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2 Councilmember Anita Bonds

Councilmember Charles Allen

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6 Councilmember Mary M. Cheh

Councilmember Jack Evans

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10 Councilmember Brandon T. Todd

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13 A BILL
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18 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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24 To amend the Government Employer-Assisted Housing Amendment Act of 1999 to establish the
25 First Responders Housing Incentive Program to recruit and retain police officers,
26 firefighters, and emergency medical technicians.

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28 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
29 act may be cited as the “First Responders Housing Incentive Program Amendment Act of 2017”.

30 Sec. 2. The Government Employer-Assisted Housing Amendment Act of 1999, effective
31 May 9, 2000 (D.C. Law 13-96; D.C. Official Code § 42-2501 *et seq.*), is amended as follows:

32 (a) Section 3 (D.C. Official Code § 42-2502) is amended as follows:

33 (1) Paragraph (1) is amended by striking the semicolon and inserting the phrase “;
34 and” in its place.

35 (2) Paragraph (2) is amended by striking the phrase “; and” and inserting the phrase
36 “; or” in its place.

37 (3) A new paragraph (2a) is added to read as follows:

38 “(2a) For police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians, a forgivable
39 grant of up to \$10,000; and;”.

40 (b) Section 5(b) (D.C. Official Code § 42-2504(b)) is amended as follows:

41 (1) The existing text is redesignated as paragraph (1).

42 (2) A new paragraph (2) is added to read as follows:

43 “(b)(2) For each police officer, firefighter, and emergency medical technician who
44 is a Participant in the Program who sets aside \$2,500 under an Agreement, the District shall
45 obligate \$1,000 in the financial management system. The District shall match succeeding
46 Participant saving increments of \$2,500 with a \$1,000 obligation until the District obligation totals
47 \$10,000. Matching contributions by the District shall not exceed \$10,000 for any individual
48 Participant. The District shall disburse its cash contribution at the time of settlement.”.

49 (c) A new section 6a (D.C. Official Code § 42-2505a) is added to read as follows:

50 “Section 6a. Forgivable grant.

51 “(a) In addition to the assistance provided in section 5(b) of this act, the Department shall
52 make available to each police officer, firefighter, and emergency medical technician who is a
53 Participant a forgivable grant of up to \$10,000 to provide financial assistance for the purchase of
54 a housing unit. The forgivable grant shall be available only if the housing unit shall be the principal
55 residence of the Participant.

56 “(b) In order to receive home purchase assistance under this section, a police officer,
57 firefighter, or emergency medical technician must agree to a five-year service obligation, which
58 shall began at the date of settlement on the purchase of the housing unit.

59 “(c) The grant shall be repaid by the Participant if the property is sold, transferred, or ceases
60 to be the principal residence of the participant within 5 years after the purchase.”

61 Sec. 3. Applicability.

62 (a) This act shall apply upon the inclusion of its fiscal effect in an approved budget and
63 financial plan.

64 (b) The Chief Financial Officer shall certify the date of the inclusion of the fiscal effect in
65 an approved budget and financial plan, and provide notice to the Budget Director of the Council
66 of the certification.

67 (c)(1) The Budget Director shall cause the notice of the certification to be published in the
68 District of Columbia Register.

69 (2) The date of publication of the notice of the certification shall not affect the
70 applicability of this act.

71 Sec. 4. Fiscal impact statement.

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

75 Sec. 5. Effective date.

76 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
77 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as
78 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24,
79 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code §1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of
80 Columbia Register.