

AN ACT

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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District of
Columbia
Official Code*

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To require, on a temporary basis, that venues that attract large numbers of people inform the Metropolitan Police Department of their schedule and obtain adequate police presence at the event for the safety of the public.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Public Congestion and Venue Protection Temporary Act of 2004”.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

For the purposes of this act, the term:

(1) “Congestion” means the significant increase in vehicular or foot traffic within the police service area where the venue is operated over a period of time not to exceed 8 hours that is associated with patrons congregating to attend and leave the venue.

(2) “Reimbursable detail” means an assignment of on-duty officers of the Metropolitan Police Department to patrol the surrounding area of each entrance of a public venue for the purpose of maintaining public safety, including the remediation of traffic congestion and the safety of public patrons, during their approach and departure from the venue.

(3) “Venue” means a place where the congregation of the public leads to:

(A) Street closures;

(B) Traffic congestion; or

(C) Unusual and significant increases in foot or vehicular traffic within or surrounding the entrance of a commercial building, place of public assembly, establishment required to have a license under D.C. Official Code § 25-102, school, public hall or any establishment or private function, or parking lots regularly used to attend functions at these places.

(4) “Venue operator” means an individual, corporation or proprietorship with a license to hold an event for-profit or not-for-profit at an establishment that leads to congestion surrounding the venue.

Sec. 3. Responsibility of venue operators.

All regular venue operators shall meet with the Metropolitan Police Department (“MPD”) to develop an agreement with the MPD when holding a function that leads to an unusual and significant increase in foot or vehicular traffic to and from the police service area where the venue is located. This agreement shall:

- (1) Provide procedures for the venue operator to inform the MPD when congestion of city streets within the police service area where the venue is located is expected to occur;
- (2) Provide procedures for establishing reimbursable details at each venue as requested by the venue operator;
- (3) Provide procedures for compensation of the MPD when reimbursable details are requested by the venue operator; and
- (4) Provide the MPD with the obligation to staff reimbursable details as requested by the venue operator.

Sec. 4. Responsibility of the Metropolitan Police Department.

Subject to adequate staffing of the police service areas, the MPD shall staff reimbursable details as requested by venue operators. Where a venue results in unusual and significant increases in vehicular or foot traffic and congestion of city streets, the MPD may establish a detail and charge the venue operator or group of venue operators for the presence of those MPD officers required to maintain the flow of traffic and public safety within the police service area where the venue is located.

Sec. 5. Fiscal impact statement.

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

Sec. 6. Effective date.

- (a) This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of Congressional review as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved

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December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of Columbia Register.

(b) This act shall expire after 225 days of its having taken effect.

Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia

Mayor
District of Columbia