



Councilmember Brooke Pinto

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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 Volunteers Services Act of 1977 to clarify that the Attorney General for the District of Columbia has the authority to promulgate regulations governing the Attorney General’s use of volunteers.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Volunteer Services Clarification Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2026”.

Sec. 2. (a) There exists an immediate need to amend the Volunteers Services Act of 1977, effective June 28, 1977 (D.C. Law 2-12; D.C. Official Code § 1-319.01 *et seq.*) (“VSA”), to clarify that the Attorney General for the District of Columbia (“Attorney General”) has the authority to promulgate regulations governing the Office of the Attorney General’s use of volunteers.

(b) Section 2 of the VSA establishes a policy of the District government to utilize volunteer citizens in as many governmental programs as is practicable to serve the interests of the community.

(c) Section 4(a) of the VSA requires that regulations governing the use of volunteers by the District government be promulgated before District agencies accept volunteer services.

31 (d) Section 3 of the VSA, enacted before the Attorney General became an independently
32 elected office, does not explicitly authorize the Attorney General to promulgate regulations
33 governing the Attorney General’s use of volunteers.

34 (e) Rules governing the use volunteers by the District government were published in the
35 *D.C. Register* on December 10, 1982 (29 DCR 5405). These rules covered the Corporation
36 Counsel and later, the Office of the Attorney General (“OAG”).

37 (f) Section 108a of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia Clarification and
38 Elected Term Amendment Act of 2010, effective October 22, 2015 (D.C. Law 21-36; D.C.
39 Official Code § 1-301.88a), generally provided the Attorney General with independent personnel
40 authority for OAG. However, it did not amend the VSA to explicitly authorize the Attorney
41 General to promulgate separate, independent regulations governing OAG’s use of volunteers.

42 (g) Amending the VSA to explicitly authorize OAG to promulgate its own rules would
43 align with the Attorney General’s status as an independently elected official and the Attorney
44 General’s independent personnel authority.

45 (h) Emergency legislation is needed immediately so that OAG can continue to use
46 volunteers to fulfill its mission to enforce the District’s laws and protect and defend District
47 residents. Volunteers, including attorneys and interns, contribute important legal, governmental,
48 policy, investigatory, research, mediation, and constituent services to the agency and to the
49 District. For example, volunteer work constitutes crucial support to the litigative and other work
50 across OAG. The emergency nature of this legislation is justified in order to prevent deleterious
51 impacts on operations and delays to the agency’s various programs, divisions, and cases
52 supported by volunteer work.

53 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances
54 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the
55 Volunteer Services Clarification Emergency Amendment Act of 2026 be adopted after a single
56 reading.

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