

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

22-337

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

May 1, 2018

To recognize the importance of DC Black Lesbian & Gay Pride, commonly referred to as DC Black Pride, and to welcome visitors from this region, across the country, and around the world to the festival and associated events.

WHEREAS, the mission of DC Black Pride is to increase awareness and showcase pride in the diversity of lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and the transgender population in the African American community, and support organizations that focus on health disparities, education, youth, and families;

WHEREAS, May 22, 2018, through May 28, 2018, marks the 28th Annual DC Black Pride celebration;

WHEREAS, DC Black Pride is the oldest and one of the largest Black Pride events in the world, drawing thousands of residents and visitors from around the globe;

WHEREAS, DC Black Pride is led by an Executive Board that includes President Earl D. Fowlkes, Jr., Project Manager Kenya Hutton, and Volunteer Coordinator Genise Chamber-Woods, all of whom plan and execute this annual event;

WHEREAS, the Executive Board is assisted by a volunteer Advisory Board that includes Shannon Garcon, Palomas Yazmina Tadesse, Re'ginald Shaw-Richardson, Silas Burris, and Gladece Knight;

WHEREAS, DC Black Pride inspired the Center for Black Equity (formerly known as the International Federation of Black Prides, Inc.) and the "Black Pride Movement," which now consists of 40 Black Prides on 4 continents;

WHEREAS, Black Pride has become popular across the world because it provides a safe space for members of Black LGBTQ communities to come together to celebrate being both African American and members of LGBTQ communities;

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WHEREAS, DC Black Pride is a multi-day festival featuring an Awards Reception honoring Congressman John Lewis and others, a Transgender and Youth Community Town Hall, an Interfaith Service, performances by musicians and dancers, social events, and the DC Black Pride Health and Wellness Exposition;

WHEREAS, DC Black Pride remains one of the world's preeminent Black Pride celebrations, drawing more than 40,000 people to the Nation's Capital from across the United States as well as Canada, the Caribbean, South Africa, Great Britain, France, Germany, and the Netherlands; and

WHEREAS, the theme for this year's celebrations is "Communities Together, Building Communities".

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution be cited as the "DC Black Lesbian & Gay Pride Recognition Resolution of 2018".

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and honors the hard work of all those involved in organizing the 28th Annual DC Black Pride Celebration.

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