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**Thursday, July 23, 2020**

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### **District Council Reverses Course on the Advertising and Personal Property Tax Amendment Act of 2020**

HAWDC is pleased to announce, that due to our efforts, and working alongside a coalition of business associations, the 3% ad tax that was proposed in the District's budget has now been deleted. The District Council was scheduled to hold its second vote on the ad tax on Tuesday, however, because of the pressure put on Councilmembers by the business community, Chairman Mendelson in a near unprecedented procedural move, recessed the meeting to revisit the committee mark-ups to find cuts that would allow them to avoid implementing the tax.

The amendments that were made today cover the \$18.4 million necessary to eliminate the advertising tax entirely. **HAWDC thanks members for reaching out to the Council and providing feedback.** This reverse in policy would not have been made without the Council hearing your concerns about the negative impacts of the tax to the business community as it continues its COVID-19 pandemic recovery efforts.

The final vote on the Budget Support Act, the package of laws that accompany the budget, will be voted on Tuesday, July 28th. HAWDC will update members as the budget continues to work its way through the legislative process.

### **Business Interruption Grants Update**

As you are already aware, the Council previously passed

emergency legislation that would provide business interruption grants to businesses that suffered economic loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Mayor has to issue rules for the grant application process and administration before businesses can begin to apply for a grant. Additionally, money has to be allocated in order to fund the grants. Mayor Bowser's administration has indicated that they are hopeful for another round of federal stimulus dollars to fulfill the intent and purpose of the bill.

Regards,  
Lisa

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