Single Member District Commissioners
01-Hayden Gise; 02-Adam Prinzo; 03-Janell Pagats
04-Roric McCorristin; 05-Sauleh Siddiqui; 06-Tammy Gordon
07-Gawain Kripke; 08-Rick Nash

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ANC3C Resolution 2023-CONSENT
Resolution Requesting to Improve Menstrual Product Access in District of Columbia Public Libraries

WHEREAS District of Columbia Public Library (DCPL) is an independent agency of the District of Columbia that operates 26 facilities across the District that act as a vibrant center of activity for residents and visitors alike[1];

WHEREAS DCPL serves millions of residents in-person each year, with 1.8 million residents served in-person in 2020, during the global pandemic, down from 3.8 million in-person the prior year[2];

WHEREAS DCPL is a recognized force in the community for engaging the mind, expanding opportunities, and elevating the quality of life for all residents[3];

WHEREAS Menstrual products are a necessity like toilet paper, hand soap, and paper towels and, as such, should be considered a vital part of maintaining the most basic quality of life for all residents;

WHEREAS An estimated 33% of District of Columbia residents suffer from food insecurity, which is considered as a key indicator of inability to purchase menstrual products[4];

WHEREAS Public entitlement programs, like Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) are subject to federal restrictions that prevent recipients from purchasing menstrual products;

WHEREAS Some DCPL facilitie maintain a supply of menstrual products that are not kept accessible places, requiring people who menstruate to come out of the restroom and ask a staff member for a menstrual product;

WHEREAS Aforementioned DCPL facilities that maintain a supply of menstrual products are currently dependent on the DCPL Foundation, a private philanthropic support organization, to fund these basic human necessities;

1   https://www.dclibrary.org/about-us/next-libris-library-facilities-master-plan .
2
https://www.dclibrary.org/sites/default/files/files/2023-04/Document%208D.1%20-%20Library%20Performance%20Report%20FY2021%20Q3%20-%20July%2028%202021_0.pdf .
3   https://www.dclibrary.org/about-us .
4   https://hunger-report.capitalareafoodbank.org/report-2022/ .

WHEREAS D.C. Law 24-250, Period Equity Righting an Injustice of District Residents (PERIOD) Act of 2022 went into effect on February 23, 2023, requiring that the entity responsible for maintaining public bathrooms install and maintain dispensers or similar receptacles of free-for-use menstrual products in women's and gender-neutral bathrooms[5];

WHEREAS D.C. Law 24-250 further requires that facilities without gender-neutral bathrooms install free-for-use menstrual product dispensers in at least one men's bathroom with signs in all other men's bathrooms indicating where period products are available within the building[6].

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT ANC 3C urges the District of Columbia Public Library to fully implement D.C. Law 24-250, to purchase and install free-for-use menstrual product dispensers in all women's and gender-neutral bathrooms;

BE IT RESOLVED that the ANC 3C authorizes the Chair represent the Commission on this matter.

Attested by

Janell Pagats
Chair, on November 20, 2023

This resolution was approved by voice vote on November 20, 2023, at a scheduled and noticed public meeting of ANC 3C at which a quorum (a minimum of 5 of 8 commissioners) was present.

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https://code.dccouncil.gov/us/dc/council/laws/24-250#:~:text=Law%2024-250.-,Period%20Equity%20Righting%20an%20Injustice%20of,(PERIOD)%20Act%20of%202022.&text=To%20require%20 .

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https://code.dccouncil.gov/us/dc/council/laws/24-250#:~:text=Law%2024-250.-,Period%20Equity%20Righting%20an%20Injustice%20of,(PERIOD)%20Act%20of%202022.&text=To%20require%20