



Blacks In Government®
2017 National Delegates Assembly
Atlantic City, New Jersey



RESOLUTION

BIG Supports D.C. Council Bill 22-0044, Additional Tax Relief for Seniors, Restoration of D.C. Pension Tax Benefit for 40,000 Retired Federal Workers, D.C. Government Employees, Teachers, Police, Firefighters and Veterans

WHEREAS, the National Organization of Blacks In Government (BIG), was incorporated in 1976, as a non-profit organization to, educate and advocate on behalf of federal, state and municipal government employees.

WHEREAS, the Senior Citizen Tax Relief Amendment Act of 2017 (B-22-0044) was introduced in January and affords significant relief to District of Columbia seniors.

WHEREAS, in addition to the 2016 legislative proposal, B-22-0044 will:

- Allow retired federal and D.C. government employees and retired armed force personnel to exclude up to \$20,000 of pension income from D.C. income taxes.
- Exempt longtime homeowners aged 70 and older, whose household income is \$60,000 or less, from paying D.C. real estate taxes.
- Let seniors who have long-term care insurance policies deduct \$500.00 of insurance premiums from their taxable income.

WHEREAS, B-22-0044 is sponsored by Councilmembers Anita Bonds, At-Large, Robert C. White, At-Large, David Grosso, At-Large, Jack Evans, Ward 2, Brandon Todd, Ward 4, Kenyan McDuffie, Ward 5, Vince Gray, Ward 7 and Trayon White, Ward 8.

WHEREAS, the seniors helped by this bill include approximately 40,000 retired federal workers, D.C. government employees, D.C. firefighters and police officers, D.C. teachers and military service veterans.

WHEREAS, the laudable provisions of this bill will remain mere words on paper until the Council enacts it into law.

WHEREAS, a citizen's coalition formed to encourage passage of this bill has submitted 800 signatures and testified several times before the D.C. City Council.

WHEREAS, the BIG National President, the Honorable Dr. Doris Sorter submitted testimony on May 12, 2017 in support of this legislation,

WHEREAS, BIG National Delegates adopted a Resolution in support of this legislation during its National Delegates Assembly in August 2016 and unfortunately, the bill was not passed in the last D.C. budget cycle,

WHEREAS, BIG supports this current legislative version known as B 22-0044, which states the same language in the 2016 legislative proposal with additional support for seniors,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

In furtherance of its advocacy mission, BIG supports B 22-0044.

That the National President of Blacks In Government will write letters to all members of the D.C. City Council and the Honorable Muriel Bowser, Mayor of the District of Columbia, urging immediate passage of B 22-0044 and its full funding in the next budget cycle.

Submitted by:

Dr. Matthew F. Fogg
BIG RXI - Heritage Chapter President
Retired, Chief Deputy United States Marshal
BIG National 2st Vice President

Ms. Ruth Benson, Chair
& the entire BIG National Legislative Committee

June 19, 2017