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Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

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IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to amend Section 905 of the
Coronavirus Support Temporary Amendment Act of 2021 to extend the authorization of
pandemic election procedures to fill vacancies on Advisory Neighborhood Commissions
and to reflect the reduced role of the Board of Elections in those procedures.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this

resolution may be cited as the "Advisory Neighborhood Commission Pandemic Election

Procedures Extension Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2021".

Sec. 2. (a) In March 2020 in response to the accelerating public, the Council authorized

Advisory Neighborhood Commissions to call meetings, remotely participate in those meetings,

and vote on matters before the Commission without being physically present through a

teleconference or through digital means identified by the Commission for this purpose through

the COVID-19 Response Emergency Amendment Act of 2020, effective March 20, 2020 (D.C.

Act 23-0247; 67 DCR 3093), and subsequent legislation,

(b) Under existing law, vacancies in Advisory Neighborhood Commissions

occurring outside a regular election cycle could not in practice be filled while Advisory

Neighborhood Commissions continued to meet virtually.

33   (b) Therefore, in March 2021, the Council authorized a revised procedure for

34 filling vacancies in Advisory Neighborhood Commissions through the Coronavirus Support

35 Emergency Amendment Act of 2021, effective March 17, 2021 (D.C. Act 24-0030; 68 DCR

36 3101), and subsequent legislation, that permitted in-person elections, administered outside of

37 Advisory Neighborhood Commission meetings, by the Board of Elections in consultation with

38 the Advisory Neighborhood Commission and the Office of Advisory Neighborhood

39 Commissions.

40   (c) In July 2021, the Council, recognizing the continued threat of coronavirus to

41 the community and the continued desire by Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners to meet

42 remotely by extending the ability of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions to meet virtually

43 through the Public Emergency Extension and Eviction and Utility Moratorium Phasing

44 Emergency Amendment Act of 2021, effective July 24, 2021 (D.C. Act 24-0125; 68 DCR 7342).

45   (d) However, the authority of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions to fill

46 vacancies through the special provisions authorized during the public health emergency has since

47 expired.

48   (e) Under the authority granted by the Council, Advisory Neighborhood

49 Commissions continue to meet virtually across the city, and several have expressed concern

50 about the public health risk of in-person public meetings for the purpose of holding an election.

51   (f) Several vacancies on Advisory Neighborhood Commissions must be filled

52 soon, including a vacancy on ANC 5C.

53   (g) In addition to the need to extend provisions to allow for elections outside of

54 in-person Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, it has also become necessary to require the

55   Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions to assume the administrative role for these

56   elections from the Board of Elections.

57   (h) In order to permit Advisory Neighborhood Commission vacancies to be timely

58   filled outside of the general election cycle, it is necessary to extend and amend the revised

59   procedures for filling these elections as they were established during the public health

60   emergency.

61   Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances

62   enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the

63   "Advisory Neighborhood Commission Pandemic Election Procedures Extension Emergency

64   Amendment Act of 2021" be *adopted after a single reading*.

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