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2 Councilmember Jack Evans


Chairman Phil Mendelson

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6 Councilmember Anita Bonds


Councilmember Mary Cheh

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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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20 To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to amending, on an emergency basis, Title
21 20 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations to regulate noise in the public space
22 generated from electronically amplifying sound devices pursuant to an enforcement
23 standard of a plainly audible standard at a distance of 100 feet or more and to specify a
24 penalty for continuing or resuming a violation of that standard following an official
25 warning, to clarify the definition of a noise disturbance by making reference to all
26 residentially zoned districts, to clarify that a person participating in a parade, public
27 gathering, or demonstration conducted is exempt from the noise disturbance standard and
28 other noise limitations; and to prohibit the use of gas generators in the public space subject
29 to certain exceptions.

30 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
31 act may be cited as the “Amplified Noise Emergency Amendment Declaration Resolution of 2018”.

32 Sec. 2. (a) There exists an immediate need to amend Title 20 of the District of Columbia
33 Municipal Regulations to regulate noise in the public space generated from electronically
34 amplifying sound devices pursuant to an enforcement standard of plainly audible at a distance of
35 100 feet or more and to specify a penalty for continuing or resuming a violation of that standard
36 following an official warning, to clarify the definition of a noise disturbance by making reference
37 to all residentially zoned districts, to clarify that a person participating in a parade, public
38 gathering, or demonstration is exempt from the noise disturbance standard and other noise

39 limitations; and to prohibit the use of gas generators in the public space subject to certain
40 exceptions.

41 (b) In recent years, residential and mixed-use areas of the District have experienced
42 increasingly loud noises emanating from street performers, also known as “buskers.” When these
43 performances reach unreasonably loud sound levels, they disturb people in their residences and
44 work places daily, which has negatively impacted individuals’ safety, health, and enjoyment.

45 (c) While the District has statutes that regulate noise by decibel level, these standards are
46 unenforceable due to practical and statutory constraints.

47 (d) Recognizing that buskers and their performances contribute to the vibrancy of our city,
48 this bill does not discourage street musicians from playing in public spaces, it simply encourages
49 performers to “turn it down” to a level that everyone can enjoy.

50 (e) Bill 22-839, the “Amplified Noise Amendment Act of 2018,” is currently under review
51 by the Council. However, passing these amendments on an emergency basis would allow for
52 reasonable sound levels to be implemented and enforced during the summer months, when busker
53 activity is anticipated to increase in the District.

54 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia finds that the circumstances enumerated
55 in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the “Amplified Noise
56 Emergency Amendment Act” be adopted.

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