

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Public Works



Proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Oversight Hearing

Testimony of
Anthony Crispino
Interim Director, Department of Public Works

Before the
Committee on Public Works and Operations
Brianne Nadeau, Chairperson
Council of the District of Columbia

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12:00 Noon
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

INTRODUCTION

Good afternoon, Chairperson Nadeau, Committee members, Council members, and staff. I am Anthony Crispino, Interim Director of the DC Department of Public Works (DPW). Today I am joined by our Agency Fiscal Officer, Perry Fitzpatrick; and our General Counsel, Christine Davis.

This budget cycle has been unlike any in recent history. The District was subjected to an artificial budget emergency created when the United States House of Representatives failed to correct a legislative oversight in the current Continuing Resolution. Based upon the collective efforts of the Mayor, the City Administrator, and the OBPM Director, Jennifer Reed, the District overcame the \$1B “shortfall” that resulted from the inability to fully execute the previously approved FY25 budget.

Looking to ensure financial stability in future budget cycles, Mayor Bowser has worked hard to develop a growth agenda for the District. That agenda shaped the FY26 Grow DC budget we are here to discuss today. Each line item in the proposed budget was created by asking three core questions:

1. Does it impact people?
2. Does it create economic activity?
3. Does it attract business?

Applying those questions to each of the core services that the Department of Public Works provides results in a resounding “yes.”

Recognizing the role DPW will play in effectuating her growth agenda, Mayor Bowser has proposed an operating budget of \$198,699,971 for the agency in FY26. That is a 6.7% increase over the budget for the current fiscal year. The agency’s proposed FY26 capital budget is \$46,723,350. While this represents a modest decrease, the change reflects the needs of the agency and types of equipment to be purchased.

Here are some of the highlights of Mayor Bowser's FY26 combined budget for the agency, which include:

- \$4.6M to keep the 80 temporary employees supporting the Mayor's Clean Corridors initiative on for the entire fiscal year.
- \$2.3M to expand the agency's curbside composting program from 9,000 to 12,000 households Districtwide.
- \$687K to continue the use of a swing shift crew within the Collections Division to improve the consistency of household trash/recycling collection while reducing overtime costs.
- \$300K to implement a new electronic time & attendance platform to improve scheduling, create efficiency, and further reduce personnel costs.
- \$22.3M to purchase new heavy, medium, and light duty vehicles for trash/recycling collection and snow removal operations.

It cannot be overstated that these investments will allow DPW to meet the current needs of the District, while building capacity to address the growth the Mayor is cultivating. Clean public space is one of the catalysts to keep families in the District, create economic activity, and attract new businesses. The proposed budget allows DPW's strong support for downtown and other commercial areas, especially in our Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), to continue in FY26.

We look forward to being able to enhance how we:

- Provide solid waste services;
- Enforce sanitation regulations for residential and commercial properties;
- Undertake parking enforcement to ensure curbside parking in business districts; promote traffic flow; and target enforcement of scofflaw vehicles;
- Remove snow for safe travel; and
- Provide special events support.

I would like to thank Mayor Bowser for proposing a budget that equips DPW to carry out its responsibilities under her transformational growth plan, Grow DC, in Fiscal Year 2026. I would also like to thank the City Administrator, Kevin Donahue, for the opportunity to lead the agency during this pivotal budget cycle. In addition, I am grateful to you Madame Chair for your ongoing support of DPW, our employees, and the services we provide the District.

CONCLUSION

This concludes my testimony. Thank you for this opportunity to present the Mayor's Proposed FY 2026 Operating and Capital Budgets to the Committee. We are prepared to respond to your questions.