

A RESOLUTION

23-409

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

May 5, 2020

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to provide additional protections to District residents and businesses during the current public health emergency.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Coronavirus Omnibus Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2020”.

Sec. 2. (a) On March 11, 2020, the Mayor of the District of Columbia issued Mayor’s Order 2020-45, 2020-46, declaring a public emergency and a public health emergency in the District due to the imminent threat to the health, safety, and welfare of District residents posed by the spread of COVID-19, and on April 17, 2020, Mayor’s Order 2020-63 extending the state of emergency and public health emergency. That order is currently in effect through May 15, 2020. Additional orders extending the emergency are likely to be issued.

(b) As a result of COVID-19 and the Mayor’s Orders, many District businesses have been required to close, in full or in part, and myriad other facets of the District have been impacted.

(c) To aid restaurants while they are unable to provide unrestricted dine-in service, it is necessary to cap the commission fee that third-party food delivery platforms may charge a restaurant to a maximum of 15% of the purchase price on delivery or pick-up orders and to require third-party food delivery platforms to disclose fees to the customer where the restaurant allows such disclosure.

(d) Four individuals currently serving on the University of the District of Columbia’s Board of Trustees are set to have their terms expire on May 15, 2020. To make sure that the Board can continue operating effectively and not experience quorum issues, it is necessary to amend the terms for certain Board of Trustee members.

(e) For the health and well-being of District residents, the DC Board of Elections is encouraging voters to request absentee mail-in ballots for the primary election on June 2nd and the special election for Ward 2 on June 16th. To make the process of requesting such a ballot as

easy as possible, it is imperative to make changes to the petitioning requirements for ballot access.

(f) Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (“ANCs”) are a vital component of District government, providing advice and insight on critical matters such as planning, social service programs, and public safety in their neighborhoods. To enable ANCs to better respond to the needs of their neighborhoods during this public health emergency, it is necessary to expand their grant-making authority.

(g) As of April 28, 2020, 131 residents in DC jail facilities have tested positive for COVID-19 and one individual has died. Conditions in the facilities have led to lawsuits and ongoing monitoring of Department of Correction practices to keep residents safe. For the Council and the public to have the best possible information on developments occurring within DC jail facilities, it is vital to prescribe reporting requirements.

(h) As part of the Sustainable Solid Waste Management Act of 2014, the District established incentives for composting and explicitly residents to engage in residential composting to reduce waste. To continue to promote sustainable waste practices during this public health emergency, it is crucial to allow virtual composting training.

(i) As District residents grapple with the economic consequences of this public health emergency, it is incumbent that the government provide mechanisms to relieve the financial strain families are experiencing. As such, it is necessary to enable tenants and residents to establish rental payment plans.

Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances, making it necessary that the Coronavirus Omnibus Emergency Amendment Act of 2020 be adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.