

Public Restrooms Facilities Working Group Minutes June 17, 2021

Date and Time: June 17, 2021 3:00-3:57 pm

Meeting Attendees:

- Brian T. McDermott
- David Ross
- David Selman
- Galin Brooks
- Anovia Daniels-Thomas
- Catherine Crosland, MD
- Assistant Chief Stuart Emerman
- Danica Hawkins
- Ella Faulkner
- Arian Gibson
- Olivia Warren
- Ciana Creighton

Minutes:

Logistics

- Timeline review. Working Group meetings to occur over the summer and fall before submission of the recommendations in December.
- DMHHS website to be updated with agenda and minutes.
- Communications needed on the differences between the Department of General Services (DGS) report and the purview of the working group.
- Review of the legislation and DGS report. The report highlighted places of top incidences of public urination and defecation. The report only highlights where there have been witnesses or anecdotal evidence. However, the working group will formally recommend the locations of the restrooms.
- Consideration of needs assessment and areas of need for potential locations.

Justification and Need

- The COVID-19 pandemic emphasized the need for accessible public restrooms.
- Public restrooms can benefit housed, unhoused, unsheltered, and sheltered residents from a health and medical perspective.

- Intentional and obvious need for public restrooms has been demonstrated in DC for years.

Working Group Subgroups

- Community and Equity
 - Access across all 8 Wards to public restrooms.
 - Locations informed by residents and the impact of the pandemic.
 - Populations served (explaining that public restrooms can be used by housed and unhoused residents).
- Public Health
 - Research on infections and public restrooms.
- Environment and Facilities
 - Materials to be used and design.
- Implementation
 - Areas of public urination and defecation to help inform locations along with community engagement and environmental considerations.