. 5. Effective date.

106 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by
107 the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional
108 review as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved
109 December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the
110 District of Columbia Register.