



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

June 30, 2021

CONTACT: Sward Tondoneh (DMHHS) – (202) 276-1149; sward.tondoneh@dc.gov

Public Restrooms Working Group Begins Meeting to Determine Locations of Stand-Alone Public Restrooms in the District

(WASHINGTON, DC) – On June 17th, the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services (DMHHS) convened the District’s first Public Restroom Working Group. This group was created in response to the [Public Restroom Facilities Installation and Promotion Act](#) to assess the need of public restroom facilities in the District. The act directs the District to install two standalone public restrooms as a pilot program. In addition to the formation of the working group, feedback will be solicited from BIDs, ANCs, and Clean Teams in addition to additional public engagement and insight from subject matter experts.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of all residents and visitors alike having access to clean, safe, and dignified public restrooms throughout the city,” said Deputy Mayor Turnage. *“Whether it is a person experiencing homelessness, an expecting parent, or an 8th grader on their field trip to the District, safe and clean public restrooms are important and a topic of equity and access.”*

Pursuant to the legislation, the working group is comprised of members from DC Government agencies and five community members. The working group will be administered by DMHHS. The working group includes representatives from the following agencies:

- DC Department of Human Services (DHS)
- DC Department of Transportation (DDOT)
- Metropolitan Police Department (MPD)
- DC Health
- Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)
- Office of the Deputy for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED)
- Department of General Services (DGS)
- Department of Public Works (DPW)
- DC Water

The working group also consists of five community members affiliated with the following organizations:

- Miriam's Kitchen
- Community Connections Inc.
- IONA Senior Services
- Unity Healthcare
- DowntownDC BID

The Public Restroom Facilities and Promotion Act of 2018 Report, developed by the Department of General Services (DGS), was transmitted to DC Council on Friday, April 23rd, 2021. Shortly thereafter, the working group's first meeting was on June 17th, 2021. Agendas and minutes for the meeting will be available on the [DMHHS website](#). The locations cited in the report highlighted common places of retrieval, but the working group will determine where the locations should be over the course of the working group and with community input. The group will meet monthly until recommendations are transmitted to the Mayor in November 2021.