

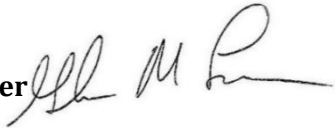
Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



Glen Lee
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Glen Lee
Chief Financial Officer 

DATE: May 19, 2026

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Harmony Park Designation Act of 2026

REFERENCE: Bill 26-331, Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on April 28, 2026

Conclusion

Funds are not sufficient in the proposed revised fiscal year 2026 budget and proposed fiscal year 2027 through fiscal year 2030 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The bill's implementation will cost \$6,000 in fiscal year 2026.

Background

The Columbian Harmony Society was founded in 1825 as a mutual aid society to support the District's African American community. The society opened the first African American cemetery, Columbian Harmony Cemetery, in the District in 1928; moving it to a larger location along Rhode Island Avenue, N.E. in 1857. In 1960, those buried at Columbian Harmony Cemetery were reinterred at National Harmony Memorial Park in Maryland. Since the 1970s, development of the metro system and residential and commercial uses on the site have uncovered additional remnants of the Columbian Harmony Cemetery.¹

The bill designates a triangle park² located at the intersection of Rhode Island Avenue, N.W., New Jersey Avenue, N.W., and S. Street, N.W. as Harmony Park.

¹ [What Lies Beneath: Documenting the History of the Columbian Harmony Cemetery - Humanities Truck](#)

² Known for assessment and tax purposes as Reservation 160.

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: Bill 26-331, "Harmony Park Designation Act of 2026," Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on April 28, 2026

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are not sufficient in the proposed revised fiscal year 2026 budget and proposed fiscal year 2027 through fiscal year 2030 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) will contract for the fabrication and installation of a sign to designate the park as Harmony Park. The sign will cost approximately \$6,000 and DPR is not able to procure and install the sign without additional resources. The proposed revised fiscal year 2026 budget reduces DPR's budget by approximately \$1.5 million. The proposed fiscal year 2027 budget reduces DPR's budget by approximately \$6.7 million relative to fiscal year 2026.