



# Government of the District of Columbia

## Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1D

### Resolution to Improve Menstrual Product Access in District of Columbia Public Libraries

Introduced June 20, 2023

**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<sup>1</sup>.

**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<sup>2</sup>.

**Whereas:** DCPL is a recognized force in the community for engaging the mind, expanding opportunities, and elevating the quality of life for all residents<sup>3</sup>.

**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<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.dclibrary.org/about-us/next-libris-library-facilities-master-plan>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.dclibrary.org/sites/default/files/files/2023-04/Document%20D.1%20-%20Library%20Performance%20Report%20FY2021%20Q3%20-%20July%2028%202021\\_0.pdf](https://www.dclibrary.org/sites/default/files/files/2023-04/Document%20D.1%20-%20Library%20Performance%20Report%20FY2021%20Q3%20-%20July%2028%202021_0.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.dclibrary.org/about-us>

<sup>4</sup> <https://hunger-report.capitalareafoodbank.org/report-2022/>

**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 facilities, like the Mount Pleasant Library, 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.

**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<sup>5</sup>.

**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<sup>6</sup>.

**Therefore, be it resolved that:** ANC 1D 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 further resolved that:** That the Commission designates Commissioner Angela Allison, ANC 1D06, to represent the Commission in all matters relating to this resolution.

**Be it further resolved that:** That, in the event the designated representative Commissioner cannot carry out their representative duties for any reason, the Commission authorizes the Vice Chair to designate another Commissioner to represent the Commission in all matters relating to this resolution.

**Be it further resolved that:** Consistent with DC Code, only actions of the full Commission voting in a properly noticed public meeting have standing and carry great weight. The actions, positions, and opinions of individual commissioners, insofar as they may be contradictory to or otherwise inconsistent with the expressed position of the full Commission in a properly adopted

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<sup>5</sup> [https://code.dccouncil.gov/us/dc/council/laws/24-250#:~:text=Law%2024-250-,%20Period%20Equity%20Righting%20an%20Injustice%20of,%20\(PERIOD\)%20Act%20of%202022.&text=To%20require%20the%20entity%20responsible,women's%20and%20gender-neutral%20bathrooms.](https://code.dccouncil.gov/us/dc/council/laws/24-250#:~:text=Law%2024-250-,%20Period%20Equity%20Righting%20an%20Injustice%20of,%20(PERIOD)%20Act%20of%202022.&text=To%20require%20the%20entity%20responsible,women's%20and%20gender-neutral%20bathrooms.)

<sup>6</sup> [https://code.dccouncil.gov/us/dc/council/laws/24-250#:~:text=Law%2024-250-,%20Period%20Equity%20Righting%20an%20Injustice%20of,%20\(PERIOD\)%20Act%20of%202022.&text=To%20require%20the%20entity%20responsible,women's%20and%20gender-neutral%20bathrooms.](https://code.dccouncil.gov/us/dc/council/laws/24-250#:~:text=Law%2024-250-,%20Period%20Equity%20Righting%20an%20Injustice%20of,%20(PERIOD)%20Act%20of%202022.&text=To%20require%20the%20entity%20responsible,women's%20and%20gender-neutral%20bathrooms.)

resolution or letter, have no standing and cannot be considered as in any way associated with the Commission.

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Certification:

At a regularly scheduled and publicly noticed meeting held on June 20, 2023 Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1D considered the above resolution. With a quorum of 6 Commissioners present, the Commission voted with 6 yea's, 0 no's, and 0 abstentions to adopt the above resolution.