

**Written Testimony of George Olivar**  
**at the April 10, 2019 Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development**

Committee Chair McDuffie, members of the Committee on Business and Economic Development, Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development Director Kenner,

My name is George Olivar. I am a member of the People for Fairness Coalition (PFFC) Downtown DC Public Restroom Initiative. Our research both influenced and guided the contents of Bill 22-0223, Public Restroom Facilities Installation & Promotion Act of 2018 which will soon become law.

I am 71 years old and diabetic. The medication I take for my diabetes causes me to need to go urgently when nature calls. In some instances, I have not been able to find a restroom in time which has resulted in my having an accident which is very embarrassing. Exacerbating this is that when I was homeless and slept on the streets, I was often turned away from private facilities.

Bill 22-0223, which was passed by the DC Council in December 2018, forms an Interagency Working Group charged with studying the feasibility of and recommending two public restrooms pilots: two stand-alone public restrooms open 24/7, and incentives to businesses to open their restrooms to the public.

We all need more clean, safe, public restrooms available 24/7 in Washington DC: the over 20 million tourists that visit DC every year; individuals who like myself have health conditions and are restroom challenged; people coming in and out of the Metro and getting on and off buses during the workweek; joggers, walkers and bikers. Everyone needs to find a place where they can urinate and defecate in a safe environment.

The Mayor chose not to include \$336,000 in her FY 2020 budget to fund the first year of the public restroom pilots provided for under Bill 22-0223.

Unless the DC Council sets aside funding for this purpose in its FY 2020 markup, the interagency Working Group charged with recommending the public restrooms pilots will not be able to begin its work.

We look forward to your support in identifying funds in the FY 2020 markup to make this a reality.

Thank you very much.