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DC Restrictive Scheduling Bill Could Threaten Stadium Viability
Proposed Measure Could Leave Nat's Park and Surrounding Businesses Understaffed

WASHINGTON, D.C. – *In advance of the Washington National's home-opener today, Zina Pierre, spokesperson for the D.C. Jobs & Growth Partnership issued the following statement:*

"Early April means two things in Washington – baseball is back and so are Mother Nature's frequent rain showers. Later today, the Nationals come home to kick off the season, and while thousands of fans are planning on attending, they should pay close attention to the weather – it's supposed to rain, potentially a lot. While this is not terribly unexpected given the time of year's propensity for *April showers*, the possibility that the game may get rained out exposes another problem that may rear its ugly head later this season – the threat of restrictive scheduling.

"Right now, the D.C. City Council is considering proposed legislation that would require businesses to set a work schedule for all employees 21 days in advance. Any change to that schedule—such as asking vendors, stadium employees and employees of surrounding restaurants and retailers to come back another day in case of a rainout—could require the businesses to pay a series of penalties. Rescheduled games that turn a regularly scheduled evening game into a day-night doubleheader, or extra-inning games that last longer than anticipated could create a scenario where local businesses may have to choose between being penalized financially or understaffed. This is not the way to attract new business, or create a positive ballpark experience for fans.

"Our goal is to educate the council about these unintended consequences before the Nationals, local businesses, fans, and the community are affected. And, knock on wood, should the Nats make the playoffs, we can't have a situation where the ballpark and local business can't meet the demand of a capacity crowd on short notice."

The DC Jobs and Growth Partnership is committed to ensuring DC continues to move forward and preserve an environment that promotes job growth. We believe it is imperative that city leaders understand the impact their policies and legislation will have throughout the city with regards to retail jobs and programs.

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For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact Kevin Lawlor at klawlor@DDCPublicAffairs.com or (202) 253-6402.