



MURIEL BOWSER
MAYOR

May 18, 2020

The Honorable Phil Mendelson, Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

On behalf of the residents of the District of Columbia, I am pleased to submit to you the proposed District of Columbia Fiscal Year 2021 Proposed Budget and Financial Plan, *DC HOPE (Health Opportunity Prosperity Equity)*. Included in this submission, you will find the “Fiscal Year 2021 Local Budget Act of 2020,” the “Fiscal Year 2021 Federal Portion Budget Request Act of 2020,” the “Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Support Act of 2020,” the “Fiscal Year 2020 Revised Local Budget Emergency Act of 2020,” the “Fiscal Year 2020 Revised Local Budget Temporary Act of 2020,” and the “Fiscal Year 2020 Revised Local Budget Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2020”.

Despite a substantial loss of revenue due to the global coronavirus pandemic, the Fiscal Year 2021 budget proposal continues to make significant investments in District residents. This budget supports the priorities and values of our residents by making critical investments in our public health infrastructure, affordable housing, and public schools. With a focus on health, opportunity, prosperity, and equity, this budget provides a sense of hope that even in times of unprecedented crisis, we can live up to our DC values and provide every Washingtonian with a fair shot at pathways to the middle class.

In just a few short months, this pandemic has created many challenges for our community and has laid bare distressing health disparities that exist across our nation and within our community. We know that these disparities are the result of generations of discriminatory policies and systems that negatively affect the health and well-being of people of color. This budget recognizes that in order to build a healthier, more equitable, and more resilient city, we must improve our health care system while also addressing the social determinants that drive health outcomes.

The DC HOPE Budget includes \$306 million for a state-of-the-art community hospital at St. Elizabeths and \$69 million ambulatory complex to support a stronger network of care in Wards 7 and 8. The budget also includes \$4.8 million to support the recommendations of the Mayor’s Commission on Healthcare Systems Transformation, including investments to reduce reliance on emergency care and \$400,000 to improve pre-natal care. Through these investments, we can transform our health care system by promoting equity in care, access, and outcomes.

Despite the difficult circumstances we face, I remain steadfast in my commitment to affordable housing. Thus, this budget includes a \$100 million investment in the Housing Production Trust Fund and a \$1 million commitment to the Housing Preservation Fund which is leveraged with private investments to ensure we preserve critical affordable housing units.

We will also continue our robust investments in education, with a 3 percent increase in the Uniform Per Student Funding Formula and \$1.4 billion over the next six years for the continued modernization of our schools.

This budget also maintains critical investments in building a safer, stronger DC, including a \$1.7 million investment in our Cadet Program, which will provide 50 young District residents an opportunity to be a part of our Metropolitan Police Department.

Below are additional examples of important investments in the proposed FY 2021 Budget and Financial Plan that will help us build a more resilient and equitable DC.

Health and Human Services

The FY 2021 budget supports the health and well-being of District residents through the following investments:

- \$4.2 million in FY 2021 to support five Centers of Excellence at Howard University Hospital, which will strengthen the Howard University Hospital and improve the health outcomes of Washingtonians;
- \$12.8 million in Homeward DC to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring, including 96 new units for singles, 54 new units for families, and operating costs for our new short-term family housing shelters;
- \$5 million to continue funding for the Safe at Home program to meet program demands and \$250 thousand in grants for senior hearing aids;
- \$26 million to complete the Therapeutic Recreation Center in Ward 7 and \$8.9 million for the Ward 8 Senior Wellness Center project; and
- \$86 million in the capital budget to improve and expand public parks and recreational facilities.

Affordable Housing

Producing, preserving, and protecting affordable housing remains a top priority. The FY 2021 budget makes the following investments in affordable housing:

- \$100 million contribution to the Housing Production Trust Fund;
- \$1 million for the Housing Preservation Fund;
- \$76 million in capital funding to rehabilitate and modernize public housing units; and
- \$35.5 million to expand and renovate the District's permanent and temporary supportive housing.

High-Quality Education

Our community continues to recognize the important role our public schools play in creating opportunity and helping us build a more equitable city. We know that investments in our public schools were the driving force behind the renaissance of our city, and our steadfast commitment to our students, families, and educators remains strong. In the DC HOPE Budget, we continue to make education a top priority through a range of investments, including:

- a \$113.5 million increase in funding for K-12 public education;
- 3.0 percent increase to the base amount of the Uniform Per Student Funding Formula;
- more than \$1.4 billion for DC Public Schools (DCPS) to fund school modernizations, small capital projects, and school expansions to address overcrowding;
- \$80.2 million for the opening of Bard High School Early College, \$22.7 million for a new expansion at Barnard Elementary School, \$56 million for the development of a new Foxhall School, and \$2 million to support Excel Academy;
- \$75 million in capital funding to support 17 schools in the creation of 540 new early childcare seats and 180 pre-kindergarten seats across the District;
- \$20 million in funding for the Parkland Turner Library in Ward 8;
- a continued investment of \$90.3 million for the University of the District of Columbia, including \$6.5 million in investments for IT upgrades and an additional \$108 million in capital investments for university improvements; and
- \$1 million to support the operations of the new Martin Luther King Library.

Public Safety and Justice

Our work to build safer, stronger neighborhoods across all eight wards continues, and the FY 2021 budget includes critical investments that support our collective commitment to public safety and justice:

- \$2 million for an additional 30 corrections officers and \$48 million to address critical building needs at the DC Jail.
- \$327 thousand to provide critical Public Health Emergency resources to the Department of Forensic Sciences;
- \$200 thousand to implement a consumer case management system to improve code violation enforcement, as was recommended by the independent review of the 708 Kennedy Street fire; and
- \$86 million to upgrade our Fire and Emergency Medical Services fleet vehicles.

Transportation and the Environment

The FY 2021 budget makes key investments in transportation and infrastructure that will make moving throughout our city safer and provide more convenient access to transit options in underserved areas. The budget also includes investments that over time will make the District greener and more sustainable. Key investments in the District's transportation and environment include:

- \$1.7 billion to support capital infrastructure upgrades for the Washington Metro Area Transit Authority;
- \$6.5 million to support the continued improvement of our Circulator services and fund key wage components of our Circulator contract;
- \$56 million in safety and mobility investments and \$146 million in streetscapes as well as \$250 thousand in operating enhancements for new Vision Zero improvements to improve safety and reduce serious injuries and traffic fatalities;
- \$117 million to build the K Street Transitway by 2023, providing protected bus and bike lanes across the District's downtown core;
- \$1 million to install new electric vehicle charging stations at District agencies to support growing the District's electric fleet; and

- \$40 million to conduct hazardous material remediation as part of ongoing efforts to make the Anacostia River fishable and swimmable.

Jobs and Economic Opportunity

While recovery efforts for residents and businesses will be ongoing and include the use of local and federal funds, the FY 2021 budget builds on efforts to spread prosperity and support local businesses and entrepreneurs with:

- \$3.7 million for Main Streets and \$4.5 million for Clean Teams;
- \$250 thousand to help returning citizens start new businesses and launch careers;
- \$7 million to support business development across the city with a focus on mixed-use development in high-unemployment areas;
- the creation of an online marketplace that will digitize, simplify, and improve accountability of the third-party construction inspection process; and
- expanded access to our Opportunity Accounts program, allowing residents enrolled in the District's Opportunity Accounts program to use matched savings for medical emergencies not covered by insurance, as well as health insurance premiums in the event of a sudden loss of income.

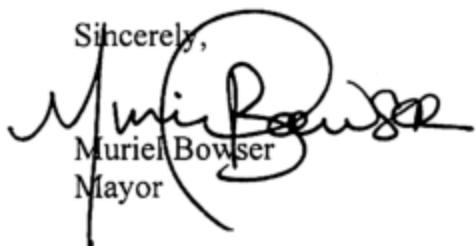
Government Operations

The FY 2021 budget reflects a focus on streamlined and efficient government services that support our DC values, including:

- \$2.5 million for the Immigrant Justice Legal Services grant program;
- \$4.3 million to fully fund the Fair Elections Program;
- \$3.3 million to build a new animal shelter; and
- \$72 million to complete the modernization of the District's financial systems.

The FY 2021 budget is unique in that when we started putting it together, the world and the District were in a much different place than we are today. While our challenges are still great, Washington, DC is fortunate that we went into this crisis in strong financial standing – a place we got to through years of being responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars. I am proud that the DC HOPE Budget, which was revised and updated in the midst of this crisis, continues to reflect our ongoing commitment to good government and fiscal responsibility without compromising our shared DC values.

Sincerely,



Muriel Bowser
Mayor

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Chairman Phil Mendelson
at the request of the Mayor

5 A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

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7 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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9 To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to adjust certain appropriations in the
10 Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Request Act.

11 RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution
12 may be cited as the "Fiscal Year 2020 Revised Local Budget Emergency Declaration Resolution of
13 2020".

14 Sec. 2. (a) The Mayor and the Council previously approved a balanced fiscal year 2020.

15 (b) Since the time that budget was approved, the Chief Financial Officer has issued a revised
16 revenue estimate certifying local fund revenues for fiscal year 2020 that are \$721.8 million below the
17 previous certified estimate due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, certain budget pressures have
18 arisen since the beginning of fiscal year 2020.

19 (c) Appropriated revenues and budget authority for fiscal year 2020 must be adjusted
20 immediately to ensure that a balanced budget is maintained while continuing to meet the needs of
21 District residents.

22 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances enumerated in
23 section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Fiscal Year 2020 Revised
24 Local Budget Emergency Act of 2020 be adopted after a single reading.

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

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of the Attorney General



Legal Counsel Division



MEMORANDUM

TO: Ronan Gulstone
Executive Director
Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs

FROM: Brian K. Flowers
Deputy Attorney General
Legal Counsel Division

DATE: May 18 2020

SUBJECT: Legal Certification of Draft Legislation, the "Fiscal Year 2020 Revised Local Budget Emergency Adjustment Act of 2020", Temporary Version, and Accompanying Emergency Declaration
(AE-20-248)

This is to Certify that this Office has reviewed the above-referenced draft legislation and found it, as to form, format, and authority only, to be legally sufficient. If you have any questions in this regard, please do not hesitate to call me at 724-5524.

Brian K. Flowers

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