

  
Councilmember Anita Bonds

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6 A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

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8 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
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10 To celebrate Mrs. Casilda Luna, who is lovingly considered the “Abuelita”  
11 (Grandmother) of the District of Columbia’s Latino community, on her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday and to  
12 acknowledge her as a fervent pioneer in the development and advancement of the District’s  
13 Latino community.  
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15 WHEREAS, Casilda Luna has called the District of Columbia home since emigrating to  
16 the United States from the Dominican Republic in 1962 and began her life humbly amidst various  
17 cultural challenges;  
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19 WHEREAS, Casilda Luna, in her quest to lead a better life in the United States, soon  
20 taught herself English – a skill that she would later teach others;  
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22 WHEREAS, Casilda Luna, understanding the plight suffered by many members of the  
23 Latino immigrant community, developed community programming and asserted herself as a  
24 leader who would combat the high level of suffering and discrimination faced by the Latino and  
25 greater immigrant community;  
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27 WHEREAS, within the first six years of her arrival to the United States, Casilda Luna  
28 became a Social Worker and Latino Community Liaison for CHANGE INC, a community-non-  
29 profit organization that provided services for Afro-Americans, Hispanic, and low income  
30 residents, where she was able to assist thousands of District residents seeking badly needed  
31 services;  
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33 WHEREAS, Casilda Luna has played a key role in the establishment of many Latino  
34 community organizations, among them: Educational Opportunities For Latin Americans  
35 (EOUFULA) which is now known as VIDA Senior Center, The Hispanic Festival, the Latin  
36 American Youth Center, Latina Women In Action, the Imperial Tenant's Association, and the  
37 Mayor’s Office on Latino Affairs;

38 WHEREAS, the DC Afro Latino Caucus, has organized the Friends of Casilda Luna  
39 Committee, composed of long time Latino Community leader and emerging Latino Youth  
40 Leaders and both have embarked on an initiative to properly recognize and honor the outstanding  
41 legacy of Casilda Luna, in order to place her correctly in the annals of Latino community history.  
42 In addition, this Committee plans to coordinate a series of recognition events during the Black  
43 History Month celebrations;  
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45 WHEREAS, Casilda Luna, for her meritorious services, has received many awards and  
46 public recognitions from various entities, such as community organizations, government  
47 officials, Congressional leaders, churches and youth programs. She has also served as the Grand  
48 Marshal of the Fiesta DC Festival;  
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50 WHEREAS, Casilda Luna, continues to be a pillar in the Latino community where her  
51 work legacy and her important impact are felt on a daily basis. Casilda, has left a fitting legacy in  
52 the Latino community, one that others do well to exemplify and publicly recognize;  
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54 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this  
55 resolution may be cited as "The Casilda Luna Recognition Resolution of 2019".  
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57 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and celebrates Mrs. Casilda  
58 Luna on her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday and celebrates her many contributions to the District of Columbia.  
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60 Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in  
61 the District of Columbia Register.