

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to amending the District of Columbia Government Comprehensive Merit Personnel Act of 1978 to allow the Chairman of the Council to take disciplinary action against Council employees for failure to comply with the Council COVID-19 Vaccination Policy.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Council Vaccination Policy Enforcement Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2021”.

Sec. 2. (a) The highest priority for the Council of the District of Columbia (“Council”) is providing a safe and healthy community for Council employees.

(b) COVID-19 continues to be a worldwide threat. Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other national and local agencies shows that unvaccinated individuals continue to contract and transmit the disease, and suffer complications, up to and including death, at a substantially higher rate than vaccinated individuals.

36 (c) Vaccines are widely available across the Washington, D.C. region. Vaccines are
37 approved for individuals ages 12 and up. Moreover, the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine (also known
38 as Comirnaty) is fully approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the Moderna
39 and Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccines are available under an FDA emergency use
40 authorization.

41 (d) The Council established a mandatory COVID-19 vaccine policy for all Council
42 employees, except for individuals with a religious or medical exemption, because immunization
43 is critical to controlling the spread of the virus.

44 (e) The Comprehensive Merit Personnel Act of 1978 designates the Chairman of the
45 Council as the personnel authority for all central office staff, and individual Councilmembers as
46 the personnel authority for their personal and committee staff.

47 (f) This legislation would permit the Chairman of the Council to take disciplinary action
48 against Council employees for failure to comply with the Council COVID-19 Vaccination Policy
49 adopted by the Council in the event that the employee's personnel authority does not.

50 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances
51 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the
52 Council Vaccination Policy Enforcement Amendment Act of 2021 be adopted after a single
53 reading.

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