



Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.

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A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to amend the Coronavirus Support Temporary Amendment Act of 2021 to extend the authority of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions to approve grants for the purpose of providing humanitarian relief during the public emergency.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Advisory Neighborhood Commissions Humanitarian Relief Extension Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2021”.

Sec. 2. (a) Shortly after the onset of the public health emergency related to the coronavirus pandemic, the Council acted to permit Advisory Neighborhood Commissions to use their available funding by issuing grants to organizations for the purpose of providing humanitarian relief, including food or supplies, during the public health emergency, or otherwise assisting in the response to the public health emergency anywhere in the District, even if those services were duplicative of services also performed by the District government.

(b) Under pre-existing law, Advisory Neighborhood Commissions were unable to issue grants to address critical needs, like food, to issue grants to organizations providing services similar to those already provided by the District government, and to issue grants for work outside the Commission area.

1 (c) A number of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, however, had accumulated
2 substantial savings and felt compelled to respond to severe needs across the city that were not
3 being adequately addressed by the District government and, as a result, requested and obtained a
4 change in the law, allowing them the flexibility to use their resources to meet unmet needs in
5 their communities and across the city.

6 (d) Throughout the public health emergency, Advisory Neighborhood Commissions
7 issued thousands of dollars in grants to address critical humanitarian needs resulting from the
8 coronavirus pandemic.

9 (e) The declared public health emergency came to an end on July 25, 2021, again
10 restricting the ability of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions to continue to fund humanitarian
11 relief, despite ongoing community needs.

12 (f) Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners did not anticipate this change and several
13 Commissions were in the process of issuing humanitarian grants or were planning to continue
14 their humanitarian relief efforts.

15 (g) To ensure that Advisory Neighborhood Commissions can continue to support
16 District-wide relief efforts as the pandemic continues and new coronavirus variants spread, it is
17 necessary to amend the Coronavirus Support Temporary Amendment Act of 2021 to restore
18 grant-making flexibility to Advisory Neighborhood Commissions on an emergency basis.

19 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances
20 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the
21 “Advisory Neighborhood Commissions Humanitarian Relief Extension Emergency Amendment
22 Act of 2021” be *adopted after a single reading*.

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