Councilmember Charles Allen

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to amend Title II of the District of Columbia Comprehensive Bicycle Transportation and Safety Act of 1984 to require that electric bicycles, electric mobility devices, and traction batteries manufactured, distributed, sold, or offered for lease or rent in the District meet certain safety standards; to amend the District of Columbia Traffic Act, 1925 to make conforming amendments; to amend the Department of Transportation Establishment Act of 2002 to authorize the Director of the District Department of Transportation to develop policies for the safe use of electric bicycles, motorized bicycles, and electric mobility devices; and for other purposes.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Micromobility Fire Safety Standards Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2026".

Sec. 2. (a) Micromobility devices, such as e-bikes and e-scooters, have become increasingly common on District streets. According to the National Association of City Transportation Officials, D.C. is the largest market in the country for dockless e-bikes and the second largest for dockless e-scooters. Demand is growing and ridership in the first half of 2026 was 50% higher than the same period last year.

(b) As demand for electric mobility devices has risen, manufacturers around the world have responded by supplying the market with a wide array of options. Unfortunately, not all products are manufactured at a high level of quality, which has resulted in serious safety issues. The most dangerous of these product failures involve the lithium-ion batteries that power micromobility devices. These batteries can experience a phenomenon called "thermal runaway," which can result

in smoke, fire, the emission of harmful gasses, and even explosions. These incidents typically involve batteries or other electronic components that have not been tested to meet applicable safety standards.

(c) Requiring that micromobility devices sold or rented in the District comply with applicable safety standards is a simple step to protect residents and visitors from the potential dangers of electric micromobility devices.

(d) Given the popularity of these devices and the safety risks presented by products that do not comply with applicable safety standards, there is an immediate need require that micromobility devices comply with applicable safety standards.

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 Micromobility Fire Safety Standards Emergency Amendment Act of 2026 be adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.