

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to authorize the Mayor to establish and administer programs to provide services and supports to recent immigrants to the United States and to make conforming amendments to the Homeless Services Reform Act.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Migrant Services and Supports Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2022”.

Sec. 2. Emergency circumstances.

(a) There is an immediate need to provide support to, and address the impacts of, the approximately 8,000 migrants who have arrived in Washington, DC from Texas and Arizona on over 300 buses since April 13, 2022, and the expected ongoing transit of additional migrants.

(b) In recent weeks, the influx of migrants to the District of Columbia has increased substantially, from an average of 50 to 100 persons per day throughout April, May, and June 2022 to nearly 300 persons per day as of early August 2022. Texas and Arizona have pledged publicly to continue—and even expand—these busing operations indefinitely.

33 (c) The District government has coordinated with multiple non-governmental  
34 organizations (“NGOs”), which quickly organized to aid the arriving migrants, and with  
35 the federal government and regional partners to ensure migrant arrivals are treated  
36 humanely and have the resources they need to reach their final destinations. The District  
37 government has also assisted the lead NGO for the migrant response in applying for and  
38 receiving approximately \$2 million in federal grants from the Federal Emergency  
39 Management Agency’s Emergency Food and Shelter Program, which has been used to  
40 assist migrants with shelter, food, supplies, and onward travel costs.

41 (d) However, during regular meetings, our NGO partners have told the District  
42 government that their capabilities—staffing, resources, and logistics—are becoming  
43 strained to the point where urgent, additional support is needed.

44 (e) The influx of migrants into the District creates conditions that, absent the  
45 emergency direction of supports and resources, will soon exceed the District  
46 government’s capacity to provide appropriate and humane care for arriving migrants  
47 while maintaining necessary and appropriate levels of human services for District  
48 residents, particularly access to shelter and other services for residents experiencing  
49 homelessness.

50 (f) As a result of the current situation, the District government must take  
51 emergency action to provide for the public health, safety, and welfare.

52 Sec. 3. Emergency declaration.

53 The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances  
54 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the  
55 Migrant Services and Supports Emergency Act of 2022 be adopted after a single reading.

56            Sec. 4. Effective date.

57            This resolution shall take effect immediately.