

Quiana Lamons
Committee on Recreation, Libraries, and Youth Affairs
Department of Parks and Recreation
Thursday, February 22nd, 2024

Hello, Councilmember White and DC Council staff. My name is Quiana Lamons. I am a PAVE Parent Leader and resident of Ward 7. I have two children who currently attend DC Public Schools and both have special needs and are on individualized education plans. My two boys are involved in a DPR boxing program at Langdon Boxing with Coach Tyson and all of my kids have been through this program, most of them starting in elementary school.

The Department of Parks and Recreation plays an important role in the educational landscape of the District. DPR offers a range of programs for children of all ages, which many DC parents rely on to complement their children's education and provide them with opportunities for new experiences. Today, I am here to testify to the importance of the Department of Parks and Recreation, advocating for the following:

- Ensuring that all children in DC have access to DPR programs
- Ensuring that all DPR programs are of high quality and inclusive of students with special needs and disabilities
- Ensuring that DPR programs are led by qualified individuals who have been trained to work with students with special needs and disabilities
- Calling for increased funding to support facility updates and renovations, especially in Wards with the greatest need, and all of the above initiatives

It is not only essential for children to have access to quality programming but also just as important that these programs are led by individuals with the necessary training to cater to students with special needs and disabilities. I advocate for a positive experience for my children and all others with special needs participating in DPR programs, and I am hopeful that together we can achieve this goal.

I appreciate the opportunity to address you today and for your attention to the concerns and experiences of DC residents. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Quiana Lamons

Ward 7 PLE Board Member, PAVE (Parents Amplifying Voices in Education)