

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

23-171

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

October 8, 2019

To recognize and honor Maybelle Bennet's career and contributions to the District of Columbia and the community within and surrounding Howard University.

WHEREAS, Maybelle Bennett is a native Washingtonian and resident of the Congress Heights neighborhood;

WHEREAS, Maybelle Bennett has and will continue to dedicate herself to strong advocacy for the vitality of long-time District residents, of low and moderate-income residents, and of the cultural and historical integrity of the District of Columbia's communities;

WHEREAS, Ms. Bennett received a Bachelor's degree in Africana Studies from Vassar College and a Masters of Science in Urban Planning from Columbia University;

WHEREAS, Ms. Bennett served on the District of Columbia Zoning Commission for 16 years, serving as its Chairperson for 7 of those years and overseeing a crucial period of the District's history;

WHEREAS, Ms. Bennett has been deeply involved in the development and implementation of community planning and development in the neighborhoods surrounding Howard University, including LeDroit Park, Pleasant Plains, and Shaw;

WHEREAS, Ms. Bennett has served as Director of the Howard University Community Association since 1996, serving as a guiding voice for the University's relationship and investment in the surrounding neighborhoods;

WHEREAS, the Howard University Community Association was founded in 1995 to strengthen the relationship between the university and nearby residents;

WHEREAS, under the direction of Maybelle Bennett, the Community Association oversaw the LeDroit Park Initiative;

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WHEREAS, the LeDroit Park Initiative, since 1997, has effectively leveraged local, federal, and private funds to rehabilitate vacant housing in the LeDroit Park neighborhood, create a down payment assistance program, and invest in public infrastructure to create a thriving and diverse community;

WHEREAS, the LeDroit Park Initiative continues to invest in affordable housing and neighborhood amenities, and is considered a national model for how Universities can strategically invest in their communities;

WHEREAS, Ms. Bennett managed the 2012 Howard University Central Campus Master Plan, laying out a roadmap for enhanced academic facilities, revitalization of the Shaw-Howard WMATA station, and implementation of the DUKE plan for sustainable development and cultural facilities like the Howard Theater;

WHEREAS, Ms. Bennett oversaw Howard University's Community Service Corps program, which placed students in human services agencies and school programs within the District government;

WHEREAS, Ms. Bennett currently serves on the Board of Directors for: the Douglass Community Land Trust; Manna Ventures, Inc.; the Emergence Community Arts Collective; and the Interfaith Action for Human Rights.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Maybelle Bennett Recognition Resolution of 2019".

Sec. 2. The Council recognizes the nearly unparalleled contributions of Maybelle Bennett in crafting an inclusive city, creating a resilient community, and empowering others to engage in a conversation on our collective future. The Council wishes her the best in all of her future endeavors.

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