

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

23-81

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

May 7, 2019

To recognize Immigrant Heritage Month and the Immigrant community as a valued and celebrated community in the District of Columbia, and to declare the month of June as Immigrant Heritage Month in the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, America is a nation of immigrants and our cultural diversity is one of our country's greatest strengths;

WHEREAS, millions of immigrants have provided the cultural diversity that has made the United States a unique nation;

WHEREAS, the first celebration of Immigration Heritage Month occurred in 2014 and many cities and municipalities have recognized the month in the years following;

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia is home to nearly 100,000 immigrants coming from all parts of the world and make up roughly 15% of the District's total population;

WHEREAS, since the 1980s the immigrant population in the District of Columbia has more than doubled in size and since 2000 immigrants have accounted for approximately a quarter of the District of Columbia's population change;

WHEREAS, immigrants from Latin America make up the largest portion of the District of Columbia's immigrant population with sizeable populations of African, Asian, and European immigrants as well;

WHEREAS, immigrants make up a sizeable portion of the workforce in industries such as the professional, scientific and technical services industry, accommodation and food services industry, as well as the health care and social assistance industry;

WHEREAS, immigrants support the District of Columbia's economy in various ways through being business owners, workers, innovators, taxpayers and neighbors;

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WHEREAS, the District of Columbia opens our arms to immigrants and recognizes the tremendous contributions they have made to our city and country;

WHEREAS, immigrants have enriched the District's culture in many ways and continue to make Washington, D.C a shining example of diversity;

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia is committed to continuing it's support for our immigrant communities and furthering their success by standing with immigrants when others hesitate to do so;

WHEREAS, June of 2019 is the 6th annual celebration of Immigrant Heritage Month nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Immigrant Heritage Month is an opportunity to honor and celebrate the history, accomplishments, and contributions of immigrants in the District of Columbia and across the United States.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Immigrant Heritage Month Ceremonial Recognition Resolution of 2019".

Sec. 2. The Council recognizes the outstanding contributions and valued accomplishments of the immigrant community in the District of Columbia and the United States of America, recognizes District residents of immigrant heritage on the occasion of Immigrant Heritage Month, and declares June 2019 as "Immigrant Heritage Month" 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.