

McDuffie Introduces Series of Bills to Make D.C. Government Contracting Opportunities Accessible to More Small and Local Businesses

Councilmember McDuffie, Chair of the Council Committee on Business and Economic Development, recently introduced three bills aimed at making the District of Columbia Government easier to do business with, particularly for small and local businesses:

Accessible and Transparent Procurement Amendment Act of 2017 [B22-0395]

This measure would require the District government to place all District government solicitations over \$25,000 on a single website that provides machine-readable and searchable information. Additionally, the bill also requires the Executive to post a list of all contracts in the preceding year that had a closing date of less than 30 days from the date of issuance.

Quick Payment Amendment Act of 2017 [B22-0439]

This legislation aims to ensure that both prime contractors and thus subcontractors receive their payments in a timely manner. The legislation requires the District to disperse payments no later than 15 days after receiving a properly submitted invoice. Currently the District has up to 30 days to make payment, which can cause a significant burden for subcontractors who may not have the assets necessary to float payments to employees and vendors. Reducing the time in which contractors are paid will assist subcontractors in receiving their funds earlier.

Government Contractor-Subcontractor Dispute Resolution Act of 2017 [B22-0440]

This legislation is designed to assist the dispute resolution process for conflicts that arise between prime contractors and subcontractors working on government projects. The legislation empowers the Director of the D.C. Department of Small and Local Business Development (DSLBD) to attempt to resolve the contractual disputes through "conference and conciliation" with the parties. If "conference and conciliation" is unsuccessful, the legislation further empowers the Director to appoint an independent Hearing Officer to produce a "Counts and Allegations" document which includes all of the parties and issues to be resolved. Hearing Officers must decide the matter within 15 days of receiving the evidence and arguments from the prime and subcontractors.

Leaf Collection Set to Begin in November

Fall leaf collection program runs from the first week of November through the second week of January. D.C. Department of Public Works (DPW) will collect leaves at least twice from each residential neighborhood by "vacuuming" loose leaves residents rake into their treebox(es). Loose leaves will be sent for composting. In neighborhoods with alley trash/recycling collections, bagged leaves may be placed where trash and recycling are collected. These leaves will be collected with the trash as space in the truck permits. If you are bagging your leaves, please use paper bags.

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