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3 Chairman Phil Mendelson

Councilmember Elissa Silverman

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7 Councilmember Vincent B. Orange, Sr.

Councilmember LaRuby May

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11 Councilmember Brianne K Nadeau

Councilmember Brandon Todd

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15 Councilmember Mary Cheh

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19 A BILL

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25 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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30 To amend An Act To provide for the abatement of nuisances in the District of Columbia by
31 the Commissioners of said District, and for other purposes, to require that the
32 classification of a building as vacant or blighted continues until the Department of
33 Consumer and Regulatory Affairs approves a change in classification, to require the
34 submission of evidence to claim a good faith exemption from vacant property registration
35 requirements, and to require the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs to
36 maintain and publish the time periods during which properties were determined to be
37 vacant, blighted, or exempt.

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39 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
40 act may be cited as the “Vacant and Blighted Buildings Enforcement Amendment Act 2015”.

41 Sec. 2. An Act To provide for the abatement of nuisances in the District of Columbia by
42 the Commissioners of said District, and for other purposes, approved April 14, 1906 (34 Stat.
43 115; D.C. Official Code § 42-3131.01 *et seq.*), is amended as follows:

44 (a) Section 6 is amended as follows:

45 (1) A new subsection 6(a-1) is added to read as follows:

46 “(a-1) Once the Mayor has finally determined that a building is a vacant building
47 or vacant blighted building, that final designation shall remain in effect until the property owner
48 submits information to the Mayor sufficient to warrant a change to that classification. After the
49 initial designation of a property as vacant or blighted, the Mayor shall not be required to perform
50 additional inspections or surveys to sustain that classification.”

51 (2) Subsection (b)(4) (D.C. Official Code § 42-3131.06(b)(4)) is amended by
52 striking the phrase “has been actively seeking in good faith to rent or sell it” and inserting the
53 phrase “has submitted evidence that demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Mayor that he or she
54 has been actively seeking in good faith to rent or sell it” in its place.

55 (b) Section 16 (D.C. Official Code § 42-3131.16) is amended by adding a new subsection
56 (c) to read as follows:

57 “(c) Buildings shall remain on the list until a change in classification is approved
58 pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 47-813(d-1)(5)(A-i)(ii).”

59 (c) Section 17 (D.C. Official Code § 42-3131.17) is amended by adding a new subsection
60 (c) to read as follows:

61 “(c) Buildings shall remain on the list until a change in classification is approved
62 pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 47-813(d-1)(5)(A-i)(ii).”

63 (d) A new section 18 is added to read as follows:

64 “Sec. 18. Publication of time periods during which properties were determined to be
65 vacant, blighted, or exempt.

66 “The Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs shall maintain and publish at least
67 semi-annually a list of buildings that are registered as, or have been determined to be, vacant or
68 blighted vacant buildings, which specifies for each building, where applicable:

69 “(a) The dates during which the building was determined to be a vacant or a
70 blighted vacant building;

71 “(b) The dates during which the building was registered as vacant pursuant to
72 section 6; and

73 “(c) Which, if any, of the exemptions under section 6(b) or (c) have applied to the
74 building and the dates during which each exemption applied.”

75 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

76 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal
77 impact statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act,
78 approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(3)).

79 Sec. 4. Effective date.

80 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
81 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as
82 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December
83 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)) and publication in the District of
84 Columbia Register.