

35 infectious diseases through needle sharing, adverse effects on families and communities,
36 economic burdens, and treatment barriers.

37 (b) Between 2018 and 2022, opioid-related fatal overdoses in the District more than
38 doubled, from 213 to 461 lives lost per year. Between January and November 2023, there were
39 474 fatal overdoses, an average of 44 deaths per month compared to 38 per month in 2022.

40 (c) Fentanyl and its analogs, potent synthetic opioids, were linked to 96% of the opioid-
41 related fatal overdoses in the District in 2022. In 2023, there was an increasing percentage of
42 these substances linked to death, with fentanyl and its analogs linked to 98% of the deaths.

43 (d) People who use other drugs are also at risk of fentanyl deaths, as fentanyl pervades
44 the supply of illegal drugs. Many people who use drugs have managed their addictions for years,
45 yet they too can, and often do, overdose and die when their drugs are laced with even small
46 amounts of fentanyl and its analogs due to the potency of these opioids.

47 (e) Opioid deaths in the District fall most heavily among Blacks, males, and residents of
48 Wards 5, 7, and 8, underscoring that this crisis raises health equity and systemic concerns.

49 (f) Opioid abuse is an imminent threat to the health, safety, and welfare of District
50 residents that requires emergency protective actions be undertaken by the District government.

51 (g) On November 13, 2023, the Mayor issued Mayor's Order 2023-141, which declared a
52 public emergency regarding the opioid crisis. That declaration of emergency allowed District
53 agencies to respond more flexibly, cooperatively, and expeditiously to the opioid crisis. Pursuant
54 to amendatory subsection (c-1)(1) of section 2(b) of the Opioid Crisis and Juvenile Crime Public
55 Emergencies Extension Authorization Emergency Amendment Act of 2023, that Mayor's Order
56 could not be extended beyond February 15, 2024, and, absent Council action to extend the
57 Mayor's authority, expired on that date.

58 (h) Since the issuance of the Mayor’s Order, the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health
59 and Human Services (“DMHHS”) and cluster agencies have worked with the Opioid Abatement
60 Advisory Commission to identify and plan for grants and contracts to further advance the
61 District’s opioid response. Several of those grants and contracts are now ready to be awarded and
62 expedited procurement and grant-making authority is necessary to allow the District to respond
63 to the opioid crisis with speed and urgency.

64 (i) Therefore, on February 27, 2024, the Mayor issued Mayor’s Order 2024-035, which
65 declared a public emergency regarding the opioid crisis. That declaration of emergency provides
66 District agencies with authority to expedite procurement and the issuance of grants tailored to
67 respond to the public emergency.

68 (j) However, under District law, the public emergency declaration may not extend beyond
69 15 days without Council authorization. Without such Council authorization, the enhanced
70 authorities of District agencies will expire.

71 (k) It is therefore important that the Mayor be authorized to extend the public emergency
72 regarding the opioid crisis beyond March 13, 2024, and that District agencies retain their
73 enhanced authorities under the public emergency to respond to the opioid crisis, to continue to
74 address this ongoing threat to the health, safety, and welfare of District residents.

75 Sec. 3. Juvenile crime.

76 (a) As recognized by the Mayor in Mayor’s Order 2023-141, dated November 13, 2023
77 (Declaration of Public Emergency: Opioid Crisis and Declaration of Public Emergency: Juvenile
78 Crime), the District has experienced an increase in violent crime, including concerning trends
79 among its youth. In 2023, there were 552 arrests of juveniles for robbery, including carjacking,
80 homicide, or assault with a dangerous weapon, a number which is 45% more than the total

81 number of such arrests in all of 2022. For 143 of those youth (26%), that arrest was their first
82 arrest. Last year, more than 100 juveniles were arrested for carjackings, based on the most
83 serious charge or “top charge.” This year, juveniles have been arrested for over half of the
84 District’s carjacking arrests, representing 11 out of 18 carjacking arrests thus far. There has also
85 been a marked increase in arrests of younger children aged 11-12.

86 (b) The number of District youth victimized by violent crime has also increased
87 significantly. In 2023, 109 juveniles suffered gunshot wounds, including 16 homicides, a 4.6%
88 increase from 2022. Seven juveniles suffered gunshot wounds in the first eight weeks of this
89 year. This violence is having a devastating impact on victims, their families, communities, and
90 the District as a whole.

91 (c) On November 13, 2023, the Mayor, by Mayor’s Order 2023-141, declared a public
92 emergency regarding juvenile crime. That declaration of emergency allowed District agencies to
93 respond more flexibly, cooperatively, and expeditiously to issues related to juvenile crime.

94 (d) Among other things, Mayor’s Order 2023-141 directed the Department of Youth
95 Rehabilitation Services (“DYRS”), the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice (“DMPSJ”),
96 and the Office of Contracting and Procurement (“OCP”) to take steps to increase capacity for
97 youth in DYRS’s custody. Specifically, Mayor’s Order 2023-141 directed these agencies to work
98 to procure additional placements for youth at shelter homes and secure facilities outside of
99 DYRS’s facilities. Mayor’s Order 2023-141 also directed DYRS to work with CSSD to improve
100 monitoring and response for youth who are subject to electronic monitoring. In addition,
101 Mayor’s Order 2023-141 directed DMPSJ and other relevant agencies to deploy roving Safe
102 Passage teams and additional “Public Safety Go Teams” to neighborhoods experiencing the
103 highest levels of youth violence.

104 (e) Pursuant to amendatory subsection (c-1)(1) of section 2(b) of the Opioid Crisis and
105 Juvenile Crime Public Emergencies Extension Authorization Emergency Amendment Act of
106 2023, that Mayor’s Order could not be extended beyond February 15, 2024, and, absent Council
107 action to extend the Mayor’s authority, expired on that date.

108 (f) On February 27, 2024, the Mayor issued Mayor’s Order 2024-035, which declared a
109 public emergency regarding juvenile crime. That declaration of emergency provides District
110 agencies with authority to expedite procurement and the issuance of grants tailored to respond to
111 the public emergency.

112 (g) Specifically, DYRS, in consultation with the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and
113 Justice and the Office of Contracting and Procurement, intends to utilize this authority to
114 implement measures to increase capacity across the continuum of placements for youth in its
115 custody, including:

116 (1) Procuring additional placements for youth at shelter homes, group homes,
117 supervised independent living facilities, secure facilities, residential treatment centers,
118 psychiatric residential treatment centers, and foster homes;

119 (2) Engaging in cooperative agreements for programs and placements for detained
120 and committed youth, including rehabilitative, therapeutic, substance-abuse, and trauma-
121 informed programs; and

122 (3) Incentivizing private providers to open additional shelter homes, group homes,
123 and shelter beds for girls.

124 (h) However, under District law, the public emergency declaration may not extend
125 beyond 15 days without Council authorization. Without such Council authorization, the
126 enhanced authorities of District agencies will expire.

127 (i) It is therefore important that the Mayor be authorized to extend the public emergency
128 regarding the opioid crisis beyond March 13, 2024, and that District agencies retain their
129 enhanced authorities under the public emergency to respond to issues related to juvenile crime,
130 to continue to address this ongoing threat to the health, safety, and welfare of District residents
131 and visitors, and in particular our youth.

132 (j) To ensure transparency, the bill requires the executive to publicly post any grants
133 awarded or contracts entered using the authority granted by the bill within 15 days after
134 awarding or entering them.

135 Sec. 4. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances
136 enumerated in sections 2 and 3 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the
137 Opioid Crisis and Juvenile Crime Public Emergencies Extension Authorization Emergency
138 Amendment Act of 2024 be adopted after a single reading.

139 Sec. 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately.