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Chairman Phil Mendelson

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13 A PROPOSED RESOLUTION  
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18 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
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25 To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to provide additional  
26 protections to Districts residents and businesses during the current public health  
27 emergency.

28 RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this

29 resolution may be cited as the “Coronavirus Omnibus Emergency Declaration Resolution of  
30 2020”.

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

34 (b) As a result of the Mayor’s order, many businesses have been required to close in the  
35 District. Many of the business interruption insurance policies will only cover an insured in the  
36 case that the business is shut down due to physical damage and do not explicitly provide  
37 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, ANC<sup>s</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and  
58     the special election for Ward 2 on June 16<sup>th</sup>. 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 ANC<sup>s</sup> 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 (I) 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.