

Councilmember Christina Henderson

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A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

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IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to amend, on an emergency basis, the Retired Police Officer Redeployment Amendment Act of 1992 to extend the eligibility of retired Metropolitan Police Department officers and retired firefighters from the Fire and Emergency Services Department for rehire at the discretion of the Director of the Office of Unified Communication as a temporary full-time or temporary part-time 911 call taker or 911 dispatcher without jeopardy to the retirement benefits of the employee.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Retired Firefighter and Police Officer Redeployment Extension Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2024”.

Sec. 2. (a) Under current law, most retired District government employees who collect pension benefits and are rehired by another District agency are subject to an annuity offset. There are currently pension offset exemptions for retired Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) officers who are rehired as fully sworn temporary full-time or temporary part-time police officers, rehired as temporary full-time or temporary part-time employees at the Department of Forensic Sciences, or hired by the Superintendent of the District of Columbia Public Schools as security personnel. These exemptions allow former District government employees to apply their specific skills in new roles for which they are uniquely suited.

35 (b) Under the Retired Firefighter and Police Officer Redeployment Emergency  
36 Amendment Act of 2023, passed by the Council on December 5, 2023 and signed by the Mayor  
37 on January 4, 2024, firefighters retired from the Fire and Emergency Medical Services  
38 Department (FEMS) and police officers retired from MPD are eligible for rehire at the discretion  
39 of the Director of the Office of Unified Communications (OUC) as temporary full-time or  
40 temporary part-time 911 call takers or 911 dispatchers without decreasing their retirement  
41 benefits. One firefighter has fully onboarded as 911 dispatcher due to the emergency legislation,  
42 and additional firefighters plan to apply for dispatcher and call-taker positions as they become  
43 eligible.

44 (c) The exemption created by the emergency legislation gave OUC access to a new pool  
45 of candidates who are familiar with dispatch operations from the FEMS and MPD perspectives  
46 and bring expertise and knowledge gained over decades on the front lines of emergency response  
47 into the heart of OUC operations.

48 (d) Permanent, identical legislation is pending in the Council, and the Retired Firefighter  
49 and Police Officer Redeployment Temporary Amendment Act of 2023 will expire on October  
50 12, 2024. An extension of the Retired Firefighter and Police Officer Redeployment Emergency  
51 Amendment Act of 2023 is necessary to allow OUC to continue employing the firefighter hired  
52 as a dispatcher through the emergency legislation and to continue recruiting and hiring retired  
53 firefighters and police officers as 911 call takers and 911 dispatchers.

54 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances  
55 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Retired  
56 Firefighter and Police Officer Redeployment Extension Emergency Amendment Act of 2024 be  
57 adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.