



Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie

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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 the Retail Incentive Act of 2004 to designate certain neighborhoods as Retail Priority Areas, including those within the Mount Vernon Triangle, Eastern Market, Barracks Row, and Georgia Avenue areas.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That

this resolution may be cited as the “Great Streets Program Expansion Neighborhood Retail Priority Amendment Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2024”.

Sec. 2. (a) Since 2006 the District has operated the Great Streets retail priority grant program (“program”), which allows small businesses within a defined area to apply for grants to support their businesses. The program began with the Retail Incentive Act of 2004 and has been expanded on several occasions. The grants awarded under the program support small businesses in these areas, create new job opportunities, and provide access to capital.

(b) The Committee on Business and Economic Development approved the Great Streets Program Expansion Neighborhood Retail Priority Amendment Act of 2024, as approved by the Committee on Business and Economic Development on October 23, 2024 (Committee print of Bill 25-488)(“permanent legislation”). The permanent

33 legislation amends the Retail Incentive Act of 2004 to broaden the program to designate
34 certain neighborhoods within the Mount Vernon Triangle, Eastern Market, Barracks
35 Row, and Georgia areas, Retail Priority Areas.

36 (c) The permanent legislation must complete the legislative process, including the
37 30-day review period required by section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home
38 Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-
39 206.02(c)(1)), and will not become law, at the earliest, until the end of 2024.

40 (d) It is important that the provisions of the permanent legislation become law as
41 soon as possible so that the new participants of the program can apply for Great Streets
42 grants in Fiscal Year 2025 when the applications open in January 2025.

43 Sec. 3. The Council determines that the circumstances enumerated in section 2
44 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Great Streets Program
45 Expansion Neighborhood Retail Priority Amendment Emergency Amendment Act of
46 2024 be adopted after a single reading.

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