



## COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING  
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.  
SUITE 102  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

**ZACHARY PARKER**  
COUNCILMEMBER, WARD 5

**COMMITTEE MEMBER**  
Facilities and Family Services  
Health  
Hospital and Health Equity  
Housing  
Transportation and the Environment

September 16, 2024

Nyasha Smith, Secretary  
Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Secretary Smith,

Today, I am introducing the Mu Lambda Foundation, Inc. Real Property Tax Exemption Act of 2024. Please find enclosed a signed copy of the legislation, which is co-introduced by Councilmember Bonds.

The Mu Lambda Foundation, Inc. is a philanthropic organization run by the Mu Lambda chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated, the first intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established by African American men. Founded in 1923 and based in the historic Bloomingdale community, the Mu Lambda chapter has focused on offering mentorship, scholarships, and other forms of support to District youth—particularly young Black men in Wards 5, 7, and 8.

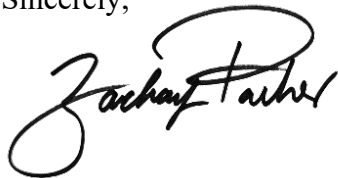
The foundation's work has taken many forms over the years. The Mu Lambda Foundation has sponsored a Beautillion program, which mentors African American male high school students in social skills, college preparedness and scholarship. The 16-week program consists of workshops held at the Foundation's headquarters on weekends and culminates in a formal dance and scholarship awards. According to the Foundation, the value of scholarships awarded exceeds \$335,000. Current projects also include a teen pregnancy prevention program designed for young men; monthly workshops on careers, college applications, and more at Hart Middle School, Kramer Middle School, and Ballou Senior High School; a nonpartisan voter education project; and preparing and delivering meals to the residents and staff at the House of Ruth, which supports women who are survivors of domestic violence.

In recognition of its work, the Mu Lambda Foundation, Inc. was selected by the Washington Award Program for the 2020 Best of Washington Award in the Philanthropy Category. In 2019, the Mu Lambda Foundation was awarded the 2019 - Special Appreciation Award by the House of Ruth. Mu Lambda Foundation, Inc. owns the chapter's headquarters, which is located in the historic Bloomingdale neighborhood at 2405 First Street, NW. When the Foundation acquired the property in 1999, its assessed value was under \$300,000 and the annual tax burden was less than \$2,500. The property is now assessed at over \$1.6 million and the annual property tax

burden is now \$13,884, more than 5.5 times higher. The high property tax burden experienced by the Foundation impacts its ability to fulfil its philanthropic mission, as dollars that are spent in taxes are unavailable for scholarships, workshops, and other programming supported by the foundation. This legislation would abate the property taxes assessed on 2405 First Street, NW for thirty years so long as the property is owned by Mu Lambda Foundation, Inc.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Council and in the executive to support the philanthropic efforts of the Mu Lambda Foundation in the District. Please contact my Deputy Chief of Staff, Conor Shaw, at [cshaw@dccouncil.gov](mailto:cshaw@dccouncil.gov) if you have any questions about this legislation.

Sincerely,

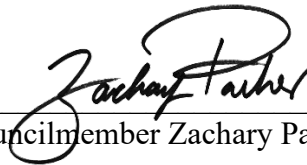
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zachary Parker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "Z".

Zachary Parker  
Ward 5 Councilmember

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Councilmember Anita Bonds



Councilmember Zachary Parker

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To amend Chapter 10 of Section 47 of the District of Columbia Official Code to provide for a real property tax exemption for property located at 2405 First Street, NW, owned by Mu Lambda Foundation, Inc.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Mu Lambda Foundation, Inc. Real Property Tax Exemption Act of 2024.”.

Sec. 2. Chapter 10 of Title 47 of the District of Columbia Official Code is amended as follows:

(a) The table of contents is amended by adding a new section designation to read as follows:

“§47-1099.15. Mu Lambda Foundation, Inc. House; Lot 157, Square 3127.”.

(b) A new section 47-1099.15 is added to read as follows:

“§47-1099.14. Mu Lambda Foundation, Inc. House; Lot 157, Square 3127.

“(a) The real property and any improvements on the property, located at 2405 First Street, NW, known for tax and assessment purposes as Lot 157, Square 3127, (“Property”) shall be exempt from the tax imposed by Chapter 8 of this title, for the period beginning January 1, 2025,

33 and ending January 1, 2055, so long as the Property is owned by Mu Lambda Foundation, Inc.

34 “(b) The tax exemption provided pursuant to this paragraph shall be in addition to, and  
35 not in lieu of, any other tax relief or assistance from any other source applicable to the Mu  
36 Lambda Foundation, Inc.”

37 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

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

41 Sec. 4. Effective date.

42 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the  
43 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as  
44 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December  
45 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of  
46 Columbia Register.