

1 \_\_\_\_\_  
2 Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau

\_\_\_\_\_ Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.

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7 Councilmember Janeese Lewis George

\_\_\_\_\_ Councilmember Trayon White, Sr.

11  
12 A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

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16 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
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18 \_\_\_\_\_  
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20 To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to amend the Legalization of  
21 Marijuana for Medical Treatment Initiative of 1999 to set aside medical marijuana  
22 facility registrations and to provide a preference for the remainder of medical marijuana  
23 facility registrations for businesses owned by returning citizens, and to create a more  
24 equitable medical cannabis industry in the District.

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26 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this  
27 resolution may be cited as the “Returning Citizens Cannabis Equity Emergency Declaration  
28 Resolution of 2021”.

29 Sec. 2. (a) The Legalization of Marijuana for Medical Treatment Initiative of 1999  
30 legalized medical cannabis in the District and created the medical cannabis program.

31 (b) The Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA) registers a limited  
32 number of dispensaries, cultivation centers, and testing laboratories within the medical cannabis  
33 program.

34 (c) Dispensary, cultivation center, and testing laboratory licenses are valid for one year  
35 and must be renewed annually to maintain licensure.

1 (d) The District currently has 7 licensed dispensaries, 8 licensed cultivation centers, and  
2 no licensed testing laboratories.

3 (e) For the upcoming application period, ABRA has made licenses available for two new  
4 cultivation centers, one dispensary, and two testing laboratories.

5 (f) The overwhelming majority of returning citizens in the District are Black residents  
6 who were unjustly targeted by over-policing, sentencing disparities, and illegal drug laws,  
7 including marijuana, yet are completely left out of the cannabis space as owners and operators.

8 (g) As a result, the medical cannabis program lacks ownership equity and inclusion for  
9 returning citizens who were previously incarcerated for the manufacture, distribution, or  
10 possession, with intent to manufacture or distribute a controlled substance.

11 (h) Applications for license registrations are only accepted during open application  
12 windows.

13 (i) ABRA has begun requesting Letters of Intent from those who are interested in  
14 applying for the available licenses.

15 (j) To ensure that returning citizens who were previously incarcerated for the  
16 manufacture, distribution, or possession, with intent to manufacture or distribute a controlled  
17 substance have equitable access to register as dispensary, cultivation center, or testing laboratory  
18 owners the Legalization of Marijuana for Medical Treatment Initiative of 1999 needs to be  
19 amended on an emergency basis.

20 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances  
21 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the  
22 “Returning Citizens Cannabis Equity Emergency Amendment Act of 2021” be *adopted after a*  
23 *single reading*.

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