

A RESOLUTION

24-14

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

January 15, 2021

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to amend the District of Columbia Public Emergency Act of 1980 to authorize the Executive to extend the declaration of a public emergency.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “January 2021 Public Emergency Extension Authorization Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2021”.

See. 2. (a) On January 6, 2021 a large group of insurrectionists stormed and breached the United States Capitol – an unprecedented attack on our democratic government that was fulfilling its Constitutionally mandated responsibilities.

(b) Their insurrection has resulted in the loss of lives, including those of sworn law enforcement officers. Bombs were planted. Insurrectionists briefly seized control of the Senate chambers. They were hunting for elected officials; they erected a makeshift gallows; they brought and wielded weapons, and many wore racist insignia. Many persons came to the District armed and for the purpose of engaging in violence and destruction. They have fired chemical irritants and assaulted persons with bricks, bottles, and guns.

(c) The events on January 6, 2021, and the reasonable apprehension of an ongoing public emergency represent an immediate threat to the health, safety, and welfare of District residents that requires emergency protective actions.

(d) In partial response, on January 6, 2021, Mayor Bowser issued Mayor's Order 2021-003 extending the declaration of a public emergency made earlier in the day for an additional 15 days to January 21, 2021.

(e) We are in reasonable apprehension that persons who disbelieve the results of the November election of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris to be the President and Vice President plan to return to Washington, D.C. to cause further disruption, damage, and violence, and that their actions — necessitating emergency preparedness and response — may not cease with the swearing-in ceremonies on January 20, 2021, as they dispute the validity of the election and the lawfulness of the next President of the United States.

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

(f) Without Council authorization, the state of emergency may not be extended beyond January 21, 2021, despite the potential for additional large-scale or violent events, which may present a threat to the safety of our residents and visitors.

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 January 2021 Public Emergency Extension Authorization Emergency Amendment Act of 2021 be adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.