

Councilmember Christina Henderson
at the request of the Mayor

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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 An Act To establish a code of law for the District of Columbia to authorize the Mayor to issue marriage licenses and authorize temporary marriage officiants during a period of time when the Clerk of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia is not issuing marriage licenses because of a federal government shutdown.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Let Our Vows Endure Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2023”.

Sec. 2. (a) Under permanent law, the issuance of marriage licenses is considered a non-essential function of the Superior Court. Therefore, in the instance of a federal government shutdown, the Clerk of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia cannot issue marriage licenses.

(b) This feature of the District’s judicial system can inconvenience District residents and others who have planned or would have pursued a marriage during a federal government shutdown.

(c) Given that federal funding expires on October 1, a federal government shutdown is imminent. It is therefore necessary to amend District law on an emergency and temporary basis to allow the Mayor to issue marriage licenses during a federal government

34 shutdown, so that District residents and others who intend to celebrate their marriages in the
35 District may proceed with their plans despite the federal government's status.

36 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances
37 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Let Our
38 Vows Endure (LOVE) Emergency Amendment Act of 2023 be adopted after a single reading.

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