

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

23-111

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

June 4, 2019

To honor Kojo Nnamdi for 20 years as host of the nationally recognized radio broadcast program, *The Kojo Nnamdi Show*, as well as recognize his service to the Washington metropolitan area and his leadership within the broadcast journalism community.

WHEREAS, Kojo emigrated to the United States in 1969 to explore the United States' growing civil rights movement, first living in Brooklyn, New York, before settling in Washington, D.C. and laying roots in local broadcast journalism circles;

WHEREAS, Kojo first started his professional career in broadcast journalism in 1973 as news editor and then news director of *The Daily Drum* at WHUR-FM, where he worked from 1973 to 1985;

WHEREAS, Kojo went on to contribute to other newsrooms in the Washington, D.C. area, including as host of Howard University's public affairs television program *Evening Exchange* on WHUT-TV from 1985 to 2011;

WHEREAS, in 1998, Kojo joined WAMU-FM as host of their *Public Interest* program, which later changed its name to *The Kojo Nnamdi Show* in September 2002;

WHEREAS, now nationally recognized and celebrated, *The Kojo Nnamdi Show* has won numerous awards, including multiple Public Radio News Directors Incorporated and Associated Press honors, as well as the National Association of Black Broadcasters Salute to Excellence Award;

WHEREAS, Kojo's vision for quality public programming remains at the heart of *The Kojo Nnamdi Show*, bringing listeners unmatched authenticity, depth, sensitivity, and familiarity with important issues in the Washington metropolitan area;

WHEREAS, Kojo has taken listeners on both intellectual and emotional journeys around the rapidly evolving Washington region and re-centered critical conversations about society, community, race, housing, education, politics, the arts, and more for 20 years;

**ENROLLED ORIGINAL**

WHEREAS, in celebration of his regional leadership, people-centered dialogue, and efforts to engender trust among guests and listeners alike, Kojo was honored as a civil rights hero by the National Council for Community Justice in 2001 and selected as the Library of Congress's African American History Month keynote speaker in 2003;

WHEREAS, a longtime District resident, Kojo has also be recognized for his local contributions as a 2005 "Washingtonian of the Year" by *Washingtonian* magazine, one of the 2007 "DC's Most Influential People" by *DCist*, a 2014 inductee into the Society of Professional Journalists' D.C. Chapter Hall of Fame, and a 2018 inductee into the D.C. Hall of Fame Society; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his leadership as a public radio host, Kojo served on the board of the Library of Congress American Folklife Center from 2003 to 2008 and has served as Board Chair of the Public Access Corporation of Washington, D.C., for the past 25 years.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Kojo Nnamdi 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Recognition Resolution of 2019".

Sec. 2. The Council recognizes Kojo Nnamdi for 20 years of exceptional leadership as host of *The Kojo Nnamdi Show* and his unwavering commitment to fostering thoughtful dialogue, elevating community voices, and bringing a global perspective to critical, emerging issues throughout Washington, D.C., and its surrounding communities.

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