

  
Chairman Phil Mendelson

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A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

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IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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To declare the existence of an emergency, with respect to repealing the University of the District of Columbia’s exclusive use of PR Harris.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “UDC PR Harris Exclusive Use Repeal Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2020.”

Sec. 2. (a) In 2010, the Council approved the “University of the District of Columbia Expansion Act of 2010,” which gave the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) the exclusive use of the closed Patricia R. Harris Educational Center School (PR Harris). PR Harris is located at 4600 Livingston Road, S.E..

(b) UDC was to use PR Harris to expand its Workforce Development and Lifelong Learning (WDLL) Program, thereby making WDLL courses more accessible to individuals who reside in Wards 7 and 8.

35 (c) For years UDC, along with several public charter schools, used PR Harris but given  
36 its huge footprint and the need for an extensive modernization, UDC begun to look for other  
37 locations in Ward 8 for its WDLL courses. It also agreed to sever its exclusive use rights so that  
38 the District could dispose of PR Harris but wanted to retain the right to stay in the building, even  
39 if the District disposed of it, until it could find a new location.

40 (d) In 2017, the Council approved the “UDC Patricia R. Harris Facility Exclusive Use  
41 Amendment Act of 2017,” which severed the university’s exclusive right to PR Harris if the  
42 Mayor disposed of the building but still allowed UDC to lease or sublease a portion of it

43 (e) To date, the District has not disposed of PR Harris, so UDC retains exclusive use of  
44 the facility. Although UDC maintains a Ward 8 food hub in the parking lot of PR Harris, it has  
45 vacated the rest of the facility. However, the District’s Department of General Services and the  
46 public charter schools that are located in PR Harris expect UDC to fix any issues that arise in the  
47 building since the law stipulates that UDC has exclusive use of the building. This places a  
48 financial burden on UDC and given the current fiscal climate in the District, it is important that  
49 UDC is not financially responsible for PR Harris. Thus, an immediate need exists to repeal  
50 UDC’s exclusive use of PR Harris.

51 (f) The emergency repeals UDC’s exclusive use of PR Harris, regardless of whether the  
52 District has disposed of the facility. Additionally, because UDC does have a food hub in PR  
53 Harris’ parking lot and would like one office in PR Harris to support that food hub, the  
54 emergency retains UDC’s right to maintain its Ward 8 food hub and an office space in the  
55 building, even if the District disposes the facility.

56           Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances in  
57 section 2 constitute emergency circumstances, making it necessary that the UDC PR Harris  
58 Exclusive Use Repeal Emergency Amendment Act of 2020 be adopted after a single reading.

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