

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare an emergency with respect to the need to remove Mr. Corbett A. Price as a principal member of the Board of Directors of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Board of Directors of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Principal Member Corbett Price Removal Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2019”.

Sec. 2. (a) The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Board of Directors Act of 2012, effective April 27, 2013 (D.C. Law 19-286; D.C. Official Code § 9-1108.11(d) states that “[e]ach person appointed to the Board shall serve at the pleasure of the Council and may be removed for *any* reason, including failure to adhere to the requirements of this subchapter.” (emphasis added).

(b) The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Compact, approved November 6, 1966 (80 Stat. 1324; D.C. Official Code § 9-1107.01) states that a “Director for a Signatory may be removed or suspended from office only as provided by the law of the Signatory from which he was appointed.”

33 (c) On June 4, 2019, in accordance with both the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit
34 Authority Compact and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Board of Directors
35 Act of 2012, Mr. Corbett A. Price was reappointed by the Council of the District of Columbia as
36 a principal member representing the District of Columbia on the Board of Directors of the
37 Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, to serve for a term ending June 30, 2023.

38 (d) As a member of the Board of Directors, Mr. Price serves on the Authority's Ethics
39 Committee, which began an investigation into the conduct of Jack Evans, then-Metro Board
40 Chair and second principal member representing the District of Columbia on the Board of
41 Directors.

42 (e) At the conclusion of the Ethics Committee's investigation, Mr. Evans announced, and
43 his claim was buttressed by Mr. Price, that he had been cleared of all ethics violation charges,
44 and that his decision to not seek reelection as Metro Board Chair was unrelated to the Ethics
45 Committee's findings—these assertions were also reported by several media outlets including,
46 The Washington Post.

47 (f) In mid-June of 2019, a memo written by Patricia Y. Lee, General Counsel to the
48 Authority was released to the public, which directly contradicted statements by both Mr. Evans
49 and Mr. Price, and showed that the public had been misled as to the circumstances surrounding
50 the findings of the Authority's Ethics Committee.

51 (g) Mr. Price's purposeful misstatements constituted a breach of the public's trust given
52 that he was a member of the Authority's Ethics Committee and was aware of the Committee's
53 findings with respect to Mr. Evans.

54 (h) Members of the public must be able to rely on the veracity of statements made by
55 public officials, especially when those statements are related to public investigations.

56 (i) Immediate legislative action is necessary to restore the public trust in the District's
57 representation on the Board of Directors of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

58 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances
59 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Board
60 of Directors of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Principal Member Corbett
61 Price Removal Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2019 be adopted after a single reading.

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