

A RESOLUTION

23-10

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

January 8, 2019

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to amend An Act To establish a code of law for the District of Columbia to authorize the Mayor to issue marriage licenses and authorize temporary marriage officiants during a period of time when the Clerk of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia is not issuing marriage licenses because of a federal government shutdown.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Let Our Vows Endure Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2019”.

Sec. 2. (a) Under current law, marriage licenses are issued by the Clerk of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia (“Clerk”).

(b) During the current federal government shutdown, the Clerk is not issuing marriage licenses, because the issuance of marriage licenses has been determined to be a non-essential function of the Superior Court.

(c) District residents and others celebrating their marriages in the District are therefore unable to obtain marriage licenses during the current federal government shutdown.

(d) The inability of District residents and others celebrating their marriages in the District to obtain a marriage license can be highly disruptive to personal lives, particularly where a marriage has been planned to occur soon.

(e) It is imperative that District law be amended to enable the Mayor to issue marriage licenses during the current federal government shutdown, so that District residents and others celebrating their marriages in the District may legally solemnize their marriages at the time of their choosing.

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 Let Our Vows Endure Emergency Amendment Act of 2019 be adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.