

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to pause the prohibition on the establishment and removal of encampments and the removal of private property belonging to residents of encampments, and to establish public health and safety and public space requirements for the sites identified in the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services’ Coordinated Assistance and Resources for Encampments Pilot Program.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Encampments Protection and Public Health and Safety Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2021”.

Sec. 2. (a) In the Fall of 2021, the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services announced the Coordinated Assistance and Resources for Encampment Pilot Program (“Pilot Program”).

(b) The Pilot Program has a stated goal of providing residents of the designated encampment sites with intensive on-site case management and behavioral health/substance use support while relocating them into more stable housing.

(c) The Pilot Program immediately drew criticism from members of the community for a variety of reasons. The criticism was compounded on October 4, 2021, when an unhoused man was lifted by heavy machinery during an encampment clearing under the L Street underpass.

34 (d) The Committee on Human Services and the Committee on Health convened a Joint
35 Public Roundtable on November 9, 2021, to hear from the public, including residents of
36 encampments, about the Pilot Program. Most of the testimony at the roundtable strongly rejected
37 the Pilot Program, characterizing its approach as punitive on those who set up encampments in
38 the designated parcels of land. Some also testified on public health and safety concerns
39 surrounding the designated encampments.

40 (e) This emergency legislation will separate the housing and support services element of
41 the Pilot Program from the clearings and evictions element, by pausing the prohibition on the
42 establishment and removal of encampments and the removal of private property belonging to the
43 residents of encampments. The legislation will also establish public health and safety and public
44 space requirements for the sites identified in Pilot Program.

45 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances in
46 section 2 constitute emergency circumstances, making it necessary for the District to pause the
47 prohibition on the establishment and removal of encampments and the removal of private
48 property belonging to the residents of encampments, and to establish public health and safety and
49 public space requirements for the sites identified in Pilot Program.

50 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately