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Councilmember Brandon Todd

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To recognize the Caribbean-American community as an integral and celebrated cultural community in the District of Columbia, and to celebrate the month of June as National Caribbean-American Heritage Month.

WHEREAS, the first celebration of Caribbean-American month was conceived by residents of the Ward 4 of the District of Columbia, mainly, Doreen Thompson, Esq., in June 1996;

WHEREAS, in 2001, Mayor Anthony Williams first proclaimed June as Caribbean-American Heritage Month in the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, June of 2017 is the 16th Anniversary of celebrating Caribbean-American Heritage Month in the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, in June 2005, the official campaign to nationally recognize the contributions of Caribbean people was jumpstarted when House of Representatives unanimously adopted H. Con. Res. 71, sponsored by Congresswoman Barbara Lee, recognizing the significance of Caribbean people and their descendants in the history and culture of the United States;

WHEREAS, on February 14, 2006, H. Con. Res. 71 similarly passed the Senate, culminating a two-year, bipartisan and bicameral effort;

WHEREAS, President George W. Bush issued the first Presidential proclamation declaring June Caribbean-American Heritage Month on June 5, 2006;

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WHEREAS, Ward 4 has been the historical base for the Caribbean community, and continues to have the largest number of persons of Caribbean heritage in the District of Columbia, and includes many Caribbean American restaurants and food businesses, as well as a major church of worship for the Caribbean community;

WHEREAS, Caribbean Americans played an active role in the civil rights movement and other social and political causes, and have continued to contribute to the government, military, arts, business, music, sports and science and technology in the District of Columbia and the United States; and

WHEREAS, National Caribbean-American Heritage Month is an opportunity to honor and celebrate the history, culture, and essential role of Caribbean Americans in the District of Columbia and across the country.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "National Caribbean-American Heritage Month Ceremonial Recognition Resolution of 2017".

Sec. 2. The Council recognizes the outstanding contributions and valued accomplishments of the Caribbean-American community in the District of Columbia and the United States of America, recognizes District residents of Caribbean heritage on the occasion of National Caribbean-American Heritage Month, and hereby declares June 2017 as "National Caribbean-American Heritage Month" in the District of Columbia.

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