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6 A RESOLUTION

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10 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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15 To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to amend the Firearms Control
16 Regulations Act of 1975 to establish an Extreme Risk Protection Order Implementation
17 Working Group, to determine its membership, and to specify its duties.

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19 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
20 resolution may be cited as the “Extreme Risk Protection Order Implementation Working Group
21 Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2020”.

22 Sec. 2. (a) On December 18, 2018, the Council passed the Firearms Safety Omnibus
23 Amendment Act of 2018, effective May 10, 2019 (D.C. Law 22-314; 66 DCR 6309), which created
24 the District’s “red flag” law.

25 (b) Our “red flag” law allows concerned family and household members, mental health
26 professionals, and law enforcement officials to file “extreme risk protection orders” with the
27 Superior Court to have firearms and ammunition removed from people who pose a significant
28 danger to themselves or others.

29 (c) Extreme risk protection orders have been hailed as valuable tools to combat self-harm
30 and harm to others, including in suicide, domestic violence, and – importantly – community
31 violence situations. For example, a study of the effectiveness of Connecticut’s red flag law
32 estimated that one suicide was averted for every ten to eleven guns seized.

33 (d) Between October 1, 2018 and August 7, 2019, Maryland's courts received
34 approximately 788 requests for extreme risk protection orders. Between March and July 2019,
35 Florida's red flag law was used nearly 2,400 times.

36 (e) Many jurisdictions have successfully coordinated government agencies, non-
37 governmental organizations, and community advocates to drive effective implementation and save
38 lives, but the District lags significantly behind. Since the District's red flag law took effect, only
39 two petitions have been granted.

40 (f) In the District, there were 129 homicides and 709 assaults with a dangerous weapon, in
41 2019, that involved a firearm. As of February 26, 2020, there have been 21 homicides and 108
42 assaults with a dangerous weapon, year-to-date, that involved a firearm.

43 (g) The gun violence epidemic is unacceptable and preventable. This emergency legislation
44 is necessary to formally coordinate the efforts of District agencies, federal partners, firearms safety
45 experts, and community members to implement the District's red flag law, including through
46 enhanced public education and training.

47 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances
48 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Extreme
49 Risk Protection Order Implementation Working Group Emergency Amendment Act of 2020 be
50 adopted after a single reading.

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