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Chairman Phil Mendelson

Councilmember Charles Allen

Councilmember Anita Bonds

Councilmember Mary M. Cheh

Councilmember Jack Evans

Councilmember Vincent C. Gray

Councilmember David Grosso

Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie

Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau

Councilmember Elissa Silverman

Councilmember Brandon T. Todd

Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to prohibit the Board of Elections from complying with any requests of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Voter Rolls Protection Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2017”.

44 Sec. 2. (a) On May 11, 2017, President Trump signed Executive Order 13799 to establish
45 the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity (“Commission”) to purportedly
46 “study the registration and voting processes used in Federal elections”.

47 (b) On June 28, 2017, the Commission sent a letter to all fifty states and the District of
48 Columbia requesting registered voters’ personal information, including names; addresses; dates of
49 birth; political parties; last four digits of social security numbers; voter histories from 2006
50 onward; active/inactive status; cancelled status; information regarding any felony convictions;
51 information regarding voter registration in another states; information regarding military status;
52 and overseas voter information. The letter did not specify how the Commission plans to use the
53 personal information, but it did state the data will be made available to the public.

54 (c) The request is alarming in the context of President Trump’s unsubstantiated comments
55 alleging widespread voter fraud in the November 2016 General Election. The President has falsely
56 alleged on numerous occasions that three to five million “illegal” votes were cast, despite no
57 evidence to support that allegation. Additionally, the President, the Vice Chair of the Commission,
58 and some of its members have a documented history of support for restrictive policies that have
59 the effect of suppressing the votes of people of color, the elderly, and low-income Americans.

60 (d) District law provides that some information in the voter rolls is public, but it does not
61 authorize the release of all the information requested, including social security numbers, dates of
62 birth, and information regarding felony convictions. Moreover, compliance with this request even
63 for already public information would only serve to intimidate voters and support rhetoric that
64 undermines the electorate’s confidence in states’ abilities to carry out their elections.

65 (e) Thus far, 44 states and the District of Columbia have refused to comply with the
66 Commission’s request, either in whole or in part. The Electronic Information Privacy Center has

67 also filed for a temporary restraining order in the United States District Court for the District of
68 Columbia to block the request.

69 (f) The Council supports legitimate efforts to better secure the District’s voter rolls,
70 equipment, and technology, and will continue to conduct oversight to ensure that the Board of
71 Elections (“Board”) conducts the District’s elections securely and with the necessary resources. In
72 that vein, in May, the Council approved \$3 million for the Board to develop and implement a new
73 centralized, integrated citywide voter registration and election management database system.

74 (g) This emergency legislation will protect registered voters’ personal information by
75 prohibiting the Board of Elections from complying with any requests from the Commission.
76 Current laws and regulations regarding what information in the voter rolls is otherwise public
77 would be unaltered.

78 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances
79 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Voter
80 Rolls Protection Emergency Act of 2017 be adopted after a single reading.

81 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.