

A RESOLUTION

23-183

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

July 9, 2019

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to officially designate the new middle school in Square 3269 as Ida B. Wells Middle School, to disapprove the Master Facilities Plan submitted by the Mayor to the Council, and to amend the School Based Budgeting and Accountability Act of 1998 to no longer require that the Council vote on the 10-year Master Facilities Plan concurrently with its vote on the Mayor’s capital budget proposal.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution 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 School Based Budgeting and Accountability Act of 1998 with respect to the timing of approval of a master facilities plan.

(b) The permanent version of this measure, the Wells School Designation and Master Facilities Plan Disapproval Act, passed on 1st reading on July 9, 2019 (Engrossed version of Bill 23-216), will not have second reading until after the Council’s summer recess.

(c) District of Columbia 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.

(d) The Committee of the Whole intends to disapprove the DC Public Education Master Facilities Plan 2018, submitted by the Mayor to the Council on March 15, 2019, for a number of reasons in the hopes that the plan will be revised and contain additional detail as requested by the Committee of the Whole as detailed in the committee report for the permanent legislation.

(e)(1) Current law states that a master facilities plan can only be adopted in conjunction with a fiscal year budget, one of which was recently passed by the Council. Another fiscal year budget will not come before the Council again until 2020. The law also contemplates that the Council will hold a hearing on a master facilities plan. The Committee of the Whole and

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Committee on Education, however, held a roundtable on the Master Facilities Plan, not a hearing.

(2) Thus, under District law, the DC Public Education Master Facilities Plan 2018 cannot be approved or disapproved through a resolution of the Council, like the one submitted with the plan, but must instead be approved or disapproved by act of the Council.

(f) The emergency legislation, as well as similar permanent legislation, will amend current law to make clear that the Council may approve or disapprove a master facilities plan at any time.

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

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.