



Chairman Phil Mendelson

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A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to officially designating the new middle school in Square 3269 as Wells Middle School, to disapproving the Master Facilities Plan submitted by the Mayor to the Council, and to amending the law with respect to the timing of approval of a master facilities plan.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Wells School Designation and Master Facilities Plan Disapproval Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2019”.

Sec. 2. (a) There exists an immediate need to officially designate the new middle school in Square 3269 as the Ida B. Wells Middle School, to disapprove the Master Facilities Plan submitted by the Mayor to the Council, and to amend the law with respect to the timing of approval of a master facilities plan.

(b) The permanent version of this measure, Bill 23-216, will be marked up by the Committee of the Whole and receive first reading on the July 9, 2019.

(c) DC Public Schools has requested that the name for the new middle school be adopted prior to the Council recess to enable it to install signage and complete the necessary steps to name the building Ida B. Wells Middle School in time for the 2019-2020 school year.

34 (d) The Committee of the Whole intends to disapprove the Master Facilities Plan
35 submitted by the Mayor to the Council for a number of reasons in the hopes the plan will be
36 revised and contain additional detail requested by the Committee as detailed in the Committee
37 Report for the permanent measure.

38 (e) Current law states that a master facilities plan can only be adopted in conjunction with
39 a fiscal year budget which has just passed and will not be before the Council until 2020. In
40 addition, the law contemplates that the Council hold a hearing on a plan – the Committee of the
41 Whole and Committee on Education held a roundtable on the plan and not a hearing.

42 (f) Thus, the Master Facilities Plan cannot be approved or disapproved through the
43 resolution it was submitted with and must instead be approved or disapproved by Act.

44 (g) The disapproval is added to a school naming bill which is ripe for markup by the
45 Committee of the Whole in order to take action on the plan before the Council’s recess.

46 (f) Both the permanent and emergency legislation will make clear that the Council may
47 adopt an approval or disapproval of a plan at any time.

48 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia finds that the circumstances enumerated
49 in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the “Wells School
50 Designation and Master Facilities Plan Disapproval Emergency Amendment Act of 2019” be
51 adopted after a single reading.

52 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.