


Councilmember Vincent Orange

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to establish a task force to study and report on establishing a program to provide menstrual products to shelters for homeless women, increase the supply of menstrual products for women in the custody at the Central Detention Facility, the Correctional Treatment Facility, and halfway houses, and on establishing a mobile shower bus pilot program to provide shower and hygiene services to individuals who are homeless, and report its findings and recommendations to the Mayor and the Council.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Mobile Shower Bus and Feminine Products Distribution Task Force Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2016”.

Sec. 2. (a) On September 22, 2015, the Women in Need Program Amendment Act of 2015 (Bill 21-367) was introduced by Councilmember Orange.

(b) Bill 21-367 addresses the feminine hygiene needs of homeless women, which are typically in short supply at shelters, and many women do not have the resources to purchase these essential products on their own. For women already struggling with housing, it is an added stress to have to scour for basic hygiene products. In addition, many homeless women face public-health issues as a result of not having access to these products.

(c) On September 22, 2015, the Mobile Hygiene Pilot Program Amendment Act of 2015 (Bill 21-378) was introduced by Councilmember Orange.

1 (d) Bill 21-378 establishes a program to serve the needs of the District's homeless
2 population by providing hot showers, clean toilets, and hygiene products efficiently and
3 effectively via a mobile unit that would traverse the entire District.

4 (e) Emergency legislation is necessary to establish a task force to study and report
5 on the establishment of these programs. In addition, the report would help the District learn as
6 soon as possible the most effective means to address the most basic needs of the District's
7 homeless and help improve their health and wellbeing.

8 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that circumstances
9 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Mobile
10 Shower Bus and Feminine Products Distribution Emergency Act of 2016 be adopted after a
11 single reading.

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

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