



Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.

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A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare an emergency with respect to the need to clarify and preserve the requirement that housing providers report current and prior rent amounts, utilities, facilities, services, and appliances for all rental accommodations, including exempt accommodations, at the time of registration in the RentRegistry housing database.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Rental Housing Registration Data Integrity Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2026”.

Sec. 2. (a) On June 2, 2025, the District’s RentRegistry housing database became operational pursuant to § 42-3502.03c of the District of Columbia Official Code, establishing a centralized system for housing providers to register rental accommodations and submit required housing data.

(b) The Council previously adopted temporary legislation to clarify reporting requirements applicable to housing providers registering rental accommodations in the RentRegistry system; however, that temporary legislation will expire on April 5, 2026.

(c) Upon expiration of the temporary legislation, there will be uncertainty regarding the District’s authority to require housing providers of exempt rental accommodations to report current rent amounts, prior rent amounts, and other required housing information at the time of registration, creating a risk of incomplete registrations and gaps in critical housing data.

33 (d) Section 42-3502.03c of the District of Columbia Official Code requires housing
34 providers to register rental accommodations and provide specific housing data to ensure
35 transparency, accountability, and effective administration of the District's housing laws.

36 (e) As part of the RentRegistry system design and implementation, housing providers are
37 required to submit, at the time of registration, the current monthly rent and rent amounts charged
38 for the prior 2 calendar years, as well as information regarding utilities, facilities, services, and
39 appliances associated with each rental accommodation, regardless of whether the
40 accommodation is subject to rent stabilization.

41 (f) This information is essential to provide a complete, accurate, and reliable depiction of
42 the District's rental housing market, including both rent-stabilized and exempt rental
43 accommodations, and supports policymaking, enforcement, tenant protection, and housing
44 market transparency.

45 (g) The requirement to report current and prior rent amounts, utilities, facilities, services,
46 and appliances for all rental accommodations is integral to the functionality of the RentRegistry
47 system and has been incorporated into the database's structure and programming. The
48 Department of Housing and Community Development stated that removing or modifying these
49 requirements would require significant additional coding work, delay full implementation,
50 increase development costs, and undermine the integrity and usefulness of the database.

51 (h) Housing providers of exempt rental accommodations have expressed confusion and
52 resistance regarding the requirement to submit rent history and related housing information;
53 however, clarifying and preserving this requirement on an emergency basis is necessary to
54 ensure consistent compliance, prevent gaps in housing data, and maintain the functionality and
55 reliability of the RentRegistry system.

56 (i) The RentRegistry system was designed to address longstanding limitations in the
57 availability and reliability of rental housing data in the District. Because historical rent and
58 housing characteristic data were not previously available in a centralized, reliable, or cost-
59 effective format, requiring housing providers to submit this information at the time of
60 registration is necessary to establish a complete and accurate baseline dataset.

61 (j) Without immediate clarification preserving these reporting requirements, housing
62 providers may withhold critical information necessary for the proper operation of the
63 RentRegistry system, impairing the District's ability to administer housing laws, monitor rental
64 housing conditions and pricing, ensure transparency, and inform policymaking.

65 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances
66 enumerated in section 2 constitute an emergency making it necessary that the Rental Housing
67 Registration Data Integrity Emergency Amendment Act of 2026 be adopted after a single
68 reading.

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