

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

22-399

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

October 2, 2018

To declare September 2018 as “National Month for Renters” in the District of Columbia, recognize Make Room, Inc. for its efforts to increase affordable housing, and applaud the organization on its “The Doors of Make Room” public art exhibition.

WHEREAS, in September 2018, Make Room, Inc. (“Make Room”) announced a bipartisan congressional effort to designate September as “National Month for Renters”;

WHEREAS, according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, the United States has a shortage of 7.2 million rental homes that are affordable and available to extremely low-income renters, whose income is at or below the poverty guideline or 30% of their area median income;

WHEREAS, only 35 affordable and available rental homes exist for every 100 extremely low-income renter households, and extremely low-income households face a shortage in every state and every major metropolitan area across the United States;

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia has been committed to preserving and creating affordable housing;

WHEREAS, since 2001, the District’s Housing Production Trust Fund has provided nearly \$750 million in grants and loans to developers to build or preserve thousands of units of affordable housing;

WHEREAS, since taking office in 2015, Mayor Muriel Bowser has supported the creation or preservation of more than 11,000 affordable units and in the Fiscal Year 2019 budget, Mayor Muriel Bowser invested more than \$1 billion toward making the District of Columbia more affordable for residents;

WHEREAS, in 2015, Make Room, Inc. was launched at the United Nations Media for Social Impact summit in New York City;

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WHEREAS, Make Room’s mission is to expose the human suffering and societal costs of the rental crisis and to advocate for solutions to end housing insecurity for 11 million households nationwide;

WHEREAS, on September 13, 2018, Make Room held a press conference on Freedom Plaza in the District of Columbia to unveil its “The Doors of Make Room”, a public art exhibition representing the 11 million households suffering from housing insecurity that were on display around Washington from September 13 through September 28, 2018;

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2018, Make Room held their signature traveling event, the Home, Health & Finance Expo and Symposium at the National Building Museum;

WHEREAS, under the leadership of President and CEO Ali Solid, Make Room works diligently to raise awareness of the 25 million Americans struggling to pay rent thru tireless advocacy; and

WHEREAS, recognizing September as “National Month for Renters” draws attention to the rental affordability crisis in the United States, and reaffirms the District’s commitment to preserving and increasing affordable housing.

**RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,** That this resolution may be cited as the “National Month For Renters Recognition Resolution of 2018”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia declares September 2018 as “National Month for Renters” in the District of Columbia, commends Make Room, Inc. on its efforts to address the rental housing crisis in America, and supports the ongoing efforts by Mayor Bowser, the District of Columbia government, concerned citizens, and community-based organizations to alleviate the shortage of affordable housing 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.