



Councilmember Janeese Lewis George

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 Block Party Act of 2012 to enable residents hosting a musical performance on their property as part of a porchfest to apply for block party permits.

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

Sec. 2. (a) The Porchfest Permitting Emergency Amendment Act of 2025 was passed by the DC Council on December 2, 2025 to ensure that porchfest performances hosted by individual residents in Spring 2025 would be considered permissible use of the block party permitting process. The accompanying temporary legislation, passed on December 16, 2025 and effective March 6, 2026, is set to expire on October 17, 2026.

(b) Permanent legislation, the Porchfest Permitting Amendment Act of 2025, was introduced on October 7, 2025. A hearing was held on September 24, 2026. Emergency legislation is therefore necessary to provide continuity while the permanent legislation proceeds through the Council’s legislative process.

(c) This fall, two porchfest festivals are scheduled to take place, one after the date of the current legislation’s expiration: Capitol Hill’s inaugural Porchfest on October 10, followed by

Adams Morgan’s Fall Porchfest on November 7. Organizers across the District are also in the early stages of planning their spring porchfests. Ensuring continuity and certainty in the permitting process is necessary so that both the upcoming fall festivals and those planned for the spring can move forward without disruption.

(d) The Block Party Act of 2012, effective October 23, 2012 (D.C. Law 19-190, D.C. Official Code § 9-631 *et seq.*) (“Act”), was enacted to create a simple, accessible process for residents to obtain permission to host neighborhood block parties.

(e) Prior to the passage of the Porchfest Permitting Emergency Amendment Act of 2025 and accompanying temporary legislation, residents who applied for block party permits to host porchfest musical performances were denied because the events were considered part of a larger porchfest festival. They were told they must instead apply for a special event permit, which is used for major, professionally organized events and is significantly more costly and complex.

(g) This emergency and temporary legislation is necessary to ensure continuity for porchfest organizers for upcoming fall and spring porchfests while permanent legislation makes its way through the Council.

Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Porchfest Permitting Emergency Amendment Act of 2026 be adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.