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2
3 Councilmember Charles Allen



Councilmember Brooke Pinto

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10 A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

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14 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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21 To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to prohibit medical cannabis
22 retailer licensees from locating within 300 feet of preschools, primary and secondary
23 schools, and recreation centers without exception, and to allow medical cannabis retailer
24 license applicants whose locations are within 300 feet of preschools, primary and
25 secondary schools, and recreation centers to submit a new application with an eligible
26 location within 180 calendar days after the effective date of this act.

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28 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
29 resolution may be cited as the “Prohibition of Cannabis Retailers Near Schools Emergency
30 Declaration Resolution of 2024”.

31 Sec. 2. (a) There exists an immediate need to prohibit medical cannabis retailer licensees
32 from locating within 300 feet of preschools, primary and secondary schools, and recreation
33 centers without exception, and to authorize medical cannabis retailer license applicants whose
34 locations are within 300 feet of preschools, primary and secondary schools, and recreation
35 centers to change the location of the retailer facility on its application within 180 calendar days
36 after the effective date of this act.

37 (b) The Council established a general legal framework for the Alcoholic Beverage and
38 Cannabis Administration (“ABCA”) to license medical cannabis retailers. Under this general
39 framework, medical cannabis retailers are prohibited from locating within 300 feet of a
40 preschool, primary or secondary school, or recreation center.

41 (c) The Council additionally established a transition process for unlicensed cannabis
42 establishments to apply for a medical cannabis retailer license during a 90-calendar day open
43 application period, which closed on January 29, 2024. The transition process includes an
44 exception for medical cannabis retail establishments to locate within 300 feet of a preschool,
45 primary or secondary school, or recreation center where the main entrance to the preschool,
46 primary or secondary school, or recreation center, or the nearest property line of the school or
47 recreation center, is actually on or occupies ground zoned commercial or industrial according to
48 the official atlases of the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia.

49 (d) This exception contravenes the broader policies of the District to maintain a
50 geographic buffer between medical cannabis retailers and public spaces that are frequented by
51 young people, namely preschools, primary and secondary schools, and recreation centers.

52 (e) There are currently two pending applications for medical cannabis retail facilities
53 within 300 feet of a preschool, primary or secondary school, or recreation center that are on or
54 occupy ground zoned commercial or industrial according to the official atlases of the Zoning
55 Commission of the District of Columbia. These applicants should be allowed to change the
56 location of the retailer facility on their applications within 180 calendar days after the effective
57 date of this act without adversely affecting the status of their application.

58 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances in
59 section 2 constitute emergency circumstances, making it necessary that the Prohibition of

60 Cannabis Retailers Near Schools Emergency Amendment Act of 2024 be adopted after a single
61 reading.

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