
Chairman Phil Mendelson

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9 A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

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13 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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18 To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to provide additional
19 protections to Districts residents and businesses during the current public health
20 emergency.

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22 RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
23 resolution may be cited as the “Coronavirus Omnibus Emergency Declaration Resolution of
24 2020”.

25 Sec. 2. (a) On March 11, 2020, the Mayor of the District of Columbia issued Mayor’s
26 Order 2020-45, 2020-46, and 2020-63, declaring a public emergency and a public health
27 emergency in the District due to the imminent threat to the health, safety, and welfare of District
28 residents posed by the spread of COVID-19. That order is currently in effect through May 15,
29 2020. Additional orders extending the emergency are likely to be issued.

30 (b) As a result of the Mayor’s order, many businesses have been required to close in the
31 District. Many of the business interruption insurance policies will only cover an insured in the
32 case that the business is shut down due to physical damage and do not explicitly provide
33 coverage for damages resulting from a public health emergency. It is necessary to ensure that

34 many businesses that are experiencing financial distress resulting from the order can put in a
35 claim against an existing business interruption insurance policy.

36 (c) Due to the closure of non-essential businesses, alcohol licensees face obstacles to
37 providing and maintaining licenses. Additionally, ANCs face challenges in reviewing licenses
38 within their jurisdiction. As such, it is necessary to allow non-notarized signatures on an
39 application for licensure, extend the review period for Advisory Neighborhood Commission to
40 provide input on licenses, and to extend the number of days an establishment has to surrender a
41 license.

42 (d) To aid restaurants while they are unable to provide unrestricted dine-in service, it is
43 necessary to cap the commission fee that third-party food delivery platforms may charge a
44 restaurant to a maximum of 15% of the purchase price on delivery or pick-up orders and to
45 require third-party food delivery platforms to disclose fees to the customer where the restaurant
46 allows such disclosure.

47 (e) Four individuals currently serving on the University of the District of Columbia's
48 Board of Trustees are set to have their terms expire on May 15, 2020. In order to make sure that
49 the Board can continue operating effectively and not experience quorum issues, it is necessary to
50 amend the terms for certain Board of Trustee members.

51 (f) During emergencies, the internet can provide critical information to residents about
52 social services, government operations, and ways to stay engaged with the community.

53 According to data from the Census Bureau, approximately 22% of households with incomes of
54 less than \$30,000 do not have access to the internet. During this public health emergency, it is
55 necessary to establish mechanisms that allow these households to access the internet.

56 (g) For the health and well-being of District residents, the DC Board of Elections is
57 encouraging voters to request absentee (mail-in) ballots for the primary election on June 2nd and
58 the special election for Ward 2 on June 16th. In order to make the process of requesting a ballot
59 as easy as possible, it is imperative to make changes to the petitioning requirements for ballot
60 access.

61 (h) Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs) are a vital component of District
62 government, providing advice and insight on critical matters such as planning, social service
63 programs, and public safety in their neighborhoods. To enable ANCs to better respond to the
64 needs of their neighborhood during this public health emergency, it is necessary to expand their
65 grant-making authority.

66 (i) Long-term care facilities in the District house population that are particularly
67 vulnerable to COVID-19. As of April 24, 2020, at least 13 nursing homes in the District have
68 reported about 200 infections and roughly 15 fatalities. To ensure that the nurses providing care
69 to these residents can do so safely and effectively, it is crucial to provide enhanced protections to
70 these nurses.

71 (j) As of April 28, 2020, 131 residents in DC jail facilities have tested positive for
72 COVID-19 and one individual has died. Conditions in the facilities have led to lawsuits and
73 ongoing monitoring of DOC practices to keep residents safe. For the Council and the public to
74 have the best possible information on developments occurring within DC jail facilities, it is vital
75 to prescribe reporting requirements.

76 (k) As part of the Sustainable Solid Waste Management Act of 2014, the District
77 established incentives for composting and explicitly residents to engage in residential

78 composting to reduce waste. To continue to promote sustainable waste practices during this
79 public health emergency, it is crucial to allow virtual composting trainings.

80 (l) As District residents grapple with the economic consequences of this public health
81 emergency, it is incumbent that the government provide mechanisms to relieve the financial
82 strain families are experiencing. As such, it is necessary to enable tenants and residents to
83 establish payment plans for rental units and utility services.

84 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances in
85 section 2 constitute emergency circumstances, making it necessary that the Coronavirus
86 Omnibus Emergency Amendment Act of 2020 be adopted after a single reading.

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