

1
2
3 

4
5 Councilmember Jim Graham



Councilmember Muriel Bowser

6
7
8 A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

9
10
11 _____
12 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
13
14 _____

15
16
17 To recognize and honor the Florida Avenue Grill on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of its
18 founding.

19
20 WHEREAS, the Florida Avenue Grill was founded in 1944 by Bertha and Lacey C.
21 Wilson, Sr.;

22
23 WHEREAS, Lacey C. Wilson, Sr., a shoe-shine, saved his tips to open a two-stool eatery
24 with his wife, starting each day with just two chickens;

25
26 WHEREAS, Bertha Wilson took the earnings from selling those two chickens as meals
27 and bought two more chickens;

28
29 WHEREAS, Bertha and Lacey C. Wilson, Sr., continued this process during the early
30 days of the restaurant that would become the legendary Florida Avenue Grill;

31
32 WHEREAS, Bertha and Lacey C. Wilson, Sr., owned and operated the Florida Avenue
33 Grill until they sold it to their son, Lacey C. Wilson, Jr. in 1970;

34
35 WHEREAS, Lacey C. Wilson, Jr., owned and operated the Florida Avenue Grill from
36 1970 to 2005;

37
38 WHEREAS, the Florida Avenue Grill is currently owned by Imar Hutchins;

39
40 WHEREAS, the Florida Avenue Grill is located in Ward 1 at 1100 Florida Avenue,
41 N.W.;

42
43 WHEREAS, the Florida Avenue Grill is the oldest soul food restaurant in Washington
44 and is known to be the oldest continuously-operating soul food restaurant in the world;

45
46 WHEREAS, the Florida Avenue Grill caters to District residents from all across the city,

47 promoting friendship and social exchange among patrons of all ages;
48

49 WHEREAS, the Florida Avenue Grill has a rich diversity of clientele that reflects the
50 surrounding community and the District as a whole;
51

52 WHEREAS, the Florida Avenue Grill has served such notables as Vice President Joe
53 Biden, Denzel Washington, Reverend Al Sharpton, Clint Eastwood, and Supreme Court Justice
54 Clarence Thomas;
55

56 WHEREAS, the Florida Avenue Grill was featured as a set of the 1983 comedy *D.C. Cab*
57 starring Adam Baldwin, Gary Busey, and Mr. T;
58

59 WHEREAS, the Florida Avenue Grill was featured on the 7th season opener of the
60 Travel Channel show "Bizarre Foods America" that highlighted the Grill's traditional Southern,
61 soul food menu; and
62

63 WHEREAS, the Florida Avenue Grill has helped change the community and is an
64 exemplary reminder of the rich history of the U Street, N.W., area and surrounding
65 neighborhoods.
66

67 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA That this
68 resolution may be cited as the "Florida Avenue Grill 70th Anniversary Recognition Resolution of
69 2014".
70

71 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia honors and commends the Florida
72 Avenue Grill for its invaluable contributions to the quality of life, communities, and bellies of
73 the District's residents for over 70 years.
74

75 Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in
76 the District of Columbia Register.