ENROLLED ORIGINAL

AN ACT

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IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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To amend An Act To authorize the District of Columbia government to establish an Office of Civil Defense, and for other purposes to change the name of the District of Columbia Emergency Management Agency to the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency and to establish a Homeland Security Program within the agency to identify and mitigate threats, risks, and vulnerabilities within the District of Columbia; to establish a District of Columbia Homeland Security Commission to evaluate and offer advice on homeland security matters within the District of Columbia; to provide for a civil action against transporters of certain hazardous materials that would hold them strictly liable for costs associated with the release or threatened release of those materials, and to provide for the awarding of punitive damages if the release or threatened release were the result of a wanton or reckless disregard for public safety, and to establish the Hazardous Materials Reimbursement Fund to be used to cover the costs incurred by the District as a result of a release or threatened release of the hazardous materials; to amend the District of Columbia Government Comprehensive Merit Personnel Act of 1978, the District of Columbia Office of Energy Act of 1980, the Fiscal Year Budget Support Act of 2001, the Language Access Act of 2004, the Homeless Services Reform Act of 2005, the First Amendment Rights and Police Standards Act of 2004, An Act To authorize the Commissioners of the District of Columbia to appoint a member of the Metropolitan Police Department or a member of the Fire Department of the District of Columbia as Director of the District Office of Civil Defense, and for other purposes, and the District of Columbia Public Emergency Act of 1980, to make conforming amendments reflecting the change of the name of the District of Columbia Emergency Management Agency to the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency; to amend the Confirmation Act of 1978 to reflect the establishment of the Homeland Security Commission; and to establish the Comprehensive Homicide Elimination Strategy Task Force.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the "Homeland Security, Risk Reduction, and Preparedness Amendment
Act of 2006”.

TITLE I. ESTABLISHING A HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAM WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Sec. 101. An Act To authorize the District of Columbia government to establish an Office of Civil Defense, and for other purposes, approved August 11, 1950 (64 Stat. 438; D.C. Official Code §§ 7-2201, 7-2202, 7-2205, 7-2206, 7-2207, and 7-2208), is amended as follows:

(a) Designate sections 1-6 as Title I.

(b) Section 2 (D.C. Official Code § 7-2202) is amended as follows:

(1) Subsection (a) is amended by striking the phrase “Office of Emergency Preparedness” and inserting the phrase “Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency” in its place.

(2) Subsection (b) is amended by striking the phrase “Office of Emergency Preparedness” each time it appears and inserting the phrase “Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency” in its place.

(c) Section 3 (D.C. Official Code § 7-2205) is amended by striking the phrase “Office of Emergency Preparedness” in the lead-in text and inserting the phrase “Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency” in its place.

(d) Section 6 (D.C. Official Code § 7-2208) is amended by striking the phrase “Office of Emergency Preparedness” and inserting the phrase “Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency” in its place.

(e) A new Title II is added to read as follows:

“TITLE II

“HOMELAND SECURITY

“Sec. 201. Findings.

“The Council finds that:

“(1) The District of Columbia has been designated a high-threat target city by the United States Department of Homeland Security, and needs commensurate capabilities for preventing, mitigating, and responding to terrorist attacks. These capabilities include risk-based strategic planning, threat and vulnerability analysis, and gap assessments.

“(2) It is the policy of the District of Columbia to warn, inform, and protect its residents by providing timely and accurate information before, during, and after times of emergency. Such information can save lives, reduce property losses, and speed economic recovery by providing residents with the information they need to make informed decisions and to take appropriate protective actions.

“(3) The District of Columbia seeks to promote transparency regarding homeland security efforts, in order that government officials and the public can assess the risks, adequacy of programs, the progress made, and gaps remaining.

“(4) Risks and vulnerabilities identified through an ongoing program of analysis
should be addressed expeditiously and comprehensively.

“(5) The Final Report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States outlined appropriate roles for the federal government and its counterparts at the local government level, and concluded that homeland security priorities and assistance should be based strictly on an assessment of risks and vulnerabilities.


“For the purposes of this title, the term:


“(2) “Director” means the Director of the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency.

“(3) "Program" means the Homeland Security Program created by section 203.


“(a) The Director shall develop a Homeland Security Program to identify and mitigate threats, risks, and vulnerabilities within the District of Columbia. The program shall include, but not be limited to:

“(1) Identifying public infrastructure and other public assets in the District that need protection, assessing vulnerability, and addressing priority needs;

“(2) Establishing measurable readiness priorities and targets that balance the potential threat and magnitude of terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies with the resources required to prevent, respond to, and recover from them;

“(3) Establishing readiness metrics and performance measures for preparedness in the areas of prevention, protection, response, and recovery;

“(4) Assisting residents and public and private entities in emergency preparedness;

“(5) Coordinating with federal, state, and regional authorities, and with private entities; and

“(6) Developing a budget to implement the Program.

“(b) Within one year of the effective date of the Homeland Security, Risk Reduction, and Preparedness Act of 2006, passed on 2nd reading on December 19, 2006 (Enrolled version of Bill 16-242), the Director shall contract for a baseline threat and vulnerability assessment of the District of Columbia to include risks associated with, but not limited to, terrorism (including bioterrorism), radiological weapons and their potential transport into the District of Columbia, food and water supply, cybersecurity, fire and rescue capability; an assessment of actions already taken to address security issues and recommendations on whether additional safety and security enforcement actions are needed; and recommendations for additional legislation needed to enhance the security of District residents.

“(c) Beginning one year after the establishment of the Program, the Mayor shall submit an annual report to the Council describing the current level of the preparedness of the District of Columbia, including reports on the District’s homeland security capabilities, priority unmet
needs and the cost of meeting those needs, relevant training and readiness exercises, resident education, and the utilization of mutual aid.

“Sec. 204. Public information and involvement program.
“(a) The Mayor shall:
“(1) Disseminate homeland security information to the public and engage residents in homeland security emergency planning;
“(2) Solicit resident input in vulnerability assessment and planning activities; and
“(3) Offer periodic training opportunities to members of the public.

“Sec. 205. District of Columbia government employee security training program.
“(a) The Director, in consultation with other District of Columbia agencies, law enforcement, security, and terrorism experts, and representatives of public employees, shall develop and issue guidelines for a public employee security training program to meet requirements established in the District of Columbia Emergency Response Plan.
“(b) At the request of the Director, District government agencies shall submit employee training programs to the Director for annual review.

“Sec. 206. Large building security.
“(a) In consultation with organizations representing property owners, property managers, and building operators and managers, the Director shall develop guidance for building operators and managers to enhance the security of large commercial and residential buildings.
“(b) In consultation with the Director of the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs and organizations representing property owners, property managers, and building operators and managers, the Director shall occasionally review the building code to determine potential changes that could improve building security.

“Sec. 207. Exercises.
“The Agency shall coordinate a regular program of readiness exercises to test the District of Columbia’s emergency preparedness, propose action to address any gap in preparedness, and coordinate with regional, federal, and private entities.

“Sec. 208. Public notification of emergencies.
“The Agency shall establish and implement an effective homeland security public warning and information capability that can be used during emergencies to warn residents timely and to disseminate emergency information to residents, both indoors and outdoors, at any time and regardless of residents’ special needs. The Agency shall also pay particular attention to the needs of senior citizens and low-income residents in establishing an effective homeland security public warning and information capability.

“Sec. 209. Private sector vulnerability assessments and mitigation plans.
“The Director shall request the voluntary sharing of information from private entities on best practices for prevention, mitigation, response, and recovery from a terrorist or other security incident, including information on relocation and other business continuity plans and
programs, for the purpose of collaboration to improve public and private preparedness.”.

TITLE II. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HOMELAND SECURITY COMMISSION

Part A.

Sec. 201. Definitions.
For the purposes of this title, the term:


(3) “Director” means the Director of the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency.


(a) There is established a District of Columbia Homeland Security Commission, which shall consist of 7 persons with expertise in security, transportation, communication, chemical safety, risk assessment, terrorism (including bioterrorism), or occupational safety and health.

(b)(1) Commission members shall be nominated by the Mayor and confirmed by the Council for terms of 3 years, in accordance with section 2(e) of the Confirmation Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-142; D.C. Official Code § 1-523.01(e)).

(2) The Mayor shall establish through rulemaking that Commission members shall be subject to pre-nomination inquiries and security-clearance requirements.

(3) The terms of the members first appointed shall begin on the date a majority of the first members are sworn in, which shall become the anniversary date for all subsequent appointments.

(4) Commission member’s terms shall be staggered so that either 4 positions or 3 positions will expire on the year’s anniversary date.

(c) Members shall receive no salary for their service on the Commission but shall be reimbursed for administrative costs associated with membership.

(d) The Agency shall provide staff to the Commission.

Sec. 203. Responsibilities.

(a) The Commission shall:

(1) Gather and evaluate information on the status of homeland security in the District of Columbia;

(2) Measure progress and gaps in homeland security preparedness;

(3) Recommend security improvement priorities in consultation with major public and private entities; and
(4) Advise the District of Columbia government on the Homeland Security Program.

(b) The Director may submit to the Commission and the Commission may request from the Director for periodic review, after-action reports on District of Columbia and other governmental homeland security exercises, assessments of regional homeland security efforts, and other documents relevant to the Commission’s responsibilities.

(c) The Commission, in consultation with the Director, shall use any information collected under this title to make recommendations for improvements in security and preparedness.

Sec. 204. Confidentiality of proceedings.

(a) Commission proceedings shall be closed to the public and shall not be subject to section 742 of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 831; D.C. Official Code § 1-207.42), when the Committee is discussing specific public and private vulnerability assessments or where the information discussed would:

(1) Reveal a trade secret or privileged or confidential commercial or financial information; or

(2) Be detrimental to public safety.

(b)(1) Persons other than Commission members who attend any Commission meeting which, pursuant to this section, is not open to the public, shall not disclose what occurred at the meeting to anyone who was not in attendance, except insofar as disclosure is necessary for that person to comply with a request for information from the Commission.

(2) Commission members who attend meetings not open to the public shall not disclose what occurred with anyone who was not in attendance (except other Commission members), except insofar as disclosure is necessary to carry out the duties of the Commission.

(3) Any party who discloses information pursuant to this subsection shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that the information disclosed, and the person to whom the information is disclosed, are as limited as possible.

(c) Members of the Commission, persons attending a Commission meeting, and persons who present information to the Commission may not be required to disclose, in any administrative, civil, or criminal proceeding, information presented at or opinions formed as a result of a Commission meeting.

Sec. 205. Confidentiality of information.

(a) All information and records generated by the Commission, including statistical compilations and reports, and all information and records acquired by, and in the possession of, the Commission are confidential.

(b) Except as permitted by this section, information and records of the Commission shall not be disclosed voluntarily, pursuant to a subpoena, in response to a request for discovery in
any adjudicative proceeding, or in response to a request made under Title II of the District of Columbia Administrative Procedure Act, effective March 25, 1977 (D.C. Law 1-96: D.C. Official Code § 2-531 et seq.), nor shall it be introduced into evidence in any administrative, civil, or criminal proceeding.

(c) Commission information and records may be disclosed only as necessary to carry out the Commission’s duties and purposes. The information and records may be disclosed by the Commission to another Homeland Security Commission if the other commission is governed by confidentiality provisions which afford the same or greater protections as those provided in this act.

(d) Information and records presented to the Commission shall not be immune from subpoena or discovery, or prohibited from being introduced into evidence, solely because the information and records were made available to the Commission, if the information and records could have been obtained through other sources.

Sec. 206. Records.
All records and information obtained by the Commission pursuant to this title shall be destroyed by the Commission one year after publication of the Commission’s annual report.

Sec. 207. Report to the Mayor, Council, and the public.
(a) The Commission shall report on an annual basis to the Mayor and Council on the work of the Commission and areas of the Homeland Security Program in need of improvement and shall make the annual report available to the public.

Part B.
Sec. 231. Section 204(a) of the District of Columbia Administrative Procedure Act, effective March 25, 1977 (D.C. Law 1-96: D.C. Official Code § 2-534(a)), is amended as follows:
(a) Paragraph (11) is amended by striking the word “and” at the end.
(b) Paragraph (12) is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon in its place.
(c) A new paragraph (13) is added to read as follows:
“(13) Information exempt from disclosure by section 204 of the Homeland Security, Risk Reduction, and Preparedness Act of 2006, passed on 2nd reading on December 19, 2006 (Enrolled version of Bill 16-242); and”.

TITLE III. STRICT LIABILITY FOR RELEASE OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DURING TRANSPORT
Sec. 301. Definitions.
For the purposes of this title, the term:
(1) “Carrier” means the person who owns the locomotive or motor vehicle,
excluding the trailer or rail car, used in transporting any of the hazardous materials identified in section 302.

(2) “Fund” means the Hazardous Materials Reimbursement Fund established by section 307.

(3) “Motor vehicle” means any vehicle propelled by internal-combustion engine, electricity, or steam, other than a vehicle designed to run only on rails or tracks, that is intended or used for moving freight, merchandise, or other commercial loads or property. The term “motor vehicle” shall include any trailer attached to the motor vehicle.

(4) “Person” shall have the same meaning as in section 3(5) of the District of Columbia Hazardous Waste Management Act of 1977, effective March 23, 1978 (D.C. Law 2-64; D.C. Official Code § 8-1302(5)).

(5) “Rail car” means any vehicle without motor power that is intended or used for carrying freight, merchandise, or other commercial loads or property on rails or tracks and is drawn by a locomotive.

(6) “Trailer” means a vehicle without motor power intended or used for carrying freight, merchandise, or other commercial loads or property and drawn or intended to be drawn by a motor vehicle, whether such vehicle without motor power carries the weight of the property wholly on its own structure or whether a part of such weight rests upon or is carried by a motor vehicle.

(7) “Transport” means movement by a rail car or motor vehicle.

Sec. 302. Strict liability for release of hazardous materials during transport.

Subject only to the exclusions and limitations set forth in sections 304 and 305, and in addition to any other remedies available to the government of the District of Columbia, a carrier who transports into the District any of the hazardous materials listed in this section shall be strictly liable for all costs incurred by the District of Columbia in responding to a release or threatened release of any of the following within the geographic boundaries of the District of Columbia:

(1) Explosives of Class 1, Division 1.1, or Class 1, Division 1.2, as designated in 49 C.F.R. § 173.2, in a quantity greater than 500 kilograms;

(2) Flammable gasses of Class 2, Division 2.1, as designated in 49 C.F.R. § 173.2, in a quantity greater than 10,000 liters;

(3) Poisonous gasses of Class 2, Division 2.3, as designated in 49 C.F.R. § 173.2, in a quantity greater than 500 liters, and belonging to Hazard Zones A or B, as defined in 49 C.F.R. § 173.116;

(4) Poisonous materials, other than gasses, of Class 6, Division 6.1, in a quantity greater than 1,000 kilograms, and belonging to Hazard Zones A or B, as defined in 49 C.F.R. § 173.133;

(5) Infectious agents, assigned to risk group 4 in 49 C.F.R. § 173.134 unless the infectious agent is the subject of an exception identified in 49 C.F.R. § 173.134; and
Sec. 303. Costs recoverable by the District of Columbia.

Costs recoverable by the District of Columbia under section 302 shall include all costs related to:

1. Containment of the gasses, explosives, and materials identified in section 302;
2. Necessary cleanup and restoration of the site and the surrounding environment;
3. Removal of the gasses, explosives, and materials identified in section 302;
4. Such actions as may be necessary to monitor, assess, and evaluate the release or threat of release of any of the gasses, explosives, and materials identified in section 302, or to mitigate damage to the public health or welfare that may otherwise result from a release or threat of a release;
5. Natural resource damages;
6. Attorney’s fees and costs;
7. Reimbursement for private collection firm’s services, when used; and
8. Applicable interest on all costs and expenses incurred.

Sec. 304. Civil action.

(a) The Attorney General of the District of Columbia may institute an action in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia against any person liable pursuant to section 302 to recover all costs incurred by the District of Columbia.

(b) Notwithstanding the rights of the District of Columbia to institute an action as provided in subsection (a) of this section, any person who has expended funds to remedy environmental damage resulting from the release of any of the gasses, explosive, or materials identified in section 302 may also bring an action in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia against any person who may be liable for such damage pursuant to section 302. Such person’s right to recover costs shall be limited to expenditures that are incurred for the purposes described in section 303 and that are consistent with the laws and rules of the District of Columbia. A person’s right to recovery under this subsection shall not be barred by the fact that the party bringing the action is itself liable to the District of Columbia under this section.

Sec. 305. Defenses to liability.

(a) There shall be no liability under section 302 for a person otherwise liable who can establish by a preponderance of the evidence that the costs resulting from their acts or
omissions were caused solely by:
   (1) An act of God;
   (2) An act of War;
   (3) An act or omission of a third party other than an employee or agent of the defendant, or other than one whose act or omission occurs in connection with a contractual relationship, existing directly or indirectly, with the defendant, if the defendant establishes by a preponderance of the evidence that the defendant:
      (A) Exercised due care with respect to the hazardous substance concerned, taking into consideration the characteristics of such hazardous substance, in light of all relevant facts and circumstances; and
      (B) Took precautions against foreseeable acts or omissions of any such third party and the consequences that could foreseeably result from such acts or omissions; or
   (4) Any combination of the foregoing paragraphs.

Sec. 306. Punitive damages.
In addition to the damages authorized elsewhere in this title, punitive damages may be awarded, if it is proved that the plaintiff’s injuries were caused by the defendant’s wanton or reckless disregard for public safety in the transportation of the gasses, explosives, and materials identified in section 302.

Sec. 307. Establishment of Hazardous Materials Reimbursement Fund
(a) There is established within the General Fund of the District of Columbia a segregated, nonlapsing fund to be known as the Hazardous Materials Reimbursement Fund. All funds as set forth in subsection (b) of this section shall be deposited into the Fund without regard to fiscal year limitation and shall not revert to the General Fund of the District of Columbia at the end of any fiscal year or at any other time, but shall be continually available for the uses and purposes set forth in subsection (c) of this section. The Fund shall be administered by the Mayor.
   (b) The Chief Financial Officer shall deposit into the Fund all costs recovered by the District of Columbia pursuant to this title.
   (c) All funds deposited shall be available for use by the Mayor to reimburse District of Columbia agencies for costs incurred by the release or threatened release of the hazardous materials identified in section 302.

TITLE IV. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS
Sec. 402. Section 5(g) of the District of Columbia Office of Energy Act of 1980, effective March 4, 1981 (D.C. Law 3-132; D.C. Official Code § 2-904(g)), is amended as follows:

(a) Paragraph (1) is amended by striking the phrase “Office of Emergency Preparedness” and inserting the phrase “Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency” in its place.

(b) Paragraph (3) is amended by striking the phrase “Office of Emergency Preparedness” and inserting the phrase “Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency” in its place.


Sec. 407. Section 1 of An Act To authorize the Commissioners of the District of Columbia to appoint a member of the Metropolitan Police Department or a member of the Fire Department of the District of Columbia as Director of the District Office of Civil Defense, and for other purposes, approved July 6, 1953 (67 Stat. 139: D.C. Official Code § 7-2203), is amended as follows:

(a) Strike the phrase “Commissioners of the District of Columbia are” and insert the phrase “Mayor of the District of Columbia is” in its place.

(b) Strike the phrase “any office or agency of the government of the District of Columbia, to which office or agency there may be transferred the functions of the Office of Civil Defense (authorized to be abolished by Reorganization Plan Number 5 of 1952),” and
insert the phrase “the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency,” in its place.

(c) Strike the phrase “in such office or agency succeeding to the functions of the Office of Civil Defense” and insert the phrase “in the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency” in its place.

(d) Strike the phrase “in such office or agency” and insert the phrase “in the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency” in its place.


Sec. 409. Section 2(e) of the Confirmation Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-142; D.C. Official Code § 1-523.01(e)), is amended by adding a new paragraph (29) to read as follows:

“(29) Homeland Security Commission.”.

TITLE V. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE HOMICIDE ELIMINATION STRATEGY TASK FORCE.


(a) There is established a Comprehensive Homicide Elimination Strategy Task Force (“Task Force”). The Task Force shall consider the most effective elements of a comprehensive plan that would lead to the elimination of murder in Washington.

(b) The Task Force shall be comprised of representatives appointed by the Mayor from the government, non-profit organizations, business, schools, victims services organizations, arts, social services, religious, mental health, organized labor, Advisory Neighborhood Commission, and criminology professionals. The Mayor shall designate 2 co-chairs of the Task Force, one each from the government and non-government sectors.

(c) The Task Force shall hold at least 3 public meetings, and shall present a report to the Mayor and the Council at the end of one year.

TITLE VI. APPROPRIATIONS CONTINGENCY

Sec. 601. Appropriations contingency.

This act shall be subject to the availability of appropriations.

TITLE VII. FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Sec. 701. Fiscal impact statement.

The Council adopts the December 19, 2006 fiscal impact statement of the Chief Financial Officer 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)).

TITLE VIII. EFFECTIVE DATE
Sec. 801. Effective date.
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 December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of Columbia Register.

Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia

Mayor
District of Columbia