



Thursday, July 1, 2021

Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Mark-Up

Over the last two days, each Council Committee has voted on their Fiscal Year 22 Budget recommendations. As we previously informed you, Mayor Bowser recommended several investments and enhancements to programs addressing the needs of residents, workers, and businesses who have all been impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic. Her proposed budget also includes \$5.1 million (Fiscal Year 2022) and \$4.4 million (Fiscal Year 2023) for a multi-year sustained marketing campaign in collaboration with Destination DC and Events DC, directed to attract leisure and business tourists.

The following is a list of specific committee recommendations that may impact your business operations:

- **Providing \$10 million for additional Bridge Fund Grants for hotels.**
- Providing \$20 million for additional Bridge Fund Grants for retail and restaurants, with certain restrictions applied.
- Reversing the Mayor's recommendation to refund employers a portion of the paid leave taxes that were not utilized during the pandemic
- Expanding paid medical leave benefits from 2 weeks to up to 6 weeks.
- Providing 2 weeks of pre-natal leave benefits.
- Removal of the waiting week to receive paid leave benefits.
- Providing benefits to workers regardless of employment status.
- Allowing retroactive paid leave claims.
- Expanding the wage base used to determine the amount of benefits for 1 year post-pandemic.

The full Council will meet to discuss all of the committee recommendations, so these recommendations are subject to change. Below is the remaining schedule for consideration of the budget:

- July 8th – Budget Work Session
- July 21st – Committee of the Whole Consideration of the “Fiscal Year 2022 Local Budget Act of 2021” and the “Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Support Act of 2021”
- August 3rd – Council Consideration of the “Fiscal Year 2022 Local Budget Act of 2021,” “Fiscal Year 2022 Federal Portion Budget Request Act of 2021,” and the “Fiscal Year 2021 Revised Local Budget Emergency Adjustment Act

of 2020”

- August 10th – Council Consideration of the “Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Support Act of 2021”

HAWDC is very pleased with the budget recommendation from the Committee on Business and Economic Development to provide an additional \$10 million for Bridge Fund grants to District hotels. We know how important these dollars have been to help sustain your operations. HAWDC will continue to monitor the budget process and update members as the budget works its way through the legislative process.

Regards,
Lisa