

A RESOLUTION

25-399

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

January 9, 2024

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to clarify the Department of Small and Local Business Development’s authority to issue grants to eligible entrepreneurs and for-profit businesses in Ward 8.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Ward 8 Community Investment Fund Clarification Congressional Review Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2024”.

Sec. 2. (a) In the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Local Budget Act, the Council authorized the Department of Small and Local Business Development (“DSLBD”) to issue, beginning in Fiscal Year 2023, a recurring grant to an organization that has received grants in the past, the Ward 8 Community Investment Fund.

(b) After passage of the law permitting this allocation, DSLBD learned that the named entity, the Ward 8 Community Investment Fund, was not authorized to receive funds because it was not the official name of the District entity. Instead, the established and properly incorporated entity is called the DC Community Development Consortium. Because of this, a technical clarification of the name of the grantee was necessary prior to releasing funds.

(c) Without legislation authorizing DSLBD to release the grant to the DC Community Development Consortium instead of to the Ward 8 Community Investment Council, funds allocated by the Council to support Ward 8 entrepreneurs and small businesses cannot be used as intended.

(d) On October 3, 2023, the Council enacted the Ward 8 Community Investment Fund Clarification Emergency Act of 2023. The Mayor signed the emergency measure and it was enacted, act number 25-270, on October 26, 2023. The Council passed a temporary version of the same measure, the Ward 8 Community Investment Fund Clarification Temporary Act of 2023, passed on second reading on November 7, 2023. The Mayor signed the temporary measure on November 21, 2023 and it was enacted, act number 25-312, on November 21, 2023.

(e) The emergency legislation expires on January 24, 2024, and the temporary measure will not be effective until February 7, 2024.

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(f) Without Council approval of a congressional review emergency, there will be a two-week gap between the period covered by the emergency and the temporary measures and, therefore, a two-week gap in the lawful implementation of the underlying measures. Emergency legislation is necessary to continue the lawful implementation of the of the underlying measures and ensure access to the grants and grant administration approved by the Council.

Sec. 3. The Council determines that the circumstances enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Ward 8 Community Investment Fund Clarification Congressional Review Emergency Act of 2024 be adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.