



MURIEL BOWSER
MAYOR

January 13, 2021

Enclosed for consideration by the Council of the District of Columbia is the "Homeland Security Fusion Center and Law Enforcement Authority Emergency Amendment Act of 2021," the "Homeland Security Fusion Center and Law Enforcement Authority Temporary Amendment Act of 2021", and the "Homeland Security Fusion Center and Law Enforcement Authority Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2021."

The purpose of this legislation is to designate the primary purpose of the fusion center within the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA) and to designate HSEMA as a law enforcement agency, and the fusion center as a law enforcement unit, for the purposes of carrying out the fusion center functions, including receiving, analyzing, handling, and sharing criminal history record information and law enforcement intelligence information.

This legislation will support the fusion center's functions by providing important access to information that is critical to support District, regional, and federal law enforcement and criminal justice agencies and protecting District residents and the public safety.


I look forward to the Council's favorable consideration of this contract.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Muriel Bowser", written over a vertical line that extends from the word "Sincerely," above.

Muriel Bowser

Enclosure


Chairman Phil Mendelson
at the request of the Mayor

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To amend, on a temporary basis, An Act To authorize the District of Columbia government to establish an Office of Civil Defense, and for other purposes, to formalize the establishment of the fusion center within the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency, to designate the primary mission of the fusion center, and to designate the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency and the fusion center as law enforcement entities for the purpose of carrying out the mission of the fusion center.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this act may be cited as the “Homeland Security Fusion Center and Law Enforcement Authority Temporary Amendment Act of 2021”.

Sec. 2. An Act To authorize the District of Columbia government to establish an Office of Civil Defense, and for other purposes, approved August 11, 1950 (64 Stat. 439; D.C. Official Code § 7-2201 *et seq.*), is amended by adding a new section 3a to read as follows:

“Sec. 3a. Fusion center.

“(a) The Director of the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (“HSEMA”) shall, subject to the direction and control of the Mayor, establish a fusion center for the District within HSEMA. The fusion center for the District may, at the discretion of the Mayor and the Director of HSEMA, also serve as the primary fusion center in the National Capital Region.”

33 “(b) The primary mission of the fusion center of the District is to receive and coordinate
34 and facilitate the sharing of resources, expertise, and information, including criminal history
35 record information and law enforcement intelligence information among law enforcement, first
36 responder, and criminal justice agencies, and to coordinate and integrate information, from such
37 agencies, with the goal of detecting and preventing criminal and terrorist activity, such as
38 criminal conspiracy, bomb threats, possession of illegal firearms and explosives, identity theft,
39 money laundering, burglary, and organized crime, and for the purpose of investigating and
40 responding to such activity.

41 “(c) The Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency is designated a law
42 enforcement agency, and the fusion center is designated a law enforcement unit, for the purposes
43 of carrying out the functions set forth in subsection (b) of this section and for the purposes of
44 receiving, analyzing, handling, and sharing criminal history record information and law
45 enforcement intelligence information.

46 “(d) The fusion center of the District shall work in partnership with other state, local,
47 regional, and federal fusion centers and with other state, local, regional, and federal law
48 enforcement, criminal justice, and intelligence agencies.”

49 “(e) The fusion center of the District shall represent the District’s interests in the national
50 network of fusion centers.”

51 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

52 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement of the Chief Financial Officer as the fiscal
53 impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,
54 approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

55 Sec. 4. Effective date.

56 (a) This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by
57 the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of Congressional review
58 as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved
59 December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the
60 District of Columbia Register.

61 (b) This act shall expire after 225 days of its having taken effect.