

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

22-368

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

June 26, 2018

To recognize and honor the Citi Open Tennis Tournament as it celebrates its 50th annual tournament and to declare July 30 through August 5, 2018, as “Tennis Week” in the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, the Citi Open Tennis Tournament celebrates its 50th year and will be held July 28 through August 5, 2018, at the Rock Creek Park Tennis Center, located in Ward 4;

WHEREAS, in July of 1969, the inaugural Citi Open Tennis Tournament became one of the first open professional tennis tournaments held in the United States;

WHEREAS, the Citi Open Tennis Tournament was founded by tennis legend and Hall of Famer Donald Dell, along with partner John Harris and with the support of tennis legend Arthur Ashe;

WHEREAS, Arthur Ashe declared he would only play in a naturally integrated community so everyone could enjoy the sport, leading to its current location on 16th and Kennedy Streets, N.W.. in Rock Creek Park, in Ward 4;

WHEREAS, the first Citi Open Tennis Tournament was held from July 7 through July 13, 1969, with a \$25,000 purse and was owned by Washington Patrons, which is now The Washington Tennis & Education Foundation (“WTEF”);

WHEREAS, in 1972, Donald Dell gave the tournament charter to the Washington Tennis & Education Foundation (then called the Washington Area Tennis Patrons Foundation), raising funds to benefit nearly 1,500 low-income and underserved children from across Washington, D.C. each year;

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WHEREAS, past champions of the Citi Open Tennis Tournament have included tennis notables Arthur Ashe, Jimmy Connors, Andre Agassi, Guillermo Villas, Yannick Noah, Michael Chang, Andy Roddick James Blake, and Juan Martín del Potro;

WHEREAS, the Citi Open Tennis Tournament features the best tennis players in the world and is broadcast in 182 countries, making the District of Columbia a global tennis destination;

WHEREAS, the Citi Open Tennis Tournament's annual average attendance for the week is 72,000, and a 2014 economic impact study found that the estimated total gross impact of the Citi Open on the Washington, D.C. metropolitan's regional economy on a given year is more than \$26 million;

WHEREAS, the Citi Open Tennis Tournament is the only Association of Tennis Professionals 500 level event in the United States, and it is one of only 4 professional tennis tournaments combining men's and women's events;

WHEREAS, a portion of the proceeds from the Citi Open Tennis Tournament benefit the WTEF, which seeks to improve the life prospects for Washington, D.C. area youth, particularly those from lower-income communities, through tennis and educational and community-based activities that teach discipline, build self-esteem, and improve academic performance; and

WHEREAS, the Citi Open Tennis Tournament has had an extraordinary impact on the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area for 50 years, remains a great partner of Ward 4, and is one of the most popular annual events hosted in the District of Columbia.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Citi Open Tennis Tournament 50th Anniversary Recognition Resolution of 2018".

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia acknowledges and honors the Citi Open Tennis Tournament and the Washington Tennis & Education Foundation for hosting a world-class sporting event, bringing revenue to the District of Columbia and contributing millions of dollars to low-income and underserved youth from across the city, and declares July 30 through August 5, 2018, as "Tennis Week" 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.