

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

23-174

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

October 8, 2019

To acknowledge Cora Masters Barry, civic leader and the former First Lady of the District of Columbia, for her lifelong political leadership and community activism and commemorate the founding and 25th anniversary of the Recreation Wish List Committee, a foundation that continues to make socioeconomic mobility for children and underserved youth in the District of Columbia a reality through increased access to education and sports.

WHEREAS, Cora Masters Barry founded the Recreation Wish List Committee in 1995 to provide educational and recreational opportunities for underserved children and teenagers living in the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, the Recreation Wish List Committee has established the theme of this year's twenty-fifth-anniversary celebration as "25 and Still We Thrive, Transforming Children's Lives";

WHEREAS, the primary mission of the Recreation Wish List Committee is to strengthen the ability of the District of Columbia's Department of Parks and Recreation to provide quality recreational and educational enrichment services to local children and youth during after school time and the summer in safe, well-maintained facilities and parks;

WHEREAS, the Recreation Wish List Committee serves as a model public/private partnership, sharing the resources and talents of the members of the Recreation Wish List Committee and of the representatives of the District of Columbia's Department of Parks and Recreation;

WHEREAS, Cora Masters Barry founded the Southeast Tennis and Learning Center in collaboration with the District of Columbia Department of Parks and Recreation in 2001;

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WHEREAS, the mission of the Southeast Tennis and Learning Center is to use the sport of tennis as a conduit to be a builder of confidence, the teacher of fair play, a mediator in using strengths to overcome weakness, motivators of academic excellence, and the bridge between competition and compassion;

WHEREAS, the Southeast Tennis and Learning Center is recognized as a premier state-of-the art tennis facility by the United States Tennis Association (USTA) Mid-Atlantic region and serves as home to the George Washington University Varsity Tennis Team;

WHEREAS, thousands of children, primarily between the ages of 3 to 17 and mostly from the city's underserved Ward 7 and 8 neighborhoods, have benefited from education, cultural, enrichment, and athletic programs, with hundreds going on to receive full academic or sports scholarships at institutions of higher education;

WHEREAS, the Southeast Tennis and Learning Center combines academics, cultural enrichment, technology and tennis to inspire young people to challenge them, take pride in their accomplishments, and value the efforts and achievements of others;

WHEREAS, the Recreation Wish List Committee and the Southeast Tennis and Learning Center have been invaluable institutions in Washington, D.C.;

WHEREAS, Cora Masters Barry, a longtime resident of the District of Columbia, pursued her master's degree at Howard University, began her career in public service as a counselor for teenage girls with Operation Sisters United in the Anacostia and Shaw neighborhoods, and taught at the University of the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, in 1980, Cora Masters Barry became the first woman to be appointed to and served as the Chairman of the District of Columbia's Boxing and Wrestling Commission;

WHEREAS, Cora Masters Barry has been and remains politically active in the District of Columbia, playing a pivotal role in the election and reelection of her late husband, Marion Barry, as a four-term Mayor in the District of Columbia.

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RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as “The Cora Masters Barry and the 25th Anniversary of the Recreation Wish List Committee Recognition Resolution of 2019”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and honors Cora Masters Barry, civic leader and former First Lady of the District of Columbia, for her lifelong political and community activism and commemorates the 25th anniversary celebration of the Recreation Wish List Committee, a foundation that continues to make socioeconomic mobility for children and underserved youth in the District of Columbia a reality through increased access to education and sports.

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