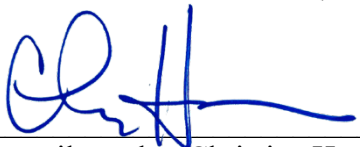


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3 Councilmember Trayon White, Sr.

  
Councilmember Brooke Pinto

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8 Councilmember Christina Henderson

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11 A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

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15 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
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19 To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to provide authority to the  
20 Mayor to extend the declaration of public emergencies related to the opioid crisis and  
21 juvenile crime.

22  
23 RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this  
24 resolution may be cited as the “Opioid Crisis and Juvenile Crime Public Emergencies Extension  
25 Authorization Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2023”.

26 Sec. 2. Opioid crisis.

27 (a) As recognized by the Council of the District of Columbia in the Sense of the Council  
28 on the Opioid and Fentanyl Epidemic Resolution of 2023, effective November 7, 2023 (Res. 25-  
29 342; \_\_ DCR \_\_), opioids have inflicted profound harm on communities within the District and  
30 across the nation, causing staggering mortality rates, strain on the healthcare system,  
31 transmission of infectious diseases through needle sharing, adverse effects on families and  
32 communities, economic burdens, and treatment barriers.

33 (b) Between 2018 and 2022, opioid-related fatal overdoses in the District have more than  
34 doubled, from 213 to 461 lives lost per year. Between January and July 2023, opioid fatalities  
35 averaged 42 fatalities per month, up from 38 per month in 2022.

36 (c) Fentanyl and its analogs, potent synthetic opioids, were linked to 96% of the opioid-  
37 related fatal overdoses in the District in 2022. In 2023 to date, there has been an increasing  
38 percentage of these substances, where fentanyl and its analogs are now linked to 98% of  
39 overdose deaths.

40 (d) People who use other drugs are also at risk of fentanyl deaths, as fentanyl pervades  
41 the supply of illegal drugs. Many people who use drugs have managed their addictions for years,  
42 yet they too can—and often do—overdose and die when their drugs are laced with even small  
43 amounts of fentanyl and its analogs due to the potency of these opioids.

44 (e) Opioid deaths in the District fall most heavily among Blacks, males, and residents of  
45 Wards 5, 7, and 8, underscoring that this crisis raises health equity and systemic concerns.

46 (f) Opioid abuse is an imminent threat to the health, safety, and welfare of District  
47 residents that requires emergency protective actions be undertaken by the District government.

48 (g) On November 13, 2023, the Mayor issued Mayor’s Order 2023-141, which declared a  
49 public emergency regarding the opioid crisis. The declaration of emergency allows District  
50 agencies to respond more flexibly, cooperatively, and expeditiously to the opioid crisis. In  
51 particular, the Mayor’s Order directs agencies to take steps to improve information sharing in  
52 order to allow them to more quickly identify communities heavily affected by opioid-linked  
53 fatalities and to better provide services and care to those communities.

54 (h) However, under District law, the public emergency declaration may not extend  
55 beyond 15 days without Council authorization. Without such Council authorization, the  
56 enhanced authorities of District agencies will expire.

57 (i) It is therefore important that the Mayor be authorized to extend the public emergency  
58 regarding the opioid crisis beyond November 28, 2023, and that District agencies retain their  
59 enhanced authorities under the public emergency to respond to the opioid crisis, to continue to  
60 address this ongoing threat to the health, safety, and welfare of District residents.

61 (j) In addition, to ensure that the scope of public health circumstances that may constitute  
62 a public emergency under the District’s public emergency law aligns with the Council’s intent, it  
63 is important to amend the public emergency law to clearly include within its scope the full  
64 breadth of public health circumstances that may warrant the declaration of a public emergency.

65 Sec. 3. Juvenile crime.

66 (a) The District is experiencing an increase in violent crime, particularly among its youth.  
67 In the first 9 months of 2023, there have been 458 arrests of juveniles for robbery, including  
68 carjacking, homicide, or assault with a dangerous weapon—a number which is already 10%  
69 more than the total number of such arrests in all of 2022. A total of 151 juveniles have been  
70 arrested for carjackings, based on the most serious charge or “top charge,” which represents one-  
71 third of all carjacking arrests. There has also been a marked increase in the number of juvenile  
72 girls arrested for engaging in dangerous criminal activity.

73 (b) The number of District youth victimized by violent crime has also increased  
74 significantly. Between January and October 2023, 97 juveniles suffered gunshot wounds,  
75 including 15 homicides, a 9% increase from the same period in 2022. In just the last 6 weeks, 5  
76 youth under the D.C. Superior Court’s Family Court Social Services Division (CSSD) electronic

77 monitoring have been killed. This violence is having a devastating impact on victims, their  
78 families, communities, and the District as a whole.

79 (c) On November 13, 2023, the Mayor declared a public emergency regarding juvenile  
80 crime. The declaration of emergency allows District agencies to respond more flexibly,  
81 cooperatively, and expeditiously to issues related to juvenile crime.

82 (d) Among other things, Mayor’s Order 2023-141 directs the Department of Youth  
83 Rehabilitation Services (“DYRS”), the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice (“DMPSJ”),  
84 and the Office of Contracting and Procurement (“OCP”) to take steps to increase capacity for  
85 youth in DYRS’s custody. Specifically, Mayor’s Order 2023-141 directs the agencies to work to  
86 procure additional placements for youth at shelter homes, foster homes, and secure facilities  
87 outside of DYRS’s facilities. Mayor’s Order 2023-141 also directs DYRS to work with CSSD to  
88 improve monitoring and response for youth who are subject to electronic monitoring. In addition,  
89 Mayor’s Order 2023-141 directs DMPSJ and other relevant agencies to deploy roving Safe  
90 Passage teams and additional “Public Safety Go Teams” to neighborhoods experiencing the  
91 highest levels of youth violence.

92 (e) However, under District law, the emergency declaration may not extend beyond 15  
93 days without Council authorization. Without such Council authorization, the enhanced  
94 authorities of District agencies will expire.

95 (f) It is therefore important that the Mayor be authorized to extend the public emergency  
96 regarding juvenile crime, and that District agencies retain their enhanced authorities under the  
97 public emergency to respond to issued related to juvenile crime, to continue to address this  
98 ongoing threat to the health, safety, and welfare of District residents and visitors, and in  
99 particular our youth.

100           Sec. 4. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances  
101 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Opioid  
102 Crisis and Juvenile Crime Public Emergencies Extension Authorization Emergency Amendment  
103 Act of 2023 be adopted after a single reading.

104           Sec. 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately.