



MURIEL BOWSER
MAYOR

January 31, 2022

Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 504
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson:


Enclosed for the consideration of the Council of the District of Columbia is the "Law Enforcement Career Opportunities for District Residents Expansion Emergency Amendment Act of 2022," the "Law Enforcement Career Opportunities for District Residents Expansion Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2022," and the "Law Enforcement Career Opportunities for District Residents Expansion Temporary Amendment Act of 2022." The emergency legislation amends the Police Officer and Firefighter Cadet Programs Funding Authorization and Human Rights Act of 1977 Amendment Act of 1982 to remove the requirement that cadets graduate from District of Columbia high schools in order to qualify for the Metropolitan Police Department's Cadet Corps.

The Cadet Program helps ensure young adults develop the leadership and analytical skills required to meet the challenges of law enforcement. Cadets work part-time for MPD while receiving a scholarship enabling them to earn up to 60 college credit hours at the University of the District of Columbia Community College. By expanding the program, more young adults will benefit from access to employment opportunities and secondary education. The program will still give preference to District of Columbia high school graduates, but many individuals may not have graduated from a District high school who are otherwise connected to the District and could serve the community well. This includes young adults who have spent most of their lives in the District but may have recently moved to and graduated in another state, or who attended school in a neighboring jurisdiction, but may have a parent or grandparent living in the District with whom they spend time regularly.

The Police Cadet Corps is designed to prepare candidates for entrance into the MPD Officer Recruit Program and ensure that a steady stream of District of Columbia young adults is actively recruited as future police officers. By expanding access to the Cadet Program, those individuals who might otherwise look for opportunities in neighboring jurisdictions may instead return to the District, allowing MPD to continue increasing the proportion of its officers who are invested in and understand the community they serve.

Sincerely,


Muriel Bowser


Chairman Phil Mendelson at the
request of the Mayor

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 Police Officer and Firefighter Cadet Programs Funding Authorization and Human Rights Act of 1977 Amendment Act of 1982 to remove the requirement that cadets graduate from District of Columbia high schools in order to qualify for the Metropolitan Police Department's cadet program.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Law Enforcement Career Opportunities for District Residents Expansion Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2022."

Sec. 2 (a) The Cadet program helps young adults develop the leadership and analytical skills required to meet the challenges of police officers' complex roles, while paying for the costs of earning the college credit hours that are required to join the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) while at the University of the District of Columbia Community College.

(b) The Police Cadet program is designed to prepare candidates for entrance into the MPD Officer Recruit Program and provide that a steady stream of youth connected to the District of Columbia is actively recruited as future police officers.

(c) Many individuals may not have graduated from a District of Columbia high school who are otherwise uniquely connected to the District. These are young adults who have spent

35 most of their lives in the District but may have recently moved to and graduated in another state,
36 or who may have attended school in a neighboring jurisdiction but have a parent or grandparent
37 living in the District with whom they spend time regularly.

38 (d) While District of Columbia high school graduates will still be given preference when
39 applying for the Cadet program, MPD recognizes that other students may not have graduated
40 from a District high school, but spent significant time attending school, working, attending a
41 place of worship, engaging in community service programs, and developing relationships
42 throughout the District of Columbia, such that they can both benefit from the program and
43 contribute to District communities.

44 (e) The Cadet program continues to help promote jobs and educational opportunities for
45 historically underserved populations.

46 (f) By expanding access to the Cadet program, those individuals who might otherwise
47 look for opportunities in neighboring jurisdictions may instead return to the District, supporting a
48 police department of officers who are invested in and understand the community they serve.

49 (g) There exists an immediate need to change the eligibility requirements for the Cadet
50 program. This emergency will immediately enable more young adult District residents to gain
51 employment in public safety while earning a college degree.

52 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determined that the circumstances
53 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Law
54 Enforcement Career Opportunities for District Residents Expansion Emergency Amendment Act
55 be adopted after a single reading.

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

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL



LEGAL COUNSEL DIVISION

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ronan Gulstone
Director
Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs

FROM: Brian K. Flowers
Deputy Attorney General
Legal Counsel Division

DATE: January 20, 2022

SUBJECT: Legal Sufficiency Review of Draft Legislation, the “Law Enforcement Career Opportunities for District Residents Expansion Emergency Amendment Act of 2022,” the Accompanying Emergency Declaration Resolution, and the “Law Enforcement Career Opportunities for District Residents Expansion Temporary Amendment Act of 2022.”
(AD-21-654-B)

This is to Certify that this Office has reviewed the above-referenced proposed legislation and has found it to be legally sufficient. If you have questions regarding this certification, please do not hesitate to contact me at 724-5524.

Brian K. Flowers

Brian K. Flowers