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2 Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie



Chairman Phil Mendelson

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6 Councilmember Anita Bonds



Councilmember David Grosso

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10 Councilmember Elissa Silverman




Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.

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14 Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau



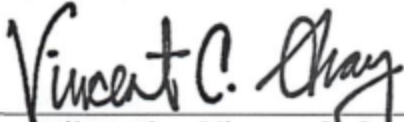
Councilmember Mary M. Cheh

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18 Councilmember Brandon Todd



Councilmember Charles Allen

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22 Councilmember Vincent C. Gray

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27 A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

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31 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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35 To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to officially designating the portion of  
36 16th Street N.W. between H Street N.W. and I Street N.W. in Ward 2 as Black Lives  
37 Matter Plaza.

38 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this  
39 act may cited as the "Black Lives Matter Plaza Designation Emergency Declaration Resolution  
40 of 2020".

41           Sec. 2. (a) There exists an immediate need to designate the portion of 16th Street N.W.  
42 between H Street N.W. and I Street N.W. in Ward 2 as Black Lives Matter Plaza.

43           (b) In the summer of 2013, Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi created Black  
44 Lives Matter in response to the acquittal of George Zimmerman of second-degree murder for the  
45 death of Trayvon Martin, who Zimmerman stalked, assaulted and shot while on his way home  
46 from a convenience store.

47           (c) Black Lives Matter has been at the forefront of advocating for racial justice, including  
48 organizing protests, rallies and other actions in response to the deaths of Eric Garner, Michael  
49 Brown, Tamir Rice, Freddie Gray, Sandra Bland, Alton Sterling, Philando Castile, and other  
50 Black men and women at the hands of police.

51           (d) The vestiges of slavery, segregation and “separate but equal” treatment persist in our  
52 culture, laws and institutions, leading to continued harm against Black communities in the form  
53 of discrimination and violence. Black Lives Matter is a rallying cry and social movement that  
54 affirms the worth of Black lives in a society where Black life is devalued and criminalized.

55           (e) Despite the violence and discrimination the Black community in D.C. faces, its  
56 achievements and contributions to the social, cultural, and political landscape of the District are  
57 vast and include:

58                   (1) Building the city in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century while in bondage;

59                   (2) Leading efforts to abolish slavery, expand voting rights, and codify equal  
60 treatment under the law as a basic principle of America’s founding documents;

61                   (3) The success of Howard University, the only federally chartered historically  
62 Black college (HBCU) and one of the most prestigious colleges in the country;

63                   (4) The founding of African American history as an academic field of study;

64 (5) The creation of “Black Broadway” on U Street, a thriving community of  
65 artists, musicians, and writers whose work has had a profound effect on America’s culture;

66 (6) Laying the foundation for the modern civil rights movement;

67 (7) Creating the musical subgenre Go-go in the mid-to-late 1960’s; and

68 (8) Leading the Statehood Movement, including the passage of the District of  
69 Columbia Home Rule Act.

70 (f) On May 25th, George Floyd, a 46-year old Black man in Minneapolis, was killed by a  
71 police officer who suffocated him with his knee, leading to a wave of protests across the country  
72 against racism and police brutality.

73 (g) In response to the protests in D.C. and across the country, and in recognition of the  
74 work that still needs to be done to ensure that Black lives do matter, Mayor Muriel Bowser stated  
75 publicly the portion of 16th Street N.W. between H Street N.W. and I Street N.W. should be  
76 designated as Black Lives Matter Plaza on June 5, 2020. The Council adopted the designation  
77 by emergency act (Bill 23-776) on June 9, 2020, but that legislation will expire.

78 (h) This designation re-affirms the value of the lives and legacy of D.C.’s Black  
79 community and re-affirms our commitment to racial justice and equity.

80 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances  
81 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the “Black  
82 Lives Matter Plaza Designation Emergency Act of 2020” be adopted after a single reading.

83 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.