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2 Councilmember Jack Evans


Chairman Phil Mendelson

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6 Councilmember Vincent C. Gray

11 A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

14 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

17 To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to amend the Helicopter Landing
18 Pad Public Nuisance Act of 1987 to allow a hospital that is certified as a Level One Trauma
19 Center to construct a helicopter landing pad.

21 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
22 resolution may be cited as the "Helicopter Landing Pad Emergency Declaration Resolution of
23 2018".

24 Sec. 2. (a) There exists an immediate need to amend the Helicopter Landing Pad Public
25 Nuisance Act of 1987 ("1987 Act") to allow a hospital that is certified as a Level One Trauma
26 Center to commence construction of a helicopter landing pad.

27 (b) Under current law, it is considered a public nuisance to operate a helipad that
28 was not in operation prior to July 14, 1987 in any area zoned residential. Consequently, George
29 Washington University Hospital ("GW Hospital"), which is certified as a Level One Trauma
30 Center and a Comprehensive Stroke Center, is prohibited from operating a helipad.

31 (c) MedStar Washington Hospital Center is the only other hospital in the District
32 that is certified as a Level One Trauma Center and a Comprehensive Stroke Center. Further,
33 MedStar Washington Hospital Center has a helipad.

34 (d) Currently, a medivac helicopter that transfers a patient to GW Hospital must
35 land at the South Capitol Street Heliport (“Heliport”), which is located by Nationals Park. From
36 there an ambulance is used to transport the patient to GW Hospital. The Heliport is over four
37 and a half miles from GW Hospital. Depending on the time of day and the traffic, the time it
38 takes an ambulance to transport a patient can be substantial.

39 (e) In response for the need to ensure that District residents have greater access
40 to life-saving care and to help the District be better prepared for mass casualty events, the
41 Council has given initial approval to the Helicopter Landing Pad Amendment Act of 2018 (Bill
42 22-579). Bill 22-579 is scheduled to have its second and final reading before the Council on
43 June 5, 2018.

44 (f) Emergency legislation, similar to Bill 22-579, is necessary because, even though
45 GW Hospital has been given initial approval by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to
46 operate a helipad, the helipad must be fully constructed and ready for inspection by the FAA by
47 June 13, 2019 to get final approval.

48 (g) As time is of the essence, and Bill 22-579 most likely will not become law until
49 the fall, emergency legislation will allow the construction of the helipad at GW Hospital to
50 commence as soon as possible.

51 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances
52 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the
53 Helicopter Landing Pad Emergency Amendment Act of 2018 be adopted after a single reading.

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