



**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER BROOKE PINTO**  
THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING  
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W., SUITE 106  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

September 16, 2024

Nyasha Smith, Secretary  
Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Secretary Smith,

Today, along with Councilmembers Christina Henderson, Vincent C. Gray, and Kenyan R. McDuffie, I am introducing the “Childcare for First Responders Act of 2024.” This bill would require the Mayor to provide free childcare to all first responders, which the bill defines as any District of Columbia 911 or 311 call-taker or dispatcher, firefighter, emergency medical technician, or police officer.

The District faces a staffing crisis across all of its public safety agencies that requires creative and attractive benefits to attract qualified applicants for these crucial roles as first responders and retain them in these positions. At the same time, the cost of sending a child to daycare in the District continues to rise.<sup>1</sup> This bill aims to incentivize and improve hiring and retention at our public safety agencies by requiring the Mayor to provide on-site and free childcare to the children of first responders. This benefit will especially help hiring at the Office of Unified Communications (OUC), where recruitment is especially challenging and there is currently space available for childcare at its headquarters on Martin Luther King Junior Avenue SE.

The bill would allow the Mayor to determine the best on-site location for childcare at each emergency response agency. It also provides criteria the Mayor must consider when selecting locations for the childcare.

Should you have any questions about this legislation, please contact my Committee Director, Evan Marolf, at [emarolf@dccouncil.gov](mailto:emarolf@dccouncil.gov) or (202) 724-8073.

Thank you,

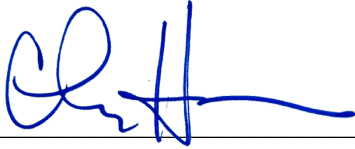
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "BE PINTO".

Brooke Pinto  
Councilmember, Ward 2  
Chairwoman, Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety  
Council of the District of Columbia

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<sup>1</sup> See Cuneyt Dil, *Child care can cost as much as college, burdening D.C. families*, Axios D.C. (June 22, 2023), [available here](#).

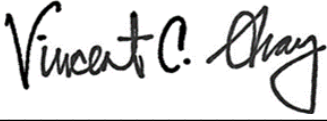
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Councilmember Christina Henderson



Councilmember Brooke Pinto



Councilmember Vincent C. Gray



Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To require the Mayor to provide free childcare to all first responders.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Childcare for First Responders Act of 2024”.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

For the purposes of this act, the term:

(a) “First responder” means a District of Columbia 911 or 311 call-taker or dispatcher, firefighter, paramedic, emergency medical technician, or police officer.

(b) “Emergency response agency” means the Office of Unified Communications, the Fire and Emergency Medical Service Department, or the Metropolitan Police Department.

Sec. 3. Provision of childcare to first responders.

37 (a) The Mayor shall provide childcare to all first responders employed by the District at  
38 no cost to the first responders.

39 (b) Childcare provided under this act shall be available to first responders twenty-four  
40 hours of every day that the emergency response agency is operating and shall be staffed by  
41 licensed childcare providers.

42 (c) Childcare provided under this act shall be located on-site at each emergency response  
43 agency. The Mayor shall determine, in consultation with the director of each emergency  
44 response agency, which physical locations at each emergency response agency are best suited to  
45 house childcare services. In selecting locations, the Mayor shall consider:

46 (1) The number of staff that work at each of an emergency response agency's  
47 physical locations;

48 (2) The location of workplace for first responders at each emergency response  
49 agency who have children;

50 (3) The availability of space where childcare could be housed; and

51 (4) Whether it is more efficient and preferable to first responders to have  
52 childcare provided at multiple locations for each emergency response agency or in fewer central  
53 locations.

54 Sec. 4. Applicability.

55 (a) This act shall apply upon the date of inclusion of its fiscal effect in an approved  
56 budget and financial plan.

57 (b) The Chief Financial Officer shall certify the date of the inclusion of the fiscal effect in  
58 an approved budget and financial plan, and provide notice to the Budget Director of the Council  
59 of the certification.

60 (c)(1) The Budget Director shall cause the notice of the certification to be published in  
61 the District of Columbia Register.

62 (2) The date of publication of the notice of the certification shall not affect the  
63 applicability of this act.

64 Sec. 5. Fiscal impact statement.

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

68 Sec. 6. Effective date.

69 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the  
70 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as  
71 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December  
72 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code §1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of  
73 Columbia Register.