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Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.

Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau

Councilmember Trayon White, Sr.

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare an emergency with respect to the need to amend the District of Columbia Public Education Reform Amendment Act of 2007 to require Washington Metropolitan Opportunity Academy to remain open for the 2020-2021 school year.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Washington Metropolitan Opportunity Academy Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2020”.

Sec. 2. (a) Immediate legislation is required to ensure that Washington Metropolitan Opportunity Academy remains open for the 2020-2021 school year. On January 23, 2020, the Mayor and the Chancellor of the District of Columbia Public Schools (“DCPS”) announced that they are moving forward with a recommendation to close Washington Metropolitan Opportunity Academy at the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

(b) It is imperative that Washington Metropolitan Opportunity Academy receives appropriate resources and that the Mayor and the Chancellor of DCPS take necessary steps to

35 appropriately engage parents, students, and the community in discussions about the best path
36 forward for students.

37 (c) Washington Metropolitan Opportunity Academy has a small, specialized student
38 population, which permits students to receive the additional time and support that is needed to
39 ensure they have future success.

40 (d) Despite the lack of funding and resources, students still come to Washington
41 Metropolitan Opportunity Academy because of its programs and the valuable support students
42 receive that they would not have access to at other schools. Washington Metropolitan
43 Opportunity Academy is also the only opportunity academy in the District that includes grades 7
44 and 8.

45 (e) Immediate action by the Council is necessary to prevent Washington Metropolitan
46 Opportunity Academy from prematurely closing and displacing students who need the additional
47 support and resources the most.

48 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances
49 enumerated in section 2 constitute an emergency making it necessary that the “Washington
50 Metropolitan Opportunity Academy Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2020” be adopted
51 after a single reading.

52 Sec. 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately.