



Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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 2023”.

Sec. 2. (a) 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

33 be necessary for the restructured DCHA board to work closely with DCHA’s executive
34 leadership to find a more sustainable path forward for DCHA to advance the mission of DCHA,
35 which is to build and maintain safe, decent, affordable housing for District residents.

36 (d) In December 2022, the Council passed and the Mayor signed the District of Columbia
37 Housing Authority Stabilization and Reform Emergency Amendment Act of 2022. Substantively
38 identical temporary legislation followed. Pursuant to this legislation, a new Stabilization and
39 Reform Board (“STAR Board”) took office and assumed control over DCHA’s operations at the
40 start of 2023. Among other duties, the STAR Board is tasked with providing recommendations
41 for long-term governance of DCHA by July 1, 2024. The STAR Board’s authorizing legislation
42 contemplates a 2-year term for the body.

43 (e) The temporary legislation that currently authorizes the STAR Board and lays out its
44 operating mandates is scheduled to expire on October 21, 2023. Further emergency and
45 temporary legislation is required to maintain the current governance structure and allow the
46 STAR Board’s 2-year term to continue.

47 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances
48 enumerated in section 2 constitute an emergency making it necessary that the District of
49 Columbia Housing Authority Stabilization and Reform Emergency Amendment Act of 2023 be
50 adopted after a single reading.

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