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10 A BILL

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14 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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20 To amend the Block Party Act of 2012 to require the Department of Transportation to create a
21 process for issuing street play permits and for preauthorizing certain blocks for expedited
22 street play permits.

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24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
25 act may be cited as the “Game On: Providing Leisure Activities for Youth Amendment Act of
26 2023”.

27 Sec. 2. The Block Party Act of 2012, D.C. Law 19-190, effective October 23, 2012 (D.C.
28 Official Code § 9-631 *et seq.*) is amended as follows:

29 (a) Section 2 (D.C. Official Code § 9-631) is amended by adding new paragraphs (3)
30 and (4) to read as follows:

31 “(3) “Preauthorized block” means a section of roadway that has been
32 approved for expedited Street Play permitting, pursuant to section 3a.

33 “(4) “Street play” means sports or recreational activities undertaken in a
34 public right of way that has been closed to traffic and for which there is no admission or entrance
35 fee.”.

36 (b) Section 3 (D.C. Official Code § 9-632) is amended as follows:

37 (1) The section title is amended to read as follows:

38 “Sec. 3. Block party and street play permit application and requirements.”.

39 (2) Subsection (a) is amended by striking the phrase “create a block party
40 application and make it available” and inserting the phrase “create a block party application and
41 a street play permit application and make them available” in its place.

42 (3) Subsection (b)(1) is amended by striking the phrase “submit a block party
43 application and request a street closing for the purpose of holding a block party” and inserting
44 the phrase “submit a block party or street play permit application and request a street closing for
45 the purpose of holding a block party or providing for street play” in its place.

46 (4) Subsection (b)(2) is amended by striking the phrase “activity for a block
47 party shall” and inserting the phrase “activity for a block party or street play shall” in its place.

48 (5) Subsection (c) is amended as follows:

49 (A) Strike the phrase “block party application shall” and inserting
50 the phrase “block party or street play permit application shall” in its place; and

51 (B) Strike the phrase “consented to the block party” and inserting
52 the phrase “consented to the block party or street play” in its place.

53 (6) Subsection (d) is amended by striking the phrase “completed block party
54 application” and inserting the phrase “completed block party or street play permit application” in
55 its place.

56 (c) A new section 3a is added to read as follows:

57 “Sec. 3a. Street play permit preauthorization program

58 “(a) The Department shall create a street play permit preauthorization application

59 and make it available for in-person pickup and through the Department’s website.

60 “(b)(1) A District resident, 21 years or older, may submit a street play permit
61 preauthorization application for a block on which the resident lives. The application shall:

62 “(A) Be completed on the form provided by the Department;

63 “(B) Identify the street name and cross streets of the block to be
64 preauthorized for street play;

65 “(C) Include the names of up to three authorized residents of the identified
66 block who may request an expedited street play permit; and

67 “(D) Include the signatures of 80% of the residents, owners, or business
68 abutting the section of the street requested to be preauthorized for street play who have
69 consented to preauthorization for street play.

70 “(2) For the purpose of subparagraph (b)(1)(C), a property that has been identified
71 as a vacant building, as that term is defined in section 5(5) of An Act To provide for the
72 abatement of nuisances in the District of Columbia by the Commissioner of said District, and for
73 other purposes, approved April 14, 1906 (34 Stat. 114; D.C. Official Code § 42-3131.05(5)),
74 shall not be included when determining whether 80% of residents, owners, or businesses have
75 consented to preauthorization for street play.

76 “(c)(1) For one year after the effective date of the Game On: Providing Leisure Activities
77 for Youth Amendment Act of 2023, as introduced on November 16, 2023 (introduced version of
78 B25-XXX) (“GO PLAY Act”), a street play preauthorization shall be effective for six months
79 after the date of approval or until the end of the calendar year during which the preauthorization
80 was approved, whichever is shorter.

81 “(2) A street play preauthorization issued at least one year after the effective date
82 of the GO PLAY Act, shall be effective until the end of the calendar year during which it was
83 approved.

84 “(d) An authorized resident may request an expedited street play permit for a
85 preauthorized block by submitting to the Department either online or in person:

86 “(1) A statement asserting that the resident posted, at least 48 hours before the
87 date of the proposed street closure and in at least four locations on the preauthorized block,
88 notice of the street closure;

89 “(2) Photographs of the posted notice; and

90 “(3) The date and time of the street closure.

91 “(e) An authorized resident may request an expedited street play permit on any day that is
92 not prohibited by the Department in the street play permit preauthorization approval and is:

93 “(1) A weekend;

94 “(2) A District of Columbia holiday; or

95 “(3) A scheduled day off for all students during the District of Columbia Public
96 Schools school year.”.

97 (d) Section 4 (D.C. Official Code § 9-633) is amended as follows:

98 (1) Subsection (a) is amended by striking the phrase “approving block party
99 applications” and inserting the phrase “approving block party, street play permit, and street play
100 permit preauthorization applications”.

101 (2) New subsections (b-1) and (b-2) are added to read as follows:

102 “(b-1) The Department shall approve or deny a block party or street play permit
103 application and notify the applicant within four business days.

104 “(b-2)(1) The Department shall approve or deny a street play permit preauthorization
105 application within 30 days.

106 “(2) The preauthorization approval shall include a list of any otherwise eligible
107 dates during which the Department determines that street play shall be prohibited on the
108 preauthorized block, and an explanation of why street play is prohibited on those dates.”.

109 (e) Section 5 (D.C. Official Code § 9-634) is amended as follows:

110 (1) Subsection (a) is amended by striking the phrase “approve block parties”
111 and inserting the phrase “approve block parties and street play permits” in its place.

112 (2) Subsection (b) is amended by striking the phrase “application for a block
113 party shall not” and inserting the phrase “application for a block party or a street play permit
114 shall not” in its place.

115 (3) A new subsection (c) is added to read as follows:

116 “(c) An application for a street play preauthorization shall be granted if the Department
117 determines that:

118 “(1) The application meets the requirements of section 3a;

119 “(2) Frequent closures of the block would not create significant traffic congestion;

120 “(3) Frequent closures of the block would not cause significant public safety
121 concerns; and

122 “(4) There is no substantial neighborhood opposition to the application.”.

123 (4) A new subsection (d) is added to read as follows:

124 “(d) An application for an expedited street play permit, that meets the requirements of
125 section 3a(e), for a preauthorized block shall be deemed approved unless the Department notifies
126 the applicant that closure of the block will cause a significant public safety concern.”.

127 Sec. 3. D.C. Official Code § 47-2862(d) is amended by striking the phrase “applicant for
128 a block party permit” and inserting the phrase “applicant for a block party permit, a street play
129 permit, or a street play preauthorization permit” in its place.

130 Sec. 4. Fiscal impact statement.

131 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal impact
132 statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975, approved
133 October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

134 Sec. 5. Effective date.

135 This act shall take effect after approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
136 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as
137 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24,
138 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of
139 Columbia Register.