

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

2020 MAR 10 PM 3:40



MURIEL BOWSER
MAYOR

MAR 10 2020

The Honorable Phil Mendelson, Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 504
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

Enclosed for consideration by the Council is the "Streetscape Business Development Relief Expansion Emergency Amendment Act of 2020," the "Streetscape Business Development Relief Expansion Temporary Amendment Act of 2020," and the "Streetscape Business Development Relief Expansion Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2020." This legislation will allow Main Streets Program organizations to be recipients of funds available in the Streetscape Business Development Relief Fund. Emergency legislation is necessary to ensure that businesses currently affected by development projects in their neighborhoods are able to receive funds as soon as possible.

The District's 24 independent, nonprofit neighborhood Main Street programs revitalize communities by retaining and recruiting businesses, improving commercial properties and streetscapes, and attracting consumers. Leaders in these neighborhood organizations assist businesses and coordinate sustainable community-driven revitalization efforts in their neighborhoods.

The Streetscape Fund currently only provides financial relief, in the form of interest-free loans and grants, directly to local for-profit businesses impacted by adjoining District streetscape construction, capital infrastructure, or rehabilitation projects. Including Main Streets non-profit programs as eligible Streetscape Fund recipients would afford them the ability to then receive grants and disburse Streetscape funds for eligible for-profit businesses thereby streamlining the process by which Main Streets distressed businesses can quickly receive much-needed assistance.

I urge the Council to take prompt and favorable action on the enclosed legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Muriel Bowser".

Muriel Bowser

Enclosures



Chairman Phil Mendelson
At the request of the Mayor

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to amend the Streetscape Fund Amendment Act of 2010 to allow nonprofit neighborhood District Main Streets Program organizations to be recipients of Streetscape Business Development funding in the form of interest-free loans or grants.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Streetscape Business Development Relief Expansion Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2020”.

Sec. 2. (a) Main Streets non-profits provide critical services and overall support to hundreds of small and local businesses located along the District’s twenty-four Main Streets corridors.

(b) Currently, twenty-one (21) businesses along the Rhode Island Ave. Main Street (RIAMS) corridor, and twenty-two (22) businesses along the North Capital Main Street (NCMS) corridor are being adversely impacted by DC Water’s Northeast Boundary Tunnel (NEBT) Project construction.

(c) To lessen the impact on these businesses, RIAMS has been providing emergency financial relief to distressed small and local businesses, some of which are at risk of closing.

30 (d) Although a crucial partner to small and local businesses negatively affected by
31 streetscape projects, Main Streets are currently not eligible to receive funding through the
32 Streetscape Business Development Relief Fund (“the Fund”) to better assist businesses along
33 their corridors.

34 (e) Including Main Streets non-profit programs as eligible Fund recipients would afford
35 the Main Streets the ability to then receive grants and disburse Streetscape funds to multiple,
36 eligible for-profit businesses along their corridor affected by a single streetscape project.

37 (f) Legislation is needed in order to immediately assist RIAMS by providing financial
38 assistance to them with monies in the Fund so that they then have the critical funding to continue
39 to act as an immediate resource for all the businesses negatively impacted by the NEBT Tunnel
40 Project on Rhode Island Ave.

41 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances
42 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the
43 Streetscape Business Development Relief Expansion Emergency Amendment Act of 2020 be
44 adopted after a single reading.

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

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of the Attorney General



ATTORNEY GENERAL
KARL A. RACINE



Legal Counsel Division

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ronan Gulstone
Director
Office of Policy & Legislative Affairs

FROM: Brian K. Flowers
Deputy Attorney General
Legal Counsel Division

DATE: February 21, 2020

SUBJECT: Legal Sufficiency Review of Draft Bills, "Streetscape Business Development Relief Expansion Temporary Amendment Act of 2020," "Streetscape Business Development Relief Expansion Emergency Amendment Act of 2020," and the Accompanying Emergency Declaration Resolution (AE-20-103)

This is to Certify that this Office has reviewed the above-referenced draft bills and found them to be legally sufficient. If you have any questions in this regard, please do not hesitate to call me at 724-5524.



Brian K. Flowers