

A RESOLUTION

23-11

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

January 22, 2019

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to protect unpaid federal workers, employees of contractors of the federal government, and household members of federal workers and employees of contractors from eviction, late fees, and foreclosure; and to enable the District of Columbia to be able to address the needs of any possible local homeless federal workers and employees of contractors in an orderly manner.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Federal Worker Housing Relief Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2019”.

Sec. 2. (a). The country is now in the 31st day of the longest government shutdown in the history of our nation. Federal workers and employees of contractors are experiencing severe financial hardship from the shutdown because of missed paychecks, with no end of the shutdown in sight.

(b) Around 420,000 “essential” federal workers are working without pay, while another 380,000 have been ordered to stay home. As much as 10 % of the 800,000 federal workers affected by the shutdown live in the District of Columbia. About 78 % of American workers live paycheck-to-paycheck.

(c) These federal workers and employees of contractors will soon be facing eviction, foreclosure, and possible homelessness. The sudden onslaught of homeless District residents will create a severe hardship for the unpaid federal workers and will also greatly tax the District’s homeless services system.

(d) This emergency legislation will help alleviate the hardship of federal workers and employees of contractors who are not receiving paychecks from eviction, late fees, and foreclosure during a federal government shutdown. The bill would:

(1) Apply to unpaid federal workers and employees of contractors as of their first missed paycheck;

(2) Allow a federal worker, an employee of a contractor, or an eligible household member to move for a stay of eviction or foreclosure proceedings until 30 days after the enactment of an appropriations bill that funds a federal worker’s government agency, for a period of up to a maximum of 90 days; and

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(3) Protect a federal worker or an employee of a contractor from rental housing late fees that accrue during a federal government shutdown.

(e) It is important that this bill be enacted to protect federal workers and employees of contractors from the financial hardships thrust upon them as a result of the federal government shutdown. Further, it is important that the District of Columbia be able to address needs of any possible future homeless federal workers and employees of contractors in an orderly manner.

Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Federal Worker Housing Relief Emergency Amendment Act of 2019 be adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.