

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

22-171

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

October 3, 2017

To recognize and celebrate African Immigrant Heritage Month by honoring the great contributions of Americans of African immigrant heritage in the United States, and to declare September 2017 as “African Immigrant Heritage Month” in the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, African heritage was first observed in 2010 in the District of Columbia to promote cross-cultural awareness and solidarity among the District’s ethnically diverse communities of African descent;

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia is home to approximately 16,000 African-born residents, 17% of the entire immigrant population, and the highest proportion of African-born residents of any major city in the United States;

WHEREAS, the African population represent a multitude of languages, cultural beliefs and practices, religions, educational backgrounds, and socio-economic characteristics;

WHEREAS, African Immigrant Heritage Month serves as a platform to connect African residents to government and community-based organizations available in the District and to underline that living in a multicultural city strengthens the resilience and enriches the community all-around;

WHEREAS, this year, the Mayor’s Office on African Affairs (“MOAA”) will celebrate the 8th annual African Heritage Month;

WHEREAS, MOAA will host a DC Africa Celebration and it will take place on September 28, 2017, at the University of the District of Columbia, UDC Theater of the Arts;

WHEREAS, celebrations will focus on bringing together diverse African communities and the wider District community through traditional African music, dance, performances, and

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food to showcase the burgeoning contributions Africans make to the cultural and economic vitality of the city;

WHEREAS, since its inception in 2010, the DC Africa Celebration hosted by MOAA has become one of the District’s most anticipated African cultural events, drawing thousands of attendees, a testament to the unprecedented growth of the District’s African community;

WHEREAS, MOAA, under the leadership of Director Mamadou Samba, continues to improve the quality of life of African residents of the District of Columbia by addressing a broad range of social and economic needs through strategic management, public and private partnerships, supporting the creation of policies, promoting community relations, civic engagement, and community-based grants; and

WHEREAS, African Washingtonians are leaders who have made unique contributions to the cultural and economic renaissance of the District’s African community, and many other areas that are critical to building a stronger and more sustainable District of Columbia for future generations.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “African Immigrant Heritage Month Recognition Resolution of 2017”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and honors the contributions of its African immigrant residents, and declares September 2017 as “African Immigrant 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.