

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC OVERSIGHT ROUNDTABLE
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004**

**CHAIRMAN PHIL MENDELSON
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
ANNOUNCES A PUBLIC OVERSIGHT ROUNDTABLE**

on

Destruction of Historic Elements in the Franklin School Renovation

on

**Tuesday, January 15, 2019, 11:30 a.m.
Room 412, John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004**

Council Chairman Phil Mendelson announces a public oversight roundtable before the Committee of the Whole on Destruction of Historic Elements in the Franklin School Renovation. The hearing will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 in Room 412 of the John A. Wilson Building.

The Franklin School was one of the District's first co-ed high schools, built in 1869. It later served as the headquarters for the District's school system, an adult education center, and most recently as a homeless shelter until 2008. On January 5, 2018, the Council approved the disposition of the historic Franklin School to Franklin School Development, LLC. The building is currently being renovated and will become Planet Word, a museum dedicated to language arts and literacy. In 1996, the building was designated as a National Historic Landmark by the National Parks Service and later received historic designation by the Historic Preservation Review Board. The designation includes interior elements of the building.

In the summer of 2018, it was learned that much of the historic interior elements were removed as part of the renovation in violation of the applicable building permits. An investigation by the D.C. State Historic Preservation Officer found that most of what was removed, including all original plaster wall finishes, brick structural walls, wainscoting, and pressed tin ceilings, had been destroyed and sent to landfills and disposal sites. The District subsequently issued a stop work order on the property. The purpose of this roundtable is to learn how such a violation could have occurred, how it will be prevented from occurring elsewhere, and what is being done to restore the historic Franklin School.

Those who wish to testify are asked to email the Committee of the Whole at cow@dccouncil.us, or call Evan Cash, Committee and Legislative Director at (202) 724-7002, and to provide your name, address, telephone number, organizational affiliation and title (if any) by close of business Monday, **Friday, January 11, 2019**. Persons wishing to testify are encouraged, but not required, to submit 15 copies of written testimony. Witnesses should limit their testimony to four minutes; less time will be allowed if there are a large number of witnesses. Hearing materials, including a draft witness list, can be accessed 24 hours in advance of the hearing at <http://www.chairmanmendelson.com/circulation>.

If you are unable to testify at the roundtable, written statements are encouraged and will be made a part of the official record. Written statements should be submitted to the Committee of the Whole, Council of the District of Columbia, Suite 410 of the John A. Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004. The record will close at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 29, 2019.