

A RESOLUTION

25-590

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

July 9, 2024

To declare an emergency with respect to the need to amend the District of Columbia Housing Authority Act of 1999 to establish a temporary Stabilization and Reform Board to govern the District of Columbia Housing Authority (“DCHA”) and to require that the Board and the Executive Director of DCHA take specific actions to reform and revitalize the operations of DCHA.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “District of Columbia Housing Authority Stabilization and Reform Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2024”.

Sec. 2. (a) The District of Columbia Housing Authority (“DCHA”) provides housing subsidies for tens of thousands of District residents through programs, including the federally funded Housing Choice Voucher Program, locally funded housing voucher programs, and public housing.

(b) In 2022, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) issued a report describing the results of an on-site assessment of DCHA. The report identified significant concerns with DCHA’s operations, leading to the development and implementation of strategies and plans to improve DCHA’s provision of housing and services to low-income District residents.

(c) Following the release of HUD’s report, the Mayor and Council agreed that it was necessary to restructure the board of directors of DCHA, with a focus on providing the expertise, experience, focus, and agility to support necessary reforms, successfully address HUD’s findings, and revitalize DCHA’s operations. The Mayor and Council further agreed that it would be necessary for the restructured DCHA board to work closely with DCHA’s executive leadership to find a more sustainable path forward for DCHA to advance the mission of DCHA, which is to build and maintain safe, decent, affordable housing for District residents.

(d) In December 2022, the Council passed and the Mayor signed the District of Columbia Housing Authority Stabilization and Reform Emergency Amendment Act of 2022. Pursuant to this legislation, a new Stabilization and Reform Board (“STAR Board”) took office and assumed control over DCHA’s operations at the start of 2023. Among other duties, the STAR Board is tasked with providing recommendations for long-term governance of DCHA by

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July 1, 2024. The STAR Board's authorizing legislation contemplates a 2-year term for the body.

(e) The Council has passed subsequent rounds of emergency and temporary legislation as necessary to maintain the STAR Board structure. The temporary legislation that currently authorizes the STAR Board and lays out its operating mandates is scheduled to expire on August 1, 2024. Further emergency and temporary legislation are required to maintain the current governance structure and allow the STAR Board's 2-year term to continue.

Sec. 3. The Council determines that the circumstances enumerated in section 2 constitute an emergency making it necessary that the District of Columbia Housing Authority Stabilization and Reform Emergency Amendment Act of 2024 be adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.