

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

1 To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to grant the Deputy Mayor for
2 Planning and Economic Development the authority to issue a grant to the African
3 American Civil War Museum to support the museum’s completion.
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5 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
6 resolution may be cited as the “African American Civil War Museum Limited Grant-Making
7 Authority Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2024”.

8 Sec. 2. (a) The African American Civil War Museum (“AACWM”) opened to the public
9 more than 20 years ago, and helps visitors understand the largely unknown role of black and
10 brown soldiers who fought for freedom from slavery during the Civil War. The AACWM
11 displays photographs, documents, and artifacts, and holds regular seminars and historic
12 presentations by community members. The museum serves as a unique resource for teachers,
13 scholars, students, and professionals of museum studies, descendants of Civil War soldiers, and
14 the general public. More than 200,000 visitors come to the Memorial and Museum each year.

15 (b) Emergency legislation is necessary to cover renovations and improvements to both
16 locations; to close the funding gap experienced by the AACWM to build out the museum into the

17 remainder of its facility; and to assist Ben’s Chili Bowl’s U Street location in HVAC
18 replacement, electrical and plumbing repairs and upgrades, roofing repairs, and substantial
19 concrete and masonry work.

20 (d) Expansion of the AACWM will complete a key recommendation from Office of
21 Planning’s DUKE small area plan on the historic Cardozo/Shaw neighborhood, utilizing the
22 former Grimke School for the AACWM and its foundation.

23 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances in
24 Section 2 constitute emergency circumstances, making it necessary that the African American
25 Civil War Museum Limited Grant-Making Authority Emergency Amendment Act of 2024 be
26 adopted after a single reading.

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

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