


Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



Jeffrey S. DeWitt
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Jeffrey S. DeWitt
Chief Financial Officer 

DATE: May 14, 2019

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Adams Morgan Moratorium Zone Approval
Resolution of 2019

REFERENCE: Draft Proposed Resolution as shared with the Office of Revenue
Analysis on April 17, 2019

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2019 budget and the proposed fiscal year 2020 through fiscal year 2023 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed resolution.

Background

In 2001, the District established a moratorium zone in the Adams Morgan neighborhood that prohibited the issuance of new alcoholic beverage licenses to on-premises retailers,¹ restaurants that serve spirits, off-premises retailers, wholesalers, and manufacturers, extending 1,400 feet in all directions from the intersection of 18th Street and Belmont Road, N.W.² This moratorium was initially imposed for three years, but it remained in place with some modifications³ through March 28, 2019.⁴ The Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA) enforces this moratorium.

¹ This includes class CN, CR, CT, CX, DN, DT, and DX on-premises licenses.

² Adams Morgan Liquor License Moratorium Approval Resolution of 2001, effective July 20, 2001 (Resolution 14-28; 23 DCMR § 304).

³ The Adams Morgan Moratorium Zone Approval Resolution of 2015, effective June 16, 2015, exempted all restaurants and retailer's licenses Class A and B from the moratorium (Resolution 21-0130; 23 DCMR § 304).

⁴ An emergency and proposed rulemaking approved by the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board on November 28, 2018 was the most recent extension of the modified moratorium.

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: "Adams Morgan Moratorium Zone Approval Resolution of 2019," Draft Proposed Resolution as shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on April 17, 2019

The proposed rulemaking reestablishes the Adams Morgan Moratorium Zone for three years from the effective date of this resolution. The rules expand the Adams Morgan Moratorium Zone's reach to 1,800 feet in all directions from 2459 18th Street, N.W. to cover 400 feet more of Columbia Avenue, N.W. directly northeast of the zone.⁵ The rules maintain license issuance exemptions for restaurants, hotels, class A and B off-premises retailers, and the existing cap of ten tavern and multipurpose facility licenses.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2019 budget and the proposed fiscal year 2020 through fiscal year 2023 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed resolution. ABRA will enforce the reestablished and expanded moratorium on the issuance of new licenses for taverns, multipurpose facilities, and nightclubs. ABRA can absorb the costs of enforcing the Adams Morgan Moratorium Zone within their existing budgeted resources and enforcement workforce.

⁵ A more detailed description of the Adams Morgan Moratorium Zone can be found in 23 DCMR § 304.