



Councilmember Charles Allen

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 Transportation Establishment Act of 2002 to authorize the Director to make grants of more than \$1 million to the National Park Service for certain projects in the Buzzard Point neighborhood.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Buzzard Point Park and Trails National Park Service Grant Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2024”.

Sec. 2. (a) In 2022, the Council approved approximately \$2.5 million in Fiscal Year 2023 funding for the District Department of Transportation (“DDOT”) to use for improvements to parks and trails on National Park Service (“NPS”) land in the Buzzard Point neighborhood, located in the Southwest quadrant of the District.

(b) Initially, DDOT was not able to come to an agreement with NPS about how the appropriated funds could be transferred to NPS.

(c) DDOT and NPS determined that the only viable path forward to ensure the funding can be used for its intended purpose is for DDOT to grant the funds to NPS. However, section 3(c) of the Department of Transportation Establishment Act of 2002, effective May 21, 2002 (D.C. Law 14-137; D.C. Official Code § 50-921.02(c)), limits DDOT’s grantmaking authority to \$1 million

33 per grant, preventing DDOT from granting the full amount of funding the Council approved for
34 this purpose.

35 (d) In response, on October 3, 2023, the Council passed the Buzzard Point Park and Trails
36 National Park Service Grant Temporary Amendment Act of 2023, effective December 20, 2023
37 (D.C. Law 25-96; 71 DCR 11) (“temporary legislation”). The temporary legislation created a
38 limited exemption from the general \$1 million maximum limit placed on DDOT’s grantmaking
39 authority, allowing DDOT to grant the appropriated funds to NPS for parks and trails
40 improvements in the Buzzard Point neighborhood. The temporary legislation is set to expire on
41 August 1, 2024.

42 (e) This new round of emergency and temporary legislation is necessary to prevent a gap
43 in the law between the expiration of the temporary legislation and DDOT issuing the grant to NPS.

44 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances
45 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Buzzard
46 Point Park and Trails National Park Service Grant Emergency Amendment Act of 2024 be adopted
47 after a single reading.

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