

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER BROOKE PINTO, WARD 2  
MEMORANDUM  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

TO: Chairman Phil Mendelson  
FROM: Councilmember Brooke Pinto  
RE: Request to Agendize Emergency and Temporary Measures for the October 24, 2024,  
Legislative Meeting – Residential Tranquility  
DATE: October 24, 2024

I request the following measures be agendized for the October 24, 2024, Legislative meeting:

- “Residential Tranquility Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2024”
- “Residential Tranquility Emergency Amendment Act of 2024”
- “Residential Tranquility Temporary Amendment Act of 2024”

The purpose of this emergency and temporary legislation is to amend, on an emergency basis, the Residential Tranquility Act of 2010 to prohibit persons targeting a residence or purposes of a demonstration from using amplified sound devices in a residential zone and to prohibit a person as part of a group of 3 or more persons from targeting a residence for purposes of a demonstration between 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m.; and to amend An Act To establish a code of law for the District of Columbia to prohibit a person from launching or throwing a projectile onto the residential property of another with the intent to cause fear, to intimidate, to retaliate, or to protest or disparage the conduct, belief, opinions, action, membership affiliation, religion, race, ethnicity, political party membership, speech, or writings of a person living or working at that residence.

The District has experienced an alarming increase in targeted residential demonstrations that employ amplified sound devices, creating widespread disruptions that affect entire neighborhoods and compromise residents' fundamental right to peace in their homes. These disturbances pose health risks, including anxiety, elevated stress hormones, and adverse psychological effects - particularly impacting children's cognitive development, elderly residents, and those with disabilities. The current 10pm-7am quiet hours fail to protect residents during crucial periods, including early morning routines and evening family time. Additionally, a disturbing trend has emerged of individuals throwing projectiles at residential properties as a form of harassment and intimidation, targeting residents based on their beliefs, affiliations, race, religion, and other characteristics. The existing legal framework lacks adequate protections against these evolving forms of residential harassment, leaving District residents vulnerable to immediate and ongoing harm to their safety, wellbeing, and ability to find peace in their homes.

To address this problem, this emergency legislation will:

- Extend restrictions on demonstrations of three or more people targeting a residence to 7pm-9am (previously 10pm-7am)
- Prohibit the use of amplified sound devices during demonstrations targeting a residence in a residential zone
- Establish a separate offense if violators of the Residential Tranquility Act continue to violate the act after being instructed by law enforcement officers to cease
- Prohibit launching or throwing projectiles at residential properties when intended to cause fear, intimidate, retaliate, or protest/disparage residents based on their:
  - Conduct or beliefs
  - Opinions or speech
  - Actions or affiliations
  - Religion, race, or ethnicity
  - Political party membership
  - Writings

Drafts of the measures are attached. If you have any questions regarding these measures, please contact Linn Groft, Legislative Director, at [lgroft@dccouncil.gov](mailto:lgroft@dccouncil.gov).

cc: Members, Council of the District of Columbia  
Office of the Secretary  
Office of the General Counsel  
Office of the Budget Director  
Mayor's Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs