

A RESOLUTION

23-499

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

July 28, 2020

To declare the existence of an emergency to cancel the tax sale during 2020 due to the inability to hold a public auction during Phase 2 of the District's reopening during the COVID-19 pandemic.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Real Property Tax Sale COVID-19 Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2020".

Sec. 2. (a) On March 11, 2020, the Mayor issued Mayor's Orders 2020-045 and 2020-046, 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. That public emergency was extended until October 9, 2020.

(b) On June 19, 2020, the Mayor issued Mayor's Order 2020-075, declaring that the District had entered "Phase 2" of District's Reopening. Mayor's Order 2020-075 will remain in effect for the duration of the public health emergency or until repealed, modified, or superseded.

(c) Mass gatherings that bring together 50 or more people at the same time in a single room or other single confined enclosed space are prohibited during Phase 2. The Phase 2 restrictions remain in place.

(d) The real property tax sale ("tax sale") is by law a public auction conducted by the Office of Tax and Revenue, and it has consistently been attended by more than 50 people and can reach up to 200 people in attendance.

(e) The tax sale requires nearly 3 months to plan in advance. The current restrictions on mass gatherings and uncertainty of future conditions impede the ability to set a tax sale date.

(f) In order to remain in compliance with Mayor's Order 2020-075 and for the safety and health of District residents due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, the tax sale needs to be cancelled.

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

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 Real Property Tax Sale COVID-19 Equitable Emergency Amendment Act of 2020 be adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.