

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 Department of For-Hire Vehicles Establishment Act of 1985 to authorize the Department of For-Hire Vehicles to enforce traffic laws against for-hire vehicles.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Department of For Hire Vehicles Delivery Vehicle Traffic Enforcement Expansion Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2022”.

Sec. 2. (a) The number of traffic deaths in the District has been trending up over the last 5 years, and in 2021, there were 40 deaths on District roads, which was the highest number in 15 years.

(b) Councilmembers frequently hear complaints from residents about for-hire vehicles—including both vehicles defined as public and private vehicles-for-hire carrying passengers, as well as food and parcel delivery services, which are often hired through the same mobile application as public and private vehicles-for-hire. Residents are concerned about these drivers double parking, blocking bicycles lanes, and otherwise driving dangerously. These actions make District roads more dangerous for other drivers, pedestrians, and bicycle riders.

(c) At a recent public meeting to discuss improving traffic safety as the second phase of the large Wharf development opens this fall in Southwest D.C., a representative from the

34 Department of For Hire Vehicles (“DFHV”) explained that DFHV enforcement officers can
35 issue citations for traffic violations by public and private vehicles-for-hire, but DFHV cannot
36 issue citations to drivers making food, beverage, or parcel deliveries.

37 (d) Many drivers take requests for pick up and drop off of passengers at the same time
38 they are also taking requests for food, beverage, or parcel deliveries—often through the same
39 mobile application. This switching can make it difficult for a DFHV enforcement officer to
40 determine if they are authorized to issue a traffic citation to a driver at a particular moment.

41 (e) As District businesses continue to re-open, and as new development projects open—
42 like the large Wharf development in Southwest D.C., which is opening this fall—there will only
43 be more passengers looking for a ride, and more residents looking for delivery of food,
44 beverages, and parcels. It is important that DFHV immediately has the authority to respond to
45 dangerous driving behavior—whether the driver is transporting passengers or goods.

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
48 Department of For Hire Vehicles Delivery Vehicle Traffic Enforcement Expansion Emergency
49 Amendment Act of 2022 be adopted after a single reading.

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