



Councilmember Anita Bonds

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to extend the terms of the resident commissioners on the District of Columbia Housing Authority Board of Commissioners until elections are held and their replacements selected.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “District of Columbia Housing Authority Resident Commissioners Election Deadline Extension Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2021”.

Sec. 2. (a) On October 1, 2021, the terms of the three resident commissioners elected to serve on the District of Columbia Housing Authority (DCHA) Board of Commissioners expired prior to their replacements being selected.

(b) Section 12 of The District of Columbia Housing Authority Act of 1999, effective May 9, 2000 (D.C. Law 13-105; D.C. Official Code § 6-211 *et seq.*) requires the District of Columbia Housing Authority (“DCHA”) Board of Commissioners to include three (3) Resident Commissioners elected by the public housing residents to serve 3-year terms.

(c) This year, the housing authority was not able to hold elections for those resident commissioner positions prior to the expiration of their terms.

(d) Resident representation on the Board of Commissioners is required by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations.

(e) Presently, the resident commissioners with expired terms, as of October 1, are as follows:

- (1) Aquarius Vann Ghasri – Family-Elected;
- (2) Kenneth Council – At-Large-Elected; and

36 (3) Antonio Taliaferro – Senior/Disabled-Elected.

37 (f) To preserve resident representation on the Board of Commissioners the current
38 resident commissioners need to continue to serve until their replacements have been elected
39 pursuant to Section 12 (k)(1), and until their replacements take office.

40 (g) Under D.C. Official Code § 2-611(k)(1), elections shall be conducted in accordance
41 with rules and procedures established by the Board and shall be held no sooner than 5 months
42 and no later than 2 months prior to the expiration of the then current 3-year term. All elections
43 shall be held under the supervision of an independent expert in election monitoring, to be
44 selected by the Receiver for the initial election and thereafter by the Board.

45 (h) The housing authority has requested that the Council extend the terms of the resident
46 commissioners whose terms expired on Oct. 1 retroactively to Oct. 1, in order for them to
47 continue their service on the Board.

48 (i) Failure to extend the terms of the commissioners will leave the board without resident
49 representation and could have adverse effects on the residents of properties owned and operated
50 by the housing authority, which serves more than 50,000 qualified low-income residents, and is
51 the District's largest landlord, with more than 8,300 units.

52 (j) The agency has committed to hold elections to fill the resident commissioner positions
53 between now and March 31, 2022 and has requested the terms of the current resident
54 commissioners be extended to that date.

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56 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances
57 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the District
58 of Columbia Housing Authority Resident Commissioners Election Deadline Extension
59 Emergency Amendment Act of 2021 be adopted after a single reading.

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

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