

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
COMMITTEE REPORT**

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

DRAFT

TO: All Councilmembers

FROM: Chairman Phil Mendelson
Committee of the Whole

DATE: July 21, 2020

SUBJECT: Report on Bill 23-670, “Bloomingdale Historic District Targeted Historic Preservation Assistance Amendment Act of 2020”

The Committee of the Whole, to which Bill 23-670, the “Bloomingdale Historic District Targeted Historic Preservation Assistance Amendment Act of 2020” was referred, reports favorably thereon, and recommends approval by the Council.

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I. BACKGROUND AND NEED

On February 24, 2020, Bill 23-670, the “Bloomingdale Historic District Targeted Historic Preservation Assistance Amendment Act of 2020”¹ was introduced by Chairman Phil Mendelson. Bill 23-670 would amend the Historic Landmark and Historic District Protection Act of 1978, effective March 2, 2007 (D.C. Law 16-189; D.C. Official Code § 6-1110.02.) to provide that grants available to assist homeowners with the rehabilitation of historic properties under the Targeted Homeowner Grant Program may be used to rehabilitate a structure that contributes to the character of the Bloomingdale Historic District. Currently, Bloomingdale is excluded from a list of 15 historic districts where grants are available to assist low- and moderate-income households rehabilitate historic properties.

¹ Formerly, B-22-0966, the “Bloomingdale Historic District Targeted Historic Preservation Assistance Amendment Act of 2018”

Targeted Historic Preservation Grant Program

Since 2007, the Targeted Homeowner Grant Program² has helped to preserve the affordability of housing for low- and moderate-income homeowners who reside in the city's historic districts by making non-taxable grants available for home repairs – some of which have been left unattended for years due to lack of funds. Administered by the Office of Planning's Historic Preservation Office (HPO), grants are awarded for exterior repairs, rehabilitation, and structural work on historic properties located within a list of historic districts pursuant to the Historic Landmark and Historic District Protection Act of 1978 (the Act).

Currently, there are fourteen historic districts eligible for the Targeted Homeowner Grant Program: Anacostia, Blagden Alley, Capitol Hill, Emerald Street, Fourteenth Street, Kingman Park, LeDroit Park, Mount Pleasant, Mount Vernon Square, Mount Vernon Triangle, Shaw, Striver's Section, Takoma Park, and U Street, along with the Wardman Flats Historic Landmark.

According to HPO, grants are available for exterior and structural work on historic buildings. The building must contribute to the historic character of the district by virtue of its age and characteristics. Work affecting sides of the building visible from public streets, which makes an appreciable difference in the appearance of the house, is encouraged. The maximum grant is \$25,000 except in the Anacostia Historic District, where the maximum grant is \$35,000. Grants are available to District residents registered as currently receiving the Homestead Deduction for property taxes on their home. To qualify, the taxpayer must have a household income of 120 percent or less of the area median income and currently receive the Homestead Deduction for property taxes.

The grant application is a two-part process. In Part I, homeowners provide a few photographs of the property and describe what they would like to use the grant for. This information is used to determine eligibility. Successful Part I applications then receive a Part II application, which includes an itemized work request, specifying work and materials, as well as pricing from general contractors. Part II applications are reviewed according to various criteria (including urgency, importance of the property to the historic district, consistency with preservation guidelines and standards, impact of the project on the historic district, and equitable geographic distribution of grant funds) and are awarded on a competitive basis. Part I applications may be submitted at any time.

The Office of Planning notes that grants have been provided as follows: 10 grants in FY 2018, 9 grants in 2019, and 12 grants to date in 2020. The Targeted Historic Preservation Grant Program has been funded in the amount of \$250,000 in 2019 and 2020, with the same level of funding proposed for FY 2021.

Proposed Eligible Historic Districts and Historic Landmarks

² "Targeted Homeowner Grant Program," District of Columbia Office of Planning Website, accessed July 14, 2020, <https://planning.dc.gov/node/1467171>

Bill 23-670 would amend the Historic Landmark and Historic District Protection Act of 1978 to provide that grants available to assist homeowners with the rehabilitation of historic properties under the Targeted Homeowner Grant Program may be used to rehabilitate a structure that contributes to the character of the Bloomingdale Historic District. The Bloomingdale Historic District is bounded by North Capital Street, N.W., Florida Avenue, N.W., 1st Street, N.W., 2nd Street, N.W., Bryant Street, N.W., and Channing Street, N.W., in Ward 5.

The Historic Preservation Review Board designated the Bloomingdale Historic District on July 26, 2018. The request for designation raised concerns in the neighborhood, which were presented before the Board at hearings and addressed in the Board's designation.³ Bloomingdale is one of the District's most extensive and cohesive rowhouse neighborhoods. The buildings are largely intact and offer high quality design and craftsmanship. In addition, Bloomingdale is also historically significant for its role in the struggle to abolish racially restrictive housing covenants. The period of significance extends from 1892, when the first rowhouses were constructed in the neighborhood, to 1948, when the Supreme Court ruled racial covenants unenforceable under the Constitution.⁴

Bill 23-670, as discussed in the Committee Print, would amend the Historic Landmark and Historic District Protection Act of 1978 to include the Bloomingdale Historic District, making grants through the Targeted Homeowner Grant Program available to low- and moderate-income households wishing to rehabilitate their historic properties. The Committee therefore recommends approval of Bill 23-670 as reflected in the Committee Print.

II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| September 18, 2018 | Bill 22-966, the "Bloomingdale Historic District Targeted Historic Preservation Assistance Amendment Act of 2017," is introduced by Chairman Mendelson and Councilmember McDuffie. |
| February 24, 2020 | Bill 23-670, the "Bloomingdale Historic District Targeted Historic Preservation Assistance Amendment Act of 2020," is introduced by Chairman Mendelson and Councilmember McDuffie. |
| March 3, 2020 | Bill 23-670 is "read" at a legislative meeting and the referral to the Committee of the Whole is official. |
| March 6, 2020 | Notice of Intent to Act on Bill 23-670 is published in the <i>DC Register</i> . |
| April 3, 2020 | Notice of Public Hearing on Bill 23-670 is published in the <i>DC Register</i> . |
| June 16, 2020 | Notice of Public Hearing on Bill 23-670 is published in the <i>DC Register</i> . |

³ District of Columbia Historic Preservation Review Board, Actions, Case 17-17, July 26, 2018

⁴ Historic Preservation Office Staff Report and Recommendation, Historic District Case No. 17-17, July 26, 2018, Page 3

July 8, 2020 A Public Hearing is held on Bill 22-670 by the Committee of the Whole.

July 21, 2020 The Committee of the Whole marks up Bill 23-670.

III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

Andrew Trueblood, Director, Office of Planning, testified on behalf of the Executive in support of expanding the Act to include the Bloomingdale Historic District at the Committee's public hearing on July 8, 2020. Mr. Trueblood stated, "These grants help prevent home deterioration, improve the physical condition of historic communities, and increase the ability of homeowners, many of whom are seniors and long-time residents, to remain in their communities."⁵ He further noted, "During public hearings on the Bloomingdale Historic District designation, residents expressed concern about the potential impact of a historic district on low- and moderate-income residents, particularly seniors. This legislation would help address that concern consistent with Comprehensive Plan objectives to promote housing affordability, direct financial support programs to targeted income groups and areas of the city and protect and enhance the character of the District's historic neighborhoods."⁶

IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

The Committee received Resolution No. 2020-004 from Advisory Neighborhood Commission 5E in support of the bill. The resolution can be found as part of the Hearing Record on file with the Council's Office of the Secretary.

V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole held an online public hearing on Bill 23-670 on July 8, 2020. The testimony summarized below is from that hearing. Copies of written testimony can be found as part of the Hearing Record on file with the Council's Office of the Secretary.

Bertha Holliday, PhD., Commissioner, ANC 5E07, and Bloomingdale Civic Association, provided written testimony in support of Bill 23-670. Commissioner Holliday noted the interest and need for grant assistance from lower-, moderate-, and middle- income homeowners in the Bloomingdale neighborhood. She also advocated for future funding increases in the Targeted Homeowner Grant Program to address increased interest.

Andrew Trueblood, Director, Office of Planning, testified on behalf of the Executive in support of the legislation. His testimony is summarized above.

⁵ *Bloomingdale Historic District Targeted Historic Preservation Assistance Amendment Act of 2020: Public hearing before the Committee of the Whole*, Andrew Trueblood, Office of Planning testimony, July 8, 2020, page 2

⁶ *Bloomingdale Historic District Targeted Historic Preservation Assistance Amendment Act of 2020: Public hearing before the Committee of the Whole*, Andrew Trueblood, Office of Planning testimony, July 8, 2020, page 3

VI. IMPACT ON EXISTING LAW

Bill 23-670 amends the Historic Landmark and Historic District Protection Act of 1978, effective March 2, 2007 (D.C. Law 16-189; D.C. Official Code § 6-1110.02.)

VII. FISCAL IMPACT

The attached July x, 2020 fiscal impact statement from the District's Chief Financial Officer (CFO) states that funds are sufficient in the FY 2020 through FY 2023 budget and financial plan to implement Bill 23-670.

VIII. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

<u>Section 1</u>	States the purpose of Bill 23-670.
<u>Section 2</u>	Amends the Historic Landmark and Historic District Protection Act of 1978 to include the Bloomingdale Historic District
<u>Section 3</u>	Fiscal Impact Statement.
<u>Section 4</u>	Establishes the effective date following approval by the Mayor, a 30-day period of congressional review, and publication in the DC Register.

IX. COMMITTEE ACTION

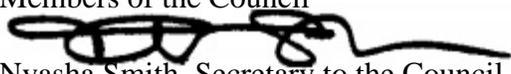
X. ATTACHMENTS

1. Bill 23-670 as introduced.
2. Testimony.
3. Comments from ANC 5A.
4. Fiscal Impact Statement for Bill 23-670.
5. Legal Sufficiency Determination for Bill 23-670.
6. Committee Print.

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20004

Memorandum

To : Members of the Council

From : 
Nyasha Smith, Secretary to the Council

Date : February 26, 2020

Subject : Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Office of the Secretary on Monday, February 24, 2020. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "Bloomingdale Historic District Targeted Historic Preservation Assistance Amendment Act of 2020", B23-0670

INTRODUCED BY: Chairman Mendelson

The Chairman is referring this legislation to the Committee of the Whole.

Attachment

cc: General Counsel
Budget Director
Legislative Services

1
2 Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie
3
4

Chairman Phil Mendelson

5
6
7 A BILL
8
9

10
11
12 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
13
14

15
16
17 To amend the Historic Landmark and Historic District Protection Act of 1978 to provide that grants
18 available to assist homeowners with the rehabilitation of historic property under the Targeted
19 Homeowner Grant Program may be used to rehabilitate a structure that contributes to the
20 character of the Bloomingdale Historic District, bounded by North Capitol Street, N.W.,
21 Florida Avenue, N.W., 1st Street, N.W., 2nd Street, N.W., Bryant Street, N.W., and Channing
22 Street, N.W., in Ward 5.
23

24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act
25 may be cited as the "Bloomingdale Historic District Targeted Historic Preservation Assistance
26 Amendment Act of 2020".

27 Sec. 2. Section 11b(b) of the Historic Landmark and Historic District Protection Act of 1978,
28 effective March 2, 2007 (D.C. Law 16-189; D.C. Official Code § 6-1110.02(b)), is amended as
29 follows:

30 (a) Paragraph (14) is amended by striking the phrase "; or" and inserting a semicolon in its
31 place.

32 (b) Paragraph (15) is amended by striking the period and inserting the phrase "; or" in its
33 place.

34 (c) A new paragraph (16) is added to read as follows:

35 "(16) Bloomingdale Historic District."

36 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

37 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal impact
38 statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975, approved
39 October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

40 Sec. 4. Effective date.

41 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
42 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as
43 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24,
44 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of Columbia
45 Register.

Bertha G. Holliday, PhD & Associates, LLC

***49 T Street, NW Washington, DC 20001 (202) 491-3996
bhollidaypsy@gmail.com***

DATE: July 9, 2020

TO: Committee of the Whole of the DC Council

FROM: Bertha G. Holliday, Commissioner ANC 5E07 and 1ST Vice President of
The Bloomingdale Civic Association

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF BILL 23-670 (Bloomingdale Historic District Targeted Historic Preservation Assistance Amendment Act of 2020)

AND

INCREASED FY21 AND FY22 FUNDING FOR HPO'S TARGETED HOMEOWNER GRANT PROGRAM

Honorable Council Chairman Mendelson and Members of the Council's Committee of the Whole (COW):

I am a 30-year resident of the Bloomingdale neighborhood, and write this statement of support in my capacity as both Commissioner of ANC 5E07 (which is wholly located within the Bloomingdale Historic District), as primary drafter of the ANC 5E Resolution to COW in support of Bill 23-670, and as First Vice President of the Bloomingdale Civic Association, whose membership formally voted in support of the designation of Bloomingdale as a historic district and in support of Bill 23-670.

Bill 23-670 would enable the residents of the Bloomingdale Historic District to participate in DC's Targeted Homeowners Grant Program, which provides grants of up to \$25,000 (with required homeowner matching contribution varying from 0% to 50% based on homeowner's gross household income and household size) to Homeowners who are residents of a qualified Historic District for costs of exterior repairs to their homes (e.g., windows, doors, porches, etc.) consistent with DC's historic preservation design guidelines.

Support of Bill

I would like to thank Ward 5 Councilman Kenyan McDuffie and Council Chair Phil Mendelson for sponsoring Bill 23-670. The issue of the higher cost of repairs to

historically designated structures and related negative impacts on lower-income Bloomingdale residents were the most frequently voiced concerns during community discussions of the pros and cons of Historic District Designation. Although the Targeted Homeowners Grant Program was mentioned during such discussions, misinformation about the program was frequently conveyed such as the program involved loans not grants, Bloomingdale probably would not be included in the program, it would take years of efforts to get Bloomingdale in the program, and the program would be of little assistance to our lowest income residents. The introduction of Bill 23-670 all but quieted such continuing concerns.

Bloomingdale is a gentrifying neighborhood with residents representing a broad range of demographic and social-economic characteristics. Thus, the three categories of required Homeowner contribution to the costs of the repairs for which grant funds are requested are exceptionally responsive to Bloomingdale's resident diversity. The required matching categories currently are:

0% match for homeowners with gross 2019 household income of less than \$72,780 for a household of 4;

25% match for homeowners with a gross 2019 household income of \$72,780 to \$109,170 for a household of 4; and

50% match for homeowners with a gross 2019 household income of \$109,171 to \$145,560 for a household of 4.

Of course, the above income limits vary by household size. Households with 2019 incomes of greater than \$145,560 for a household of 4 (i.e., greater than 120% of the Area Median Income [AMI]) are not eligible for participation in the Homeowners Grant Program.

Both ANC5E and the Bloomingdale Civic Association have indicated that these guidelines are fair and inclusive, as they acknowledge the financial assistance required by lower-, moderate-, and middle-income residents in maintaining the exteriors of their homes in a manner consistent with historic district design guidelines, and thereby, enable these residents to proudly contribute to the preservation, enhancement, and improvement of DC's historic resources. This type of pride strengthens a sense of community in residential neighborhoods.

Request for increased FY21 and FY22 funding for Targeted Homeowners Grant Program.

The inclusion of the Bloomingdale Historic District in the Targeted Homeowners Program will metaphorically place an 'elephant in the room' of that program. Bloomingdale was nearly fully built as a rowhouse neighborhood during a single 25-year period (approximately 1895 -1920). In 2018, when Bloomingdale acquired its historic designation, the neighborhood had a census of 1704 buildings. All but 8 of

those buildings were viewed by OP's Historic Preservation Office as "contributing historic resources", resulting in the listing of 1696 Bloomingdale buildings on the *National Register of Historic Places* in November 2018 – and potentially eligible for participation in the Homeowners Grant Program. Indeed, Bloomingdale has the largest neighborhood stock of historic structures in the City and a greater concentration of historic residences than 99% of all U. S. neighborhoods. Thus, Bloomingdale is a relatively unknown DC gem.

The DC Historic Preservation Office (HPO) has reported that only 7 Homeowners Grant have been funded during the current fiscal year. However, if Bloomingdale becomes an authorized participant in the Homeowners Grant Program, unquestionably that demand will dramatically increase at least three- or four-fold. This increased demand will be due to three factors: (a) The exceptionally large number of historic structures in Bloomingdale, (b) the demand that will be created as a result of delayed exterior maintenance by many lower- and moderate-income Bloomingdale homeowners, due to the costs of those repairs, and (c) Bloomingdale's excellent communication networks (e.g., neighborhood list serve, and blog, NextDoor, newsletters, etc.) – thus residents will be widely aware of the availability of the Homeowners Grant Program. Indeed, HPO has reported that many residents already have inquired about the Program's application process (including my cousin who periodically reminds me that replacing the windows in her 3-story Bloomingdale rowhouse consistent with historic standards will cost approximately \$25,000 - \$30,000). The implications of such additional demand clearly suggest the need for increased funding for the Homeowners Grants Program.

In its Resolution of support of Bill 23-670, ANC 5E suggested that consideration be given to increasing funding for the Homeowners Grants Program over the 2-year period of FY21 and FY22. But that was before COVID -19 and its related impact on District government's unexpected significant associated costs and loss of revenue.

Fortunately, HPO has reported a significant amount of unspent FY20 funds Homeowner Grant funds (approximately \$150,000) which it proposes be carried-over to FY21 – thus, creating a one-time increase in the amount of funding of the Historic Homeowners Grant Program from \$250,000 to approximately \$400,000. But that is not a permanent solution for the 'elephant in the room' problem. Nor does it set a precedent for a highly probable needed subsequent increase in funding for the Homeowners Grant Program.

Consequently, I would like to strongly urge the Council's Committee of the Whole to support the following additions to the provisions of Bill 23-670:

1. Authorize the carry-over (estimated at \$150,000) to FY21 of all unspent FY20 funds of the Homeowners Grant Program.
2. As a means for establishing a precedent for permanent increased funding of the Homeowners Grant Program and to ensure sufficient funding for

the Bloomingdale and all other eligible Historic Districts, strongly recommend the authorization of an additional appropriation in the amount of \$50,000 in FY21 funding for the Homeowners Grant Program and identify potential sources of such funds. This would bring the total amount available for FY21 Homeowner Grants to approximately \$450,000.

3. A recommendation that FY22 budget deliberations include consideration of both (a) the actual amount of expenditures of the FY21 Homeowners Grant Program, and (b) authorization of increased FY22 funding for the Homeowners Grant Program in an amount equal to or greater than the total of FY21 authorized funding and FY20 carry-over funding, with the need for increased funding being indicated by the expenditure of all available Grant Program funding, and especially by the inability to fund eligible and appropriate grant applications due to the expenditure of all FY21 grant funds.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bertha Holliday". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "y".

Bertha G. Holliday, PhD

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of Planning



Public Hearing
on
Bill 23-670, the “Bloomingdale Historic District Targeted Historic Preservation Assistance
Amendment Act of 2020”

Testimony of
Andrew Trueblood
Director, DC Office of Planning

Before the
Committee of the Whole
Chairman Phil Mendelson

Virtual Meeting Platform

July 8, 2020
10:00 A.M.

Good morning, Chairman Mendelson and members and staff of the Committee of the Whole. I am Andrew Trueblood, Director of the DC Office of Planning.

Today, I am pleased to testify on Bill 23-670, the “Bloomingdale Historic District Targeted Historic Preservation Assistance Amendment Act of 2020,” which would expand eligibility for targeted homeowner preservation grants to the Bloomingdale Historic District.

Under the Historic Landmark and Historic District Protection Act of 1978, the Historic Preservation Office within the Office of Planning manages a program of targeted historic preservation grants to qualified low- and moderate-income homeowners in 14 specified historic districts and the Wardman Flats Historic Landmark. The program helps keep housing affordable for these homeowners by making non-taxable grants available for home repairs that have sometimes been left unattended for years due to lack of resources. Regular maintenance is important for older buildings, and they often require such items as window replacement and repair of decorative elements, which can be costly for low- and moderate-income residents. These grants help prevent home deterioration, improve the physical condition of historic communities, and increase the ability of homeowners, many of whom are seniors and long-time residents, to remain in their communities.

The Bloomingdale Historic District, which the Historic Preservation Review Board designated in 2018, is not among the historic districts currently eligible for homeowner grant assistance. Bill 23-670 would give Bloomingdale homeowners the same opportunity as those in currently eligible districts with similar demographic profiles and building conditions. During public hearings on the Bloomingdale

Historic District designation, residents expressed concern about the potential impact of a historic district on low- and moderate-income residents, particularly seniors. This legislation would help address that concern consistent with Comprehensive Plan objectives to promote housing affordability, direct financial support programs to targeted income groups and areas of the city and protect and enhance the character of the District's historic neighborhoods.

Finally, as the Committee knows, the FY2021 Budget Support Act ("BSA"), introduced at the request of the Mayor in May, contained a subtitle that would similarly amend the preservation law to add the Bloomingdale Historic District to the list of districts eligible for targeted preservation grants. (Bill 23-670, Title II, Subtitle H). We understand that the Committee has recommended striking the BSA subtitle in favor of this standalone bill. The Office of Planning supports adding Bloomingdale to the list of eligible historic districts either way.

That concludes my testimony. I appreciate the opportunity to testify before you today and am happy to answer any questions you may have.



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 5E

www.anc5edc.org

ANC 5E RESOLUTION No. 2020-004

IN SUPPORT OF “THE BLOOMINGDALE HISTORIC DISTRICT TARGETED HISTORIC PRESERVATION ASSISTANCE AMENDMENT ACT OF 2020” (Bill # B23-0670)

WHEREAS, in 1978, the DC Council enacted DC’s first comprehensive historic preservation ordinance, *Historic Landmark and Historic District Protection Act of 1978*, thereby codifying local processes, mechanisms and criteria for supporting, designating, and regulating the preservation and protection of those DC sites, buildings and neighborhoods of historic significance due their distinguishing architectural style, artistry, archeological knowledge and understanding of historical events or cultures, and/or association with significant persons, history and/or events; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, the DC Council amended that Act and authorized the establishment of the DC Historic Preservation Targeted Homeowners Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, Ward 5 Councilman Kenyan McDuffie and Council Chairman Phil Mendelson introduced a Bill to the DC City Council to amend the 1978 Act to “...provide that grants available to assist homeowners with the rehabilitation of historic property under the *Targeted Homeowner Grant Program* may be used to rehabilitate a structure that contributes to the character of the Bloomingdale Historic District...”

WHEREAS, the Homeowner Grant Program provides grants of up to \$25,000 to reduce the burden on certain property owners of designated historic properties of additional material, fabrication, installation costs that may be associated with exterior repairs that are consistent with historic district design guidelines, with such costs most frequently associated with the repair or replacement of windows and doors, but may involve other types of “important and prominently visible” exterior repairs and replacements (e.g., exterior painting of wood siding and/or trim; repair/replacement of front porch or stairs; roof repair/replacement, etc.); and

WHEREAS, major eligibility criteria for the Homeowner Grant are that the homeowner must: (1) reside in a Historic District where he/she occupies a house that is noted as “contributing” to that District’s character; (2) be a current recipient of a Homestead Deduction on the house’s property tax; (3) have a gross household income that does not exceed 120% of the Area Median Income (AMI) – for example, in 2019, not to exceed \$101,892 for a household of 1, or \$145,560 for a household of 4; and

WHEREAS, the Homeowner Grant involves 3 categories of required personal homeowner contribution (‘match’) to the total cost of the repair/renovation effort:

- 0% match for homeowners with gross 2019 household incomes of, for example. less than \$50,946 for a household of 1, or less than \$72,780 for a household of 4;
- 25% match for homeowners with gross 2019 household incomes of, for example, between \$50,947 and \$78,419 for a household of 1, or between \$72,781 and \$109,170 for a family of 4;

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Advisory Neighborhood Commission 5E

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- 50% match for homeowners with a 2019 gross household income, for example, between \$76,420 and \$101,892 for a household of 1, or between \$109,171 and \$145,560 for a household of 4; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, there were approximately 35 designated Historic Districts in DC, with approximately 15 of these having requested and secured City Council approval for inclusion in the Targeted Homeowners Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, in July 2018, after approximately 3 years of neighborhood discussion on historic district designation, the DC Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) unanimously approved Bloomingdale’s designation as a Historic District with all but 8 of its 1704 buildings viewed as “contributing historic resources”, with the addresses of each of these resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places in November 2018, resulting in Bloomingdale becoming the largest neighborhood stock of historic structures in the City with a greater concentration of historic residences than 99% of all U.S. neighborhoods.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Advisory Neighborhood Commission 5E strongly supports the DC Council’s approval of Bill B23-0670, The Bloomingdale Historic District Targeted Historic Preservation Assistance Amendment Act of 2020, which authorizes inclusion of the Bloomingdale Historic District as an eligible participant in the Homeowners Grant Program, thereby enabling Bloomingdale homeowners of lower-, moderate-, and middle-income status to apply for grants to repair or renovate the exterior of their homes, and thus to significantly contribute to the preservation, enhancement and improvement of DC’s historic resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Advisory Neighborhood Commission 5E additionally supports Bill 23-0670 as an affirmative response to some Bloomingdale residents’ concern that historic district designation would result in exterior repair/replacement costs that would be burdensome for Bloomingdale’s lower income and elderly residents, and thereby contribute to their displacement. Enactment of Bill 23-0670 will reduce such displacement and promote neighborhood diversity and stability in the rapidly growing and gentrifying Bloomingdale neighborhood; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Advisory Neighborhood Commission 5E, in consideration of Bloomingdale’s exceptionally large number of “contributing resources” (buildings) that highlight the unique historic and architectural character of that neighborhood, urges the DC City Council to strongly consider increased funding for the *DC Historic Preservation Targeted Homeowners Grant Program* in FY 21 and FY22.

THIS RESOLUTION came before ANC 5E at a duly noticed and called (virtual) public meeting of the Commission on April 21, 2020. ANC 5E consist of 10 Commissioners, of which the presence of six (6) constitutes a quorum. With 10 Commissioners present, by a vote of 10 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions, ANC 5E voted to adopt this Resolution.

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Advisory Neighborhood Commission 5E

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Respectfully Submitted,

Bradley A. Thomas, Chair

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1 **DRAFT COMMITTEE PRINT**
2 **Committee of the Whole**
3 **July 21, 2020**
4

5
6 A BILL

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8 23-670
9

10
11 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
12
13 _____
14

15 To amend the Historic Landmark and Historic District Protection Act of 1978 to provide that
16 grants available to assist homeowners with the rehabilitation of historic property under
17 the Targeted Homeowner Grant Program may be used to rehabilitate a structure that
18 contributes to the character of the Bloomingdale Historic District, bounded by North
19 Capitol Street, N.W., Florida Avenue, N.W., 2nd Street, N.W., Bryant Street, N.W., 1st
20 Street, N.W., and Channing Street, N.W., in Ward 5.
21

22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
23 act may be cited as the “Bloomingdale Historic District Targeted Historic Preservation
24 Assistance Amendment Act of 2020”.

25 Sec. 2. Section 11b(b) of the Historic Landmark and Historic District Protection Act of
26 1978, effective March 2, 2007 (D.C. Law 16-189; D.C. Official Code § 6-1110.02(b)), is
27 amended as follows:

28 (a) Paragraph (14) is amended by striking the phrase “; or” and inserting a semicolon in
29 its place.

30 (b) Paragraph (15) is amended by striking the period and inserting the phrase “; or” in its
31 place.

32 (c) A new paragraph (16) is added to read as follows:

33 “(16) Bloomingdale Historic District.”
34

35 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

36 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal
37 impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,
38 approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

39 Sec. 4. Effective date.

40 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
41 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as
42 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December
43 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of
44 Columbia Register.

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