



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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ZACHARY PARKER
COUNCILMEMBER, WARD 5

COMMITTEE MEMBER
Facilities and Family Services
Health
Hospital and Health Equity
Housing
Transportation and the Environment

February 16, 2023

The Honorable Muriel Bowser
Mayor of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mayor Bowser:

As the District of Columbia rebounds from the COVID-19 pandemic and strategizes on DC's Comeback Plan, I am sending recommendations on behalf of Ward 5 neighbors and businesses as you prepare to transmit your proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Budget and Financial Plan to the Council of the District of Columbia.

The following recommendations come from direct consultation with Ward 5 Civic Leaders and Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners as well as input from neighbors through a virtual budget request form and a Ward 5 Budget Forum that I held on February 6, 2023. On behalf of Ward 5's 90,000 residents, I respectfully request your assistance in funding these priorities.

EDUCATION AND YOUTH

Reduce Child Poverty and Childcare Costs Through a Child Tax Credit. One of my top priorities this budget cycle is to provide more assistance to low-and-middle income families by investing approximately \$50 million in a local child tax credit and direct assistance to families in need. During the pandemic, the federal government temporarily expanded the federal child tax credit and gave qualifying individuals the option to receive those credits on a monthly basis. That program was successful in reducing childhood poverty, food insecurity, and overall family economic instability. My proposal, which I will formally introduce in the coming weeks, will have two components: (1) a fully refundable \$500 local child tax credit for low- and middle-income households with children ages 12 and under; and (2) a supplemental basic income for extremely low-income households with children ages 19 and under. These investments will significantly reduce the District's child poverty rates and lead to better academic and health outcomes. Additionally, more money in the pockets of low- and middle-income families will help ease the burden of high infant childcare costs, which are estimated to amount to more than \$2,020 per month on average.

Increase the Uniform Per Student Funding Formula (UPSFF) at the Rate of Inflation and Deepen Investments in Digital Equity at DC Public Schools. As investments in our public education system have increased, so have the challenges our students and teachers face—including staffing and program shortages. As in previous years, it is imperative that we increase the UPSFF, the District’s single best tool for achieving funding equity for our students, to maintain pace with the rate of inflation. By raising the UPSFF, we can ensure schools can better weather the fluctuations of the economy, more fairly compensate educators, and provide programming to meet the needs of each child. Additionally, of particular importance for DC Public Schools is the need to prioritize investments in robust technology supports and infrastructure as well as the development of digital literacy skills. The integration of digital literacy skills building into daily learning and curriculum should be adequately funded across schools at \$4 million.

Increase Investments in the School-Based Behavioral Health Program. According to the 2021 District of Columbia Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), there is ample need to support our students’ physical, mental, and socio-emotional health. One of the many alarming statistics shared in the YRBS is how many of youth, especially boys and Black and Native American students, are turning to physical violence in and outside of the school environment. While the School-Based Behavioral Health (SBBH) Program is not a panacea for all youth needs, it is an essential tool to support school communities that are still grappling with the effects of the pandemic. Therefore, I request \$6 million to maintain the SBBH Program in partnership with the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) and the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE). As you know, despite the law requiring at least one DBH behavioral health counselor in every school, Brookland Middle School and many others have gone without a placement. While \$6 million is a foundational investment to maintain the SBBH program, much more is needed to incentivize more partnerships to fill gaps within our schools.

Expand Food Access and Nutrition Programming at our Public Schools. I recommend an \$8 million allocation for the OSSE to fund the Healthy School Meals for All Act. This legislation would ensure all District students have access to free, healthy meals by eliminating administrative burdens as well as the stigma associated with free school meals. In addition, I request increased funding to ensure that FreshFarm FoodPrints, a valued gardening, cooking and nutrition education program that serves Burroughs and Langley Elementary Schools can serve 21 school communities throughout the District.

Improve Equitable Access to and Quality of Out-of-School Time (OST) Programming. I recommend that the District increase the allocation of the Learn24 grant by \$10 million to improve access to out-of-school time (OST) programming. I recommend that we allocate \$250,000 for training OST staff, specifically targeting better accommodations for students with learning disabilities. In addition, I request that programming provided through DPR is available to parents through an equitable registration process rather than the existing first-come, first-served system.

Deepen Efforts to Bolster Teacher Retention in the District. The District has made progress in addressing high rates of teacher turnover, but more investments are needed. Many of our educators must take additional jobs to make ends meet, and one of the most significant burdens

facing too many teachers is crippling student loan debts. I recommend allocating \$2 million to pilot a program helping teachers pay off student loans in exchange for a commitment to stay in the classroom longer. Additionally, I have heard from both advocates and officials at OSSE that more funding is needed to support teacher wellness. Therefore, I also recommend dedicating \$750,000 in local funds to address the mental and behavioral health needs of our educators and investing \$8 million to scale the Connected Schools Model across DC middle and high schools to provide wraparound services to support student, teacher, and community needs.

Expand Programming in Ward 5 Recreation Centers and Ensure Activities are Available to Ward 5 Youth. DPR needs to ensure facilities are open to District youth on evenings and weekends. I request that you embrace changes consistent with the DPR Hours Expansion Amendment Act of 2023 and ensure that sufficient funding is available to open DPR facilities at least the following hours: Monday to Friday from 9 am to 9pm; Saturday from 9 am to 5pm; and Sunday from 12pm to 5pm. Additionally, I routinely hear from neighbors in our Edgewood, Truxton Circle, Hanover, and Bates communities that the Edgewood Recreation Center and the New York Avenue Recreation Center have insufficient programming for neighborhood youth. Therefore, I request an evaluation of programming at these facilities and, where needed, increased investment to ensure that they are properly activated.

SCHOOL FACILITIES, RECREATION FACILITIES, AND LIBRARIES

Accelerate the Modernization Schedule for Burroughs and Langley Elementary Schools. Ward 5 has some of the oldest and most outdated infrastructure in the District. In the past year, Ward 5 schools have endured crises with HVAC, boiler, plumbing, and heating systems. As a result, student learning has been repeatedly disrupted and families are understandably frustrated, often having to adjust schedules on the fly. The severity of disruptions over the last few years at Burroughs and Langley Elementary Schools justify an acceleration of the scheduled modernizations for these schools to FY24. Since the District's Master Facilities Plan is scheduled to be updated this year, I recommend that we conduct a thorough audit of school needs and reschedule schools for modernization based on immediate circumstances of schools that pose the greatest risk to student safety.

Invest in the Department of General Services' Preventative Maintenance Budget. In response to school needs at the height of the pandemic, the Department of General Services (DGS) upgraded many of the District's school HVAC systems. The agency shifted from a purely reactive posture to conducting more preventative maintenance of school HVAC and boiler systems. I request that you embrace the D.C. Auditor's recommendation to expand DGS's preventative maintenance programs to other assets—especially recreation centers—and other systems (especially clocks, electrical, and plumbing). Additionally, I request that additional attention and, if necessary, funding be devoted to security and waste management at DGS-managed facilities, which include DCPS as well as DPR parks and recreation centers. Langston neighbors routinely complain about needed upkeep of the old Spingarn High School building awaiting renovation while Langdon neighbors routinely request clean-up services at Loomis Park. Similarly, neighbors report delayed response to requests for trash pick-up in DGS-managed parks across the Ward.

Fund Ward 5 Facility Improvements, Including Those Recommended in DPR's Draft Ready2Play Master Plan and DCPL's Library Facilities Master Plan. DPR has drafted a master plan that calls for significant investments in recreational facilities all over the District. I request that you fund the Ward 5 projects that are identified in the draft plan:

- \$4 million for Brentwood Hamilton Park in FY25;
- \$30 million Brentwood Hamilton Recreation Center in FY27;
- \$4 million for Bunker Hill Park in FY28;
- \$1 million for Dakota Park in FY27;
- \$4 million for Florida Avenue Playground in FY29;
- \$1 million for Joe Cole Recreation Center in FY24 and \$4 million in FY27;
- \$4 million for Lewis Crow Park in FY24;
- \$1 million for Loomis Park in FY29;
- \$1 million for Res. 0376 (Brentwood Triangle Park) in FY24;
- \$1 million for Res. 0674 (Lincoln Rd., between 4th and Franklin St., NE) in FY27;
- \$1 million for Theodore Hagans Recreation Center in FY24; and
- \$4 million for Turkey Thicket Recreation Center in FY24 and \$30 million in FY25.

In addition, in its 2020 facilities master plan, the D.C. Public Library identified a service gap in the Gateway and Fort Lincoln neighborhoods. To meet that need, I am also calling for \$25 million for a new branch library in those communities in FY27 and FY28.

Allocate Additional Funds for a State-of-the-Art Indoor Pool in the Fort Lincoln Campus Improvement Project. Residents of the Fort Lincoln community have expressed a desire for a state-of-the-art indoor pool to be part of the plans for the Fort Lincoln Campus Improvement Project. While there is an outdoor pool available at this site, services do not meet the needs of our seniors and families. Therefore, I request \$10 million to supplement the project's budget to include an indoor pool.

Transfer District-owned Parcels in Riggs Park and Carver-Langston to DPR for New Recreational Facilities. Residents of Riggs Park and Carver-Langston have long-sought to use District-owned parcels for community-facing recreational purposes. In Riggs Park, the Office of Planning proposed activating the southwest corner of the intersection of Riggs Road and South Dakota Avenue NE with a park facility in the 2009 Riggs Road and South Dakota Avenue Small Area Plan. In Carver Langston, residents have advocated for the city to use an empty corner lot at 19th and L streets NE for a community playground. On behalf of both communities, I ask that these properties be transferred to DPR and that planning processes begin to serve the recreational needs of residents.

Establish a Community Grant Program to Support Efforts in Eckington, Edgewood, and Trinidad to Preserve Public Access to Private Alley Lots. Residents of the Eckington, Edgewood, and Trinidad communities are exploring avenues to purchase small alley lots for use as pocket parks or community gardens. I request that you establish a \$2 million grant program to assist communities across the city with projects like these. Grant recipients should be required to secure property covenants preserving public access and agree to consult local Advisory Neighborhood Commission on proposed uses of any acquired property. Bloomingdale's Crispus Attucks Park, which is owned and maintained by a nonprofit, is a model of the benefits that these unique spaces can bring to District communities.

Maintain Funding in the Capital Plan for Ward 5 Facilities. Finally, I request that the funding levels and timeline for other crucial Ward 5 projects contained in the FY23 Capital Improvement Plan be maintained, namely:

- Modernization of the Bowne Education Campus in FY24 and FY25;
- The Langdon Community Center Redevelopment in FY24;
- Langdon Elementary’s modernization in FY25;
- Modernization of Harry Thomas Recreation Center in FY24 and FY25; and
- The design and construction of an Edgewood/Eckington DCPL Branch Library (funded as a relocation of the Northwest One library) in FY24 and FY25.

In addition, I request supplemental funds be allocated to ensure that the Crummell School is opened on schedule in Ivy City if existing funds prove insufficient to complete the project.

TRANSIT SERVICE AND TRAFFIC SAFETY

Increase Frequent and Reliable Bus Service in Ward 5. One of the best investments the District can make in transportation equity is improving the frequency and reliability of bus service. Bus riders in the District are disproportionately likely to be low-income or persons of color. In addition to the service improvements that will accompany the Metro for D.C. Amendment Act of 2022 on the 80 and 92 routes, I request more frequent service on the G8, D8, and E4 routes to better connect our Brookland, Trinidad, Edgewood, Fort Totten, and Woodridge communities. Each of these routes already serves a substantial existing ridership, and connects Ward 5 residents to neighboring communities, local amenities, schools, and jobs. I also look forward to assisting the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) in implementing its Bus Priority plan in Ward 5—particularly on North Capitol Street, Florida Avenue, Michigan Avenue, and Rhode Island Avenue.

Re-envision New York Avenue, Rhode Island Avenue, and Other Dangerous Ward 5 Corridors. During your third term as mayor, I hope you will look to the New York Avenue corridor in Ward 5 as the venue for a similarly ambitious project as the Frederick Douglass Bridge. The Office of Planning is already exploring how to embrace tens of thousands of new housing units on New York Avenue, and I believe that the time is ripe to pair that vision with a \$70 million investment in FY24-FY25 to construct an off-street trail, dedicated transit lanes, and safer streetscape between Truxton Circle and Fort Lincoln. (I intend to engage with Ward 5 communities in WMATA’s bus network redesign to ensure that bus service is established on the New York Avenue corridor.) I also request that you designate \$50 million in FY26-27 for the overhaul of Rhode Island Avenue between Bloomingdale and Woodridge to improve bus reliability and improve pedestrian, cyclist, and motorist safety on this dangerous corridor. Furthermore, I am eager to partner with DDOT to improve many other dangerous arterial corridors in Ward 5, including South Dakota and Michigan Avenues and the other Ward 5 high-injury corridors identified the 2022 update to the Vision Zero Plan.¹ I request that you direct DDOT to leverage existing operational funds to improve safety on these corridors as expeditiously and aggressively as possible.

¹ Studies of North Capitol Street and Bladensburg Road are already funded, and I support DDOT’s efforts to move these projects through the design process and to secure federal funding to overhaul them.

Invest in Ward 5's Trail and Micromobility Network. According to the DC Sustainable Transportation Coalition, bicycle trips in Ward 5 increased by 36 percent between 2019 and 2022. To serve this growing need, I request that you continue to invest in Ward 5's trail network by including in the Capital Improvement Plan for FY24:

- \$4 million for a design/build contract for an on or off-street trail connection between the Metropolitan Branch Trail (MBT) at Fort Totten and the Anacostia NW Branch trail via Fort Circle Park and/or Gallatin Street;
- \$4 million for improvements to the Eckington and NoMa segments of the MBT to increase safety and connectivity on this high-use segment of the trail-²
- \$4 million for the design and build of the Arboretum trail connector to ensure that Carver-Langston and other Ward 5 residents will have access to the future Arboretum trail bridge and Anacostia trail network at times when the Arboretum is closed.

In addition, I request that DDOT use existing operational funds to deliver protected bike facilities on routes identified as bicycle priority in DDOT's MoveDC mobility priority network.³

Improve Enforcement of Traffic Laws. Ward 5 residents have appreciated the renewed vigor with which the Department of Public Works (DPW) has incapacitated vehicles associated with numerous unpaid speeding and parking tickets. Unfortunately, increased enforcement is needed to correct reckless driver behavior that spiked during the pandemic. Maryland and Virginia drivers continue to hold the preponderance of hundreds of millions of dollars of unpaid fines and fees. I encourage you to fund additional FTEs on DPW's booting and towing teams to ensure that reckless drivers face the meaningful and swift consequences to secure compliance with District traffic laws.

Make Transportation Investments More Equitable and Sustainable. In too many parts of Ward 5, sidewalks are either missing or undermaintained. And while DDOT's urban forestry division has done an admirable job planting trees in available spots, many Ward 5 streets lack tree boxes. For that reason, I request that DDOT use existing resources to prioritize the creation of tree boxes in Ward 5 communities experiencing high heat island effects, especially Brentwood and Ivy City. I also recommend that capital funds for local streets be allocated on per street-mile basis rather than equally across the eight Wards. It is not equitable, for example, to dedicate an equal amount of funds to repair local streets in Ward 1 and Ward 5 when the former has 29.1 miles of local roads and the latter has 88.4 miles.

Fund key safe streets legislation. Finally, I request that you fund portions of two robust traffic safety laws that remain subject to appropriation: sections 4, 5(b), 7(d), 8, 9, and 12 of the Vision Zero Enhancement Omnibus Amendment Act of 2020 and sections 2(d) and 3 of the Safer Streets Amendment Act of 2022 (\$2.5 million in FY23 and \$79.2 million over the plan). Ward 5

² Current needs include a sidewalk connection to the MBT at T Street NE; a fully protected trail on the east side of the WMATA tracks in NoMA; a retaining wall between Florida and New York Avenues; bollards to prevent vehicle access to trail between Q Street NE and 8th Street NE; and tree boxes between R St. NE and Rhode Island Avenue.

³ I am grateful that DDOT has committed to closing the 8th Street NE gap in the MBT and is moving forward with protected bike lanes on Mt. Olivet and 17th Streets NE and other Ward 5 projects. During our engagement process, Ward 5 residents emphasized the need for protected facilities on east-west routes that connect to the MBT as well as gaps in the protected network on Montana Avenue NE, Taylor and Harewood Streets NE, Florida Avenue NE/NW, and Lincoln Road NE.

residents would appreciate your help delivering the safety improvements that these laws would secure for all road users.

VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Expand Mental and Behavioral Health Services in Ward 5 and Improve Coordination Through the Office of Unified Communication. Community based providers have been a lifeline for the District during the pandemic, providing essential mental and behavioral health services. To ensure the viability of providers and the quality of services offered to neighbors, we must build on DBH's increased investments to community-based organizations (CBOs). Additionally, there is a need for more collaboration across our public safety agencies and for greater coordination through our 911 system to improve the accuracy of dispatch calls from the District's Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department (FEMS), Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), and DBH.

Expand Violence Interruption Programs in Ward 5. Violence continues to be a systemic problem in the District, and I am committed to taking needed steps to address its root causes—especially with targeted investments in Wards 5, 7, and 8. For that reason, I request that you expand violence interruption services in the Saratoga, Taft, and Edgewood areas and fund additional violence interruption programs in the Gateway and Fort Lincoln communities. Both the Gateway and Fort Lincoln neighborhoods have experienced significant upticks in violent crime yet are underserved by current violence interruption programs.

Create an Opioid Prevention and Treatment Ecosystem. Approximately 400 District residents die every year from opioid-related overdoses, making opioid substance disorders the most significant community safety problems that the District faces. I join advocates for those individuals in calling for the Department of Health to invest in additional resources to address the overdose crisis, including 24/7 access to treatment as well as target efforts to prevent addiction in susceptible communities. Advocates estimate that an initial investment of \$15 million would allow the District to fund two harm reduction centers, a mobile unit, and additional outreach vans.

Establish Reasonable Limits on MPD Overtime. This budget cycle, we need to address MPD's chronic budget overspending as well as the need for reasonable limits on MPD overtime. According to the D.C. Fiscal Policy Institute, from FY17 to FY21, "MPD spent an average of \$37.6 million more than their approved budget adjusted for inflation, almost entirely on overtime." A former vice chair of the D.C. Police Union was recently indicted for defrauding District taxpayers of nearly \$34,000 for working shifts at Whole Foods that overlapped with his shifts for MPD.⁴ Incidents like this—along with MPD's repeated efforts to avoid reasonable questions about how taxpayer dollars are spent—underscore the need for MPD to have a budget and stick to it, just like every other agency in the District. I am particularly interested in understanding how we might reduce the budgetary impact of special events that drive some of these overtime costs.

⁴ Mitch Ryals, *Former D.C. Police Union Vice Chair Arrested for Felony Fraud*, *Washington City Paper*, Feb. 6, 2023, available at <https://washingtoncitypaper.com/article/588113/former-d-c-police-union-vice-chair-arrested-for-felony-fraud/>.

Expand Education and Rehabilitation Services at DC Jail. In December 2022, the District of Columbia Special Education Services for Justice Involved Young Adults Taskforce suggested creating a Local Education Agency (LEA) for IDEA-eligible young adults at DC Jail; however, I have received disturbing reports that the lauded Young Men Emerging Unit and other programs are being reduced. As the District entertains this transition, I request \$2-3 million to expand quality, in-person instruction for inmates needing special education services and an additional \$2 million for expanded rehabilitative programming. Approximately 50% of inmates are men between the ages of 18 and 32, a population that is particularly at risk of recidivism and therefore in need of educational and rehabilitative programming.

Fund the Second Chance Amendment Act of 2022. Finally, I look forward to working with you to fund the Second Chance Amendment Act that you introduced in 2021 that would establish automatic record-sealing for non-dangerous non-convictions and that would expand significantly the eligibility for record sealing. I recommend investing \$300k in FY23 (\$10.2 million over the plan) in this important legislation to ensure that individuals with records can more easily secure employment, housing, and education.

HOUSING, PLANNING, AND RENTAL ASSISTANCE

Ensure that All District Residents Are Included in the District's Comeback Plan. As the District economy continues to recover from the shocks associated with the global pandemic, we have an enormous opportunity to transform the city for the better. Diversifying the District's downtown by encouraging new residential development is a worthy goal; however, any taxpayer investment in such recovery efforts must also advance the District's equity goals. Deeply affordable and family-sized units should be part of the bargain if the District is providing significant tax infusions to developers and property management companies to cover the one-time costs associated with office-to-residential conversions. Similarly, investments in the District's cooperative business infrastructure must be part of our development strategy. In addition, I request that any new recovery program carefully define the downtown area that is targeted for revitalization and steer clear of long-term tax abatements that are poor tools for assisting property owners who will have significant revenue streams once they have completed an office to residential conversion.

Use \$50-80 Million in District Reserves to Clear the Existing Pipeline of DCHA Projects. Demand in the District for tax-exempt private-activity bonds used to help finance the construction or preservation of affordable housing has outpaced supply. To address this major bottleneck, I propose a one-time payment of \$50-80 million to clear the existing pipeline of DCHA projects. This investment would have the effect of expediting projects already underway and making future affordable housing investments more efficient by reducing the backlog at the District of Columbia Housing Authority (DHCA).

Deepen Investment in the Black Homeownership Fund and Study Increasing Home Repair Assistance to Longtime Homeowners. I have heard loud and clear from neighbors that they support the District's efforts to retaining and increasing the number of Black homeowners in the District. Therefore, I request additional funding for the Black Homeownership Fund that you launched last year. Additionally, since many long-term residents find it difficult to repair their homes, I request \$200,000 to study gaps in the Single Family Residential Rehabilitation Program

and the Historic Homeowner Grant Program to ensure that longtime homeowners in communities like Woodridge, Stronghold and Bloomingdale have the support they need to age in place.

Invest \$35 Million in Permanent Supportive Housing for Single Adults and Families. The Local Rent Supplement Program is among the most important ways that the District helps individuals secure affordable housing. I request that you extend permanent supportive housing resources to an additional 1,260 single adults and several hundred families at a cost of approximately \$35 million.

Address the Shortage of Department of Human Services Case Managers. Housing advocates have made clear that one of the biggest impediments to linking qualified residents to affordable housing is the time it takes to process voucher applications. That time is directly correlated with the number of case managers available at the Department of Human Services (DHS) to process applications. I support expanded staffing, signing bonuses, and other initiatives to ensure DHS can fulfil its mission.

Expand Non-Congregate Shelter Capacity for Medically Vulnerable Individuals and Families. During the pandemic, the District used generous federal subsidies to ensure that medically vulnerable individuals were housed in local hotels. As that program winds down, there is a need to expand the District's long-term capacity to provide dignified, stable, non-congregate shelter capacity without the exorbitant price tag that comes with renting hotel rooms at market rate. We know that individuals and families who are housed are easier to connect to critical services—including long term housing options. I am interested in partnering with DHS and other stakeholders to identify how we can meet this critical need in a sustainable way.

Invest in the Office of the Tenant Advocate. Many renters across the District face enormous challenges exercising their rights to prevent unlawful evictions, enforcing housing standards, or exercising tenant rights of first refusal. The Office of the Tenant Advocate assists with these and other challenges and deserves additional FTEs for its outreach and legal teams to ensure it is well positioned to help the hundreds of thousands of D.C. renters.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND QUALITY OF LIFE

Equip the Department of Public Works to Assist Residents with Illegal Dumping and Abandoned Property. Litter, illegal dumping, and abandoned vehicles are a persistent problem in many Ward 5 communities, including Trinidad, Carver Langston, and Michigan Park. Whether through existing funding or through additional resources, I want to be sure that the Department of Public Works (DPW) is well equipped to respond to resident complaints and to do proactive sweeps in known problem locations. I am also recommending that DPW expand rather than reduce the number of city-serviced public trash and recycling cans.

Invest in Curbside Composting and Outreach Concerning DC's Zero Waste DC Plan. As the District develops the Zero Waste DC Plan, I recommend that DPW continue to invest in robust, outreach to neighbors in all eight wards. I also call on DPW to initiate and implement a plan to make curbside composting services available to all District residents so that we can meet our goal of reducing food and yard waste by 60% of 2015 levels by 2032.

Increase Funding for DSLBD’s Local Funds to Conduct Litter Removal and Corridor Activation. The Bladensburg, Rhode Island Avenue (DC Squared), and North Capitol Main Streets are on the front lines of efforts to improve neighborhood livability and sustain businesses in several of Ward 5’s busiest commercial corridors. I ask that you increase by \$500,000 DSLBD’s Local funds budget to allow these organizations to hire additional staff to remove litter and to provide programming.

Empower the Department of Energy and Environment to Track Air Pollution in Ward 5. I request \$900,000 for the Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) to conduct advanced air monitoring to assess cumulative impacts and environmental justice in Ward 5. Ward 5 residents continue to confront the consequences of decades-long environmental racism, including the unjust and inequitable concentration of industrial land in the Ward 5—especially the communities of Brentwood, Ivy City, Langdon, and Eckington. In the long term, those injustices need to be confronted directly; however, in the short term, DOEE must be better equipped to monitor air pollution levels to protect residents and to hold source polluters accountable. Data collected would also help ensure future zoning and permitting decisions advance environmental justice.

LGBTQIA+ AND OTHER VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Fund Targeted Investments in LGBTQIA+ Services and Support. The District is home to the highest number of LGBTQIA+ residents per capita than any other state, and it is a personal priority for me to ensure that LGBTQIA+ residents have access to housing, safe and inclusive emergency services, and other municipal and private sector services. For those reasons, I request:

- \$200,000 annually to assist in subsidizing the annual costs to maintain the DC LGBTQIA+ Community Center;
- \$750,000 on top of existing funding for reentry programs serving queer citizens;
- Increased investments in service providers picking up slack for Casa Ruby;
- Funding at current levels for LRSP vouchers for LGBTQIA+ youth and seniors; and
- \$600,000 increase in funding for the Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants (OVSJG) to expand services to address the increase in domestic violence in the LGBTQIA+ community.

Deepen Investments in Disease Prevention, Screening, and Care Services. According to the Department of Health’s Annual Epidemiology and Surveillance Report, there is reason for concern over underreporting and underdiagnosis of HIV, hepatitis, and STI cases during the pandemic. Therefore, I request more investments in programs that have proven successful in reaching at-risk populations, including GetCheckedDC, PrEP via the DC Health and Wellness Center, DC Needle Exchange Program, and the Ryan White Program.

Fund Legislation Extending Critical Voting and Employment Rights. I will also be working to ensure we fund two important pieces of legislation that advance equity in District elections and domestic employment. I request that you fund the Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2022 to allow non-citizen residents vote in local elections (estimated to cost \$1.42M in

FY23 and \$1.64M over the plan) as well as the Domestic Worker Employment Rights Amendment Act (estimated to cost \$900,000 in FY24).

Ensure that Nonprofit Partners Serving Vulnerable Populations are Adequately Compensated. The Nonprofit Fair Compensation Act of 2020 requires that nonprofit organizations that contract with the District government be provided fair compensation for indirect costs incurred in provision of goods or performance of services within the terms of any grant or contract. Many of these nonprofits are valued partners to District agencies and are on the front lines of our efforts to ensure District residents have access to basic necessities and services. Unfortunately, implementation of the Nonprofit Fair Compensation Act of 2020 has been uneven. For that reason, I request that the Executive Office of the Mayor and the Office of General Counsel issue guidance to all District agencies that compliance with this law is not optional and to account for the budgetary impact of compliance in the FY24 budget.

SENIORS

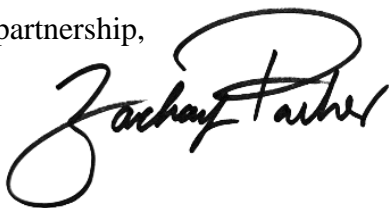
Fund Laws Improving Senior Nutrition Programs and Outreach. I request your assistance in funding two laws benefitting senior residents: the No Senior Hungry Omnibus Amendment Act of 2022 (\$1.6M in FY23 and \$26.1 million over the plan) and the Senior Nutrition, Health, and Well-Being Equity Act of 2022 (\$388k in FY23 and \$1.6 million over the plan). These groundbreaking laws would dramatically improve and expand senior residents' access to key nutrition programs, simplify the process by which they are enrolled in those programs, and require the Department on Aging and Community Living (DACL) to do more proactive outreach to ensure that qualifying seniors are enrolled in programs intended to benefit them. They would also ensure that eligible seniors enrolled in Medicaid could be reimbursed for critical services including home-delivered meals, nutrition supplements, and medical nutrition therapy and establish an advisory task group comprised of District seniors to make recommendations to DACL regarding nutrition and quality of life issues.

Expand Recreational Programming for Seniors. Numerous Ward 5 residents highlighted the need for additional DPR programming for seniors. For that reason, I request an additional \$200K for literacy and technology classes targeted at residents over the age of 60.

Explore Easing Property Taxes for Seniors. Additionally, many seniors struggle to keep up with rising property taxes despite existing programs designed to assist them. I recommend developing a strike force to explore how to ensure seniors can age in place.

Thank you for considering these recommendations. I look forward to our work together to deliver on these and other priorities for Ward 5 and District residents.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Zachary Parker". The signature is stylized with a large, looping "Z" and a cursive "Parker".

Councilmember Zachary Parker

Attachment A: Councilmember Parker's Capital Improvement Plan Requests by Fiscal Year

Agency	Item	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29
DCPS	Browne Elementary School	\$55,160	\$44,128				
DCPS	Burroughs Elementary School	\$7,093	\$35,466	\$28,373			
DCPS	Bunker Hill Elementary School				\$7,784	\$38,922	
DCPS	Langley Elementary School	\$20,000					
DCPS	Langdon Elementary School		\$11,348				
DPR	Brentwood Hamilton Park		\$4,000				
DPR	Brentwood Hamilton Rec. Center				\$30,000		
DPR	Bunker Hill Park					\$4,000	
DPR	Crummell School	<i>TBD</i>					
DPR	Dakota Park				\$1,000		
DPR	Fort. Lincoln Campus Improvement Project			\$20,000			
DPR	Florida Avenue Playground						\$4,000
DPR	Harry Thomas Rec. Center	\$2,000	\$17,000				
DPR	Joe Cole Rec. Center	\$1,000			\$4,000		
DPR	Langdon Community Center	\$14,733					
DPR	Lewis Crow Park	\$4,000					
DPR	Loomis Park						\$1,000
DPR	Res. 0376 (Brentwood Triangle Park)	\$1,000					
DPR	Res. 0674 (4 th St. & Lincoln Rd. NE)				\$1,000		
DPR	Theodore Hagans Rec. Center	\$1,000					
DPR	Turkey Thicket Rec. Center	\$4,000	\$30,000				
DCPL	Edgewood/Eckington Library	\$4,224	\$20,277	\$200			
DCPL	Fort Ft. Lincoln/Gateway Library				\$4,000	\$21,000	
DDOT	NY Ave. Multimodal Project	\$25,000	\$39,000				
DDOT	Rhode Island Ave. Multimodal Project			\$25,000	\$25,000		
DDOT	MBT/ART Trail Connector	\$4,000					
DDOT	MBT Eckington/NoMA Improvements	\$4,000					
DDOT	Arboretum Trail Connector	\$4,000					
	Total for each fiscal year	\$151,210	\$201,219	\$73,573	\$72,784	\$63,922	\$5,000

All figures are in thousands of dollars.

Bolded items were included in the FY23 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Funds for the modernization of Langley and Burroughs Elementary schools were included in the FY23 CIP for later years.