

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

22-318

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

May 1, 2018

To posthumously celebrate the life and exemplary service of Ronald Austin, and recognize his contributions to the District of Columbia Mayor’s Office, the Council of the District of Columbia, District of Columbia residents, and the Greater Washington Metropolitan Area.

WHEREAS, Ronald Austin, a native Washingtonian and Ward 4 resident for 61 years, was fondly known as “Ron”;

WHEREAS, for over 45 years, Ronald Austin, through his leadership, vision, focus, and dedication to serving the community, was an integral part of District of Columbia politics and public service;

WHEREAS, Ronald Austin was revered by city officials and residents for setting the standard of excellence and best practices for constituent services that are still in practice today;

WHEREAS, Ronald Austin was fondly known to District government employees and the community as “Mr. Constituent Services”;

WHEREAS, Ronald Austin, a vibrant and motivated youth, at 14 years of age served as the Youth Chairman, where he provided a "youth perspective" to local city issues, and as a teenager he honed his leadership skills upon being elected to the Neighborhood Planning Council, a precursor to Advisory Neighborhood Commissions;

WHEREAS, Ronald Austin furthered his community service at Fort Stevens Recreation Center, where he was a positive role model to the young men in Ward 4 and excelled as a coach, leading his team to victory and winning numerous basketball tournaments;

WHEREAS, Ronald Austin’s contributions were instrumental in shaping and influencing young men and he guided them to successful and productive lives through nurturing and mentorship;

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WHEREAS, Ronald Austin progressed from an intern at the Department of Recreation into a variety of roles over 24 years;

WHEREAS, Ronald Austin acquired his love for politics and public service from his first position at the Council of the District of Columbia in Councilmember John Ray's office;

WHEREAS, Ronald Austin served as Director of Constituents Services for then Councilmember Adrian Fenty and later as Constituent Services Coordinator for then Councilmember Muriel Bowser;

WHEREAS, Ronald Austin is still considered one of the most effective Constituent Services Directors in the memorable past;

WHEREAS, Ronald Austin served as Director for the Mayor's Office of the Clean City, where he coordinated with District's litter prevention activities and best practices to keep the District clean, safe, and healthy;

WHEREAS, while working at the Council of the District of Columbia, Ronald Austin also served for many years as an ANC 4B Commissioner and also held the position of Chair;

WHEREAS, early in his career, Ronald Austin served as the Director of Transportation for the National Children's Center;

WHEREAS, as Director of Transportation for the National Children's Center, Ronald Austin diligently implemented cutting-edge policies and procedures to ensure handicap students were safely transported to and from their destination;

WHEREAS, during his time at the National Children's Center, Ronald Austin received numerous accolades and commendations;

WHEREAS, after his retirement, Ronald Austin continued to serve his community as the Chair of the Citizen's Advisory Council for the Metropolitan Police Department's Fourth District;

WHEREAS, Ronald Austin founded the Helping Hand Foundation, an organization that provides support to nonprofit organizations and residents in need; and

WHEREAS, Ronald Austin was a graduate of Coolidge High School and continued to be an active member of the high school's alumni association.

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RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Ronald Austin Recognition Resolution of 2018”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia posthumously recognizes Ronald Austin for his unwavering commitment to serving the residents of Ward 4 and success as a champion for excellence in constituent services.

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