



**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20004**

Charles Allen
Councilmember, Ward 6
Chairperson
Committee on Transportation and the Environment

Committee Member
Business and Economic Development
Health
The Judiciary & Public Safety

September 21, 2023

Nyasha Smith, Secretary
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Secretary Smith:

Today, along with Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie, I am introducing the ***“Mount Vernon Triangle/Eastern Market/Barracks Row Great Streets Neighborhood Retail Priority Amendment Act of 2023”***.

The District’s Great Streets program has played an instrumental role in revitalizing and energizing commercial corridors across the District. By providing financial incentives, technical support, and strategic investments to local businesses, the program has effectively driven economic development, created jobs, and improved residents' quality of life. Since launching in 2006, the program has grown to more than 13 Retail Priority Areas across all eight wards. However, despite that growth city-wide, there are several business corridors located in Ward 6 that are not designated Retail Priority Areas and therefore miss out on the benefits and opportunities of the Great Streets program.

This proposed legislation would designate business corridors located in the Mount Vernon Triangle, Eastern Market, and Barracks Row neighborhoods as Retail Priority Areas. There are several reasons why the proposed expansion to include these retail areas is important and timely:

Mount Vernon Triangle

With its proximity to Downtown and diverse population, Mount Vernon Triangle has given rise to a vibrant culinary scene, art galleries, and cultural events catering to residents and visitors alike. Mount Vernon Triangle has approximately 30 to 35 businesses that could qualify for grants under the program, representing an opportunity for an emerging area of the District to continually attract and retain businesses – particularly small, local restaurants – and create new opportunities within a vibrant, walkable community.

Eastern Market

Eastern Market is both a cherished cultural landmark and a neighborhood that has served as a hub of commerce, community, and creativity for more than a century. The iconic market is a testament to the District's rich history and entrepreneurial spirit. The surrounding neighborhood has a rich retail and dining scene, anchored by long-time neighborhood institutions, but it also needs support for emerging small business owners. Access to opportunities through the Great Streets program would allow Eastern Market to continue to welcome people from all walks of life, fostering an environment of inclusivity and camaraderie. It would also enable the market's vendors, many of whom are local artisans, farmers, and entrepreneurs, to continue to contribute to the area's sense of community and tradition.

Barracks Row

Also located in the Capitol Hill neighborhood, Barracks Row weaves together a rich cultural and storied economic history. The historic stretch of 8th Street, SE evolved from its early military roots into a bustling corridor with eclectic restaurants and boutiques. However, the pandemic's impact along the corridor has been felt with still many empty storefronts. The diverse businesses are rapidly adapting to cater to the community's needs, but the corridor would greatly benefit from additional support.

Please feel free to reach out to me or my Legislative Director, Antonio Nunes, with any questions or for additional information.

Sincerely,



Councilmember Charles Allen, Ward 6
Chairperson, Committee on Transportation & the Environment
Vice Chair, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments



Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie



Councilmember Charles Allen

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To amend the Retail Incentive Act of 2004 to designate certain neighborhoods in Ward 6 as Retail Priority Areas, including those within the Mount Vernon Triangle, Eastern Market, and Barracks Row areas.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Mount Vernon Triangle/Eastern Market/Barracks Row Great Streets Neighborhood Retail Priority Amendment Act of 2023”.

Sec. 2. Section 4 of the Retail Incentive Act of 2004, effective September 8, 2004 (D.C. Law 15-185; D.C. Official Code § 2-1217.73), is amended as follows:

(a) Subsection (r) is amended by inserting a new paragraph (4) to read as follows:

“(4) The area bounded by a line beginning at the intersection of the center lines of 2nd Street, S.E., and Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E.; continuing southeast along the center line of Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E., to K Street, S.E.; continuing north and circumferentially along the center line of Barney Circle, S.E.;”.

(b) Subsection (s) is amended by striking the phrase “continuing southwest along the center line of New York Avenue, N.W.” and inserting the phrase “continuing northeast along the center line of New York Avenue, N.W., to the center line of New Jersey Avenue, N.W.; continuing southeast along the center line of New Jersey Avenue, N.W., to the center line of Massachusetts

34 Avenue, N.W.; continuing northwest along the center line of Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. to the
35 center line of 7th Street N.W.; continuing north along the center line of 7th Street N.W.,” in its
36 place.

37 (c) New subsections (t) and (u) are added to read as follows:

38 “(t) There is established the Eastern Market Retail Priority Area, which shall consist of the
39 parcels, squares, and lots within or abutting the boundary of the following area: Beginning at the
40 intersection of North Carolina Avenue, S.E., and 6th Street, S.E.; continuing northeast along the
41 center line of North Carolina Avenue, S.E., to the center line of 8th Street, S.E.; continuing south
42 along the center line of 8th Street S.E., to the center line of Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E.; continuing
43 northwest along the center line of Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E., to the center line of 6th Street, S.E.,
44 continuing north along the center line of 6th Street, S.E., to the beginning point.

45 “(u) There is established the Barracks Row Retail Priority Area, which shall consist of the
46 parcels, squares, and lots within or abutting the boundary of the following area: Beginning at the
47 intersection of D Street, S.E., 7th Street, S.E., and South Carolina Avenue, S.E.; continuing east
48 along the center line of D Street, S.E., to the center line of 8th Street, S.E.; continuing south along
49 the center line of 8th Street, S.E., to the center line of M Street, S.E.”.

50 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

51 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal impact
52 statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975, approved
53 October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

54 Sec. 4. Effective date.

55 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
56 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as

57 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24,
58 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of
59 Columbia Register.