



Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie

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A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare the existence, on an emergency basis, due to congressional review, the Retail Incentive Act of 2004 to designate certain neighborhoods as Retail Priority Areas, including neighborhoods within the Mount Vernon Triangle, Eastern Market, Barracks Row, and Georgia Avenue areas.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Great Streets Program Expansion Neighborhood Retail Priority Congressional Review Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2025”.

Sec. 2. (a) Since 2006 the District has operated the Great Streets retail priority grant program (“program”), which allows small businesses within a defined area to apply for grants to support their businesses. The program began with the Retail Incentive Act of 2004 and has been expanded on several occasions. The grants awarded under the program support small businesses in these areas, create new job opportunities, and provide access to capital.

(b) The Committee on Business and Economic Development approved the Great Streets Program Expansion Neighborhood Retail Priority Amendment Act of 2024, as approved by the Committee on Business and Economic Development on October 23, 2024 (Committee print of Bill 25-488)(“permanent legislation”). The permanent legislation amends the Retail Incentive Act of 2004 to broaden the program to designate certain neighborhoods within the Mount Vernon Triangle, Eastern Market, Barracks Row, and Georgia areas, Retail Priority Areas.

29 (c) The Council enacted the B25-0488 “Great Streets Program Expansion Neighborhood
30 Retail Priority Amendment Act of 2024,” projected law date March 6, 2024 (A25-0643 71 DCR
31 014487), passed on second reading on November 12, 2024 (“permanent legislation”) and the –
32 “Great Streets Program Expansion Neighborhood Retail Priority Emergency Amendment Act of
33 2024,” effective on October 29, 2024 (A25-0628, Expires on Feb 11, 2025), (“emergency
34 legislation”) to address the above-referenced needs.

35 (d) The emergency legislation expires on February 11, 2025. The permanent legislation
36 must still complete the 30-day review period required by section 602(c)(1) of the District of
37 Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-
38 206.02(c)(1)), and will not become law until after the emergency legislation has expired.

39 (e) It is necessary that the provisions of the emergency legislation continue in effect,
40 without interruption, until the permanent legislation is in effect.

41 Sec. 3. The Council determines that the circumstances enumerated in section 2 constitute
42 emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Great Streets Program Expansion
43 Neighborhood Retail Priority Emergency Congressional Review Amendment Act of 2025 be
44 adopted after a single reading.

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