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2 Councilmember Brianne Nadeau

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6 Councilmember Brandon T. Todd

Vincent C. Gray

Councilmember Vincent C. Gray



Councilmember Charles Allen

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17 A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

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22 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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27 To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to enable food establishments to permit  
28 dogs in outdoor dining areas and unenclosed sidewalk cafés.

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30 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this  
31 resolution may be cited as the “Dining with Dogs Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2017”.

32 Sec. 2. (a) The District of Columbia suffers from perhaps the most significant health care  
33 disparities of any city or state in the country. Health indicators and health care facilities on the  
34 western side of the city are among the best in the world, while residents on the city's East End  
35 have only one hospital, which is struggling to even provide basic emergency care, and has  
36 troubling health indicators in every conceivable statistical category, including: obesity,  
37 HIV/AIDS, hypertension, heart disease, cancer, and infant mortality. Further, important issues  
38 like ending vast food deserts, combatting the scourge of opioid abuse, and ensuring adequate

39 nurse coverage and mental health services in our public schools deserve the full attention of the  
40 District government.

41 (b) The Department of Health's limited time and resources are being marshalled to  
42 suddenly enforce an unknown and previously unenforced regulation about dogs being allowed in  
43 outdoor patio dining areas.

44 (c) This enforcement has reduced commercial activity from patrons at the impacted  
45 businesses.

46 (d) This legislation will allow restaurant owners to make their own decisions about  
47 whether to allow dogs in outdoor dining areas, and will permit private business owners the  
48 option to do so, without fear of retribution.

49 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances  
50 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Dining  
51 with Dogs Emergency Act of 2017 be adopted after a single reading.

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

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