

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

23-137

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

September 17, 2019

To celebrate and recognize the many contributions of the District’s Afro-Latino community and to declare the second week of September as “D.C. Afro-Latino Heritage and Culture Week” in the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia is home to a strong and growing community of Latin and Caribbean Americans of African ancestry;

WHEREAS, D.C. Afro-Latino Heritage and Culture Week is an opportunity for District residents and visitors to share in and promote the rich history, customs, and values of the District’s Afro-Latino American community;

WHEREAS, the Afro-Latino community has a strong tradition of political activism, notably advocating for the inclusion of Afro-Latinos in the US 2020 Census to ensure the proper collection of statistical data and to help better direct resources to address the issues facing the Afro-Latino population in the District of Columbia and across the United States of America;

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia declares support of the United Nations’ designation of this decade, January 1, 2015, to December 31, 2024, as the “International Decade for People of African Descent” and joins the international effort to promote the recognition, justice, and development for all persons of African descent in the District of Columbia and across the world;

WHEREAS, the International Decade for People of African Descent also presents the opportunity for stronger public and private-sector engagement with Afro-Latino communities. And, through the coordination of local, regional, national, and international efforts, all governments—including that of the District of Columbia—can foster and strengthen relationships and civic engagement with the Afro-Latino community;

WHEREAS, the Congressional Black Caucus’ Annual Legislative Conference has joined the United Nations’ celebration of the Afro-Latino community and will focus on the public-

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policy issues faced by the community during the remaining years of the decade through initiatives launched under the leadership of Congressman Henry C. “Hank” Johnson, Jr. (GA-04), the Council of the District of Columbia, the D.C. Afro-Latino Caucus, the Sustainable Development and Climate Change organization (SUDECC), and the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia celebrates the many longstanding social, cultural, and economic contributions made by the Latin and Caribbean Americans of African ancestry who live and work in the District of Columbia.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as “The D.C. Afro-Latino Heritage and Culture Week Recognition Resolution of 2019.”

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia celebrates the District’s Afro-Latino community and declares the second week of September as the D.C. Afro-Latino Heritage and Culture 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.