

**DRAFT**  
**ANC 3C Resolution 2023-0XX**

**Requesting to Improve Menstrual Product Access in District of Columbia Public Libraries**

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>;

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 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

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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%208D.1%20-%20Library%20Performance%20Report%20FY2021%20Q3%20-%20July%2028%202021\\_0.pdf](https://www.dclibrary.org/sites/default/files/files/2023-04/Document%208D.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/>

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 ANC3C 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 RESOLVED that the ANC3C authorizes the Chair represent the Commission on this matter.

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[https://code.dccouncil.gov/us/dc/council/laws/24-250#:~:text=Law%2024-250.-Period%20Equity%20Righting%20an%20Injustice%20of,\(PERIOD\)%20Act%20of%202022.&text=To%20require%20](https://code.dccouncil.gov/us/dc/council/laws/24-250#:~:text=Law%2024-250.-Period%20Equity%20Righting%20an%20Injustice%20of,(PERIOD)%20Act%20of%202022.&text=To%20require%20)

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[https://code.dccouncil.gov/us/dc/council/laws/24-250#:~:text=Law%2024-250.-Period%20Equity%20Righting%20an%20Injustice%20of,\(PERIOD\)%20Act%20of%202022.&text=To%20require%20](https://code.dccouncil.gov/us/dc/council/laws/24-250#:~:text=Law%2024-250.-Period%20Equity%20Righting%20an%20Injustice%20of,(PERIOD)%20Act%20of%202022.&text=To%20require%20)