



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Councilmembers Bowser and Cheh introduce legislation that updates District's business codes

Washington, D.C. – In today's Committee of the Whole meeting, Councilmembers Muriel Bowser and Mary Cheh introduced the "District of Columbia Official Code Title 29 (Business Organizations) Enactment Act of 2009." The bill brings the District's business entity laws up-to-date and provides a solid legal framework for businesses in the District to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Its enactment will encourage businesses to form and remain in the District.

Councilmember Bowser said "The current business codes are incomplete, unclear and out-of-date. They are based in large part on statutes enacted by Congress in 1870, before the advent of the Internet, the television, and even the automobile. Such inadequacies have discouraged business start-ups in the District, which has had an adverse impact on our economy. The bill introduced today turns the page on this chapter because it will update the entirety of our city's Business Organizations Code."

In 2007, Councilmember Cheh, then Chair of the Committee on Public Services and Consumer Affairs, approached the D.C. Bar Association to draft revisions to the District's Business Organizations Code. **Councilmember Cheh said** "The District of Columbia's business codes are antiquated and in need of comprehensive reform. This bill is a major step forward in fostering a more business-friendly environment by simplifying and clarifying the law."

Advantages to overhauling the D.C. Business Organizations Code (D.C. Bar Association):

- The code is efficiently organized and fills serious gaps in current District law. The consolidation of all business entity laws in a single title of the D.C. Code, results in a comprehensive and easily accessible body of laws.
- The code is up-to-date and is based on widely enacted uniform and model acts developed by the Uniform Law Commission and American Bar Association.
- The code is easy to maintain on both the substantive and administrative levels.

The bill has been referred to the Committee on Public Services and Consumer Affairs.

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A native Washingtonian and former ANC commissioner, Councilmember Muriel Bowser is Chair of the Committee on Public Services and Consumer Affairs and is also a member of the

Committee on Economic Development, Committee on Human Services, Committee on Public Works and Transportation, and the Committee on Public Safety and the Judiciary. Visit www.murielbowser.com for more information.

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