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2 Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie

Councilmember Charles Allen

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6 A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

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11 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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16 To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to amend the Deputy Mayor for
17 Planning and Economic Development Limited Grant-Making Authority Act of 2012 to
18 clarify that, during a public health emergency, grants for retail business establishments
19 must be made available to all retail business establishments in the District.
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21 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
22 resolution may be cited as the “Retail Establishment Grant Parity Emergency Declaration
23 Resolution of 2020”.

24 Sec. 2. (a) Emergency legislation is necessary to ensure that all retail businesses across the
25 District can receive the benefit of financial support from in the form of public dollars;

26 (b) Under the current re-opening phase, non-essential retail establishments are permitted
27 to begin in-store service to patrons with capacity limits (not to exceed 50% of maximum allowed
28 occupancy), with rigorous safeguards and social distancing to be enforced. This Order directly
29 impacts the number of in- person sales a retailer can make over the course of a business day;

30 (c) Retooling and restructuring how retailers do business during the public health
31 emergency requires time, expertise, and knowledge that many small business owners may not
32 have;

33 (d) The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the entire District of Columbia, across all
34 neighborhoods and all commercial corridors. The Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and
35 Economic Development has announced a grant that would provide needed technical assistance to
36 small, local businesses in Great Streets corridors, that will begin to receive applications soon. But
37 limiting the funds to retail businesses inside of corridors that were created prior to the pandemic
38 adversely impacts retail across the city, which relatedly impacts the city as a whole.

39 (e) Funding for all retailers will help business retention and attraction programs, mitigate
40 blight and vacant property growth, and support the pivoting of business operations into the digital
41 market space;

42 (f) Cooler months are upon us, and the outdoor shopping options that the District has
43 encouraged and supported will begin to become significantly impacted; despite the retail shopping
44 season increasing around the holidays, shoppers may be far less inclined to queue in socially-
45 distanced lines outside of stores when temperatures plummet.

46 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances
47 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Retail
48 Establishment Grant Parity Emergency Act of 2020 be adopted after a single reading.

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