OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY

2016 JUL 14 AM 11:53

MURIEL BOWSER
MAYOR

JUL 14 2016

The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Suite 504
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

Enclosed for consideration and approval by the Council of the District of Columbia is a bill entitled the "Law Enforcement Career Opportunity Amendment Act of 2016."

The legislation amends the Police Officer and Firefighter Cadet Programs Funding Authorization and Human Rights Act of 1977 Amendment Act of 1982, effective March 9, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-172; D.C. Official Code 5-109) to enable graduates of District high schools to join the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) to serve as police cadets until they reach 25 years of age.

Police cadets are recent District high school graduates who are employed by MPD in civilian positions. Working about 20 hours a week, the cadets rotate through a variety of assignments – helping the MPD fulfill our mission, while providing the cadets with valuable exposure and experience within the Department. In addition to paying the cadets for their work, MPD pays for their tuition at the University of the District of Columbia. Cadets convert to career police status upon completion of their Associate Degree program and enter recruit training to become a sworn officer.

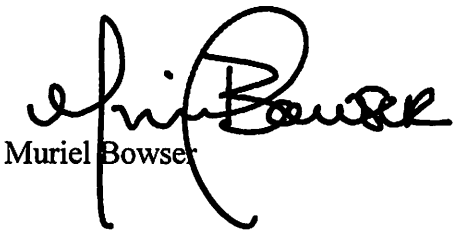
The law currently allows District high school graduates to join and serve until they reach 21 years of age. Raising the maximum age would support more District residents on a pathway to the middle class with a strong career opportunity. The program provides critical assistance to youth and young adults in their efforts to earn the 60 college credit hours required to join MPD. All applicants must meet the other standards and qualifications for becoming an MPD recruit. While MPD has funded positions for 35 cadets,[1] and many applicants under the age of 21 for these positions, there are routinely not enough qualified applicants to fill all of the funded positions.

[1] Of these 35 positions, 18 are locally funded, 12 are funded through a Department of Employment Services grant, and five are funded by a donation.

One of MPD's long-standing goals is to recruit District residents to serve as police officers. Enacting this legislation provides another avenue for young District residents to identify and grow into a career path. I urge prompt consideration and approval of this bill.

If you have any questions on this matter, please contact Kelly O'Meara, Director for Strategic Change at the Metropolitan Police Department, at 202.727.9680.

Sincerely,



Muriel Bowser

Chairman Phil Mendelson
at the request of the Mayor

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Chairman Phil Mendelson, at the request of the Mayor, introduced the following bill, which was referred to the Committee on _____.

To amend section 2(a) of the Police Officers and Firefighter Cadet Program Funding Amendment Act and Human Rights Act of 1977 Amendments Act of 1982 to change the age eligibility requirements for the police officer cadet program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the "Law Enforcement Career Opportunity Amendment Act of 2016".

Sec. 2. Section 2(a) of the Police Officers and Firefighter Cadet Program Funding Amendment Act and Human Rights Act of 1977 Amendment Act of 1982 (D.C. Law 4-172; D.C. Official Code § 5-109.01(a)) is amended as follows:

Subsection (a) is amended as follows:

Strike the number "21" and insert the number "25" in its place.

Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement of the Chief Financial Officer as the fiscal impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975, approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

Sec. 4. Effective date.

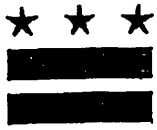
This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor, (or in the event of veto by the Mayor, action by the Council of the District of Columbia to override the veto), a 30-day period

1 of congressional review as provided in section 602(c)(2) of the District of Columbia Home Rule

2 Act, approved December 24, 1973 987 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(2)), and

3 publication in the District of Columbia Register.

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of the Attorney General



ATTORNEY GENERAL
KARL A. RACINE

Legal Counsel Division

TO:	**Lolita S. Alston** **Director** **Office of Legislative Support**
FROM:	**Janet M. Robins** **Deputy Attorney General** **Legal Counsel Division**
DATE:	**June 3, 2016**
SUBJECT:	**Legal Sufficiency Review of Bill, the "Law Enforcement Career Opportunity Amendment Act of 2016"** **(AE-16-345)**

This is to Certify that this Office has reviewed the above-referenced legislation and has found it to be legally sufficient. If you have any questions regarding this certification, please do not hesitate to contact me at 724-5524.

Janet M. Robins

JMR/phg

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