

  
Councilmember Zachary Parker

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to create sustainable economic revitalization initiatives in the Rhode Island Avenue Corridor.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Rhode Island Avenue Corridor Long-Term Lease Adjustment Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2026”.

Sec. 2. (a) The Economic Revitalization Initiatives Amendment Act of 2025 was passed to create economic revitalization initiatives in several areas of the District, including the Rhode Island Avenue Corridor. The Rhode Island Avenue Support Grant Program was to be established in Fiscal Year 2026, with its purpose to award grants through a competitive process to eligible businesses and eligible commercial property owners in the Rhode Island Avenue Corridor.

(b) In order to be eligible for this Program, in addition to other criteria, a business or property owner would be required to sign or intend to sign a long-term lease of a commercial property in the Rhode Island Avenue Corridor. The stated timeframe for a long-term lease was a lease period of no fewer than 10 years, exclusive of options. This timeframe differed from the original proposal of 5 years, which was in line with industry standards. The impact of this longer timeframe may lead to a substantially decreased pool of eligible businesses to revitalize the

Rhode Island Avenue Corridor, and runs counter to the purpose of the Economic Revitalization Initiatives Amendment Act of 2025.

(c) The underlying emergency would amend the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development Limited Grant-Making Authority Act of 2012 to ensure that the intended business population, which are those who sign or intend to sign a long-term lease, with a period of no fewer than 5 years, of a commercial property in the Rhode Island Avenue Corridor, are eligible for grants under the Rhode Island Avenue Support Grant Program.

Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances, making it necessary that the Rhode Island Avenue Corridor Long-Term Lease Adjustment Emergency Amendment Act of 2026 be adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.