

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

23-197

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

November 5, 2019

To honor and recognize Kwame Onwuachi and to recognize the impact that he has made through his entrepreneurship and engagement in Wards 5 and 6, and the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, Kwame Onwuachi was born in Long Island, New York and grew up in the Bronx;

WHEREAS, after overcoming a difficult upbringing, Kwame Onwuachi peddled candy on the New York subway and used the funds to finance his catering business;

WHEREAS, in 2013, Kwame Onwuachi graduated from the Culinary Institute of America and worked at “Per Se” and “Eleven Madison Park,” celebrated elite restaurants in Manhattan;

WHEREAS, in 2015, Kwame Onwuachi was featured as a prominent contestant, finishing in third place on the “Bravo” television series “Top Chef;”

WHEREAS, Kwame Onwuachi moved to the District of Columbia in 2015 and soon after opened his own restaurant in a converted townhouse in the Shaw neighborhood named the “Shaw Bijou;”

WHEREAS, in late 2017, Kwame Onwuachi became the only African American to open a restaurant at the Southwest Wharf in the InterContinental Hotel called “Kith and Kin” that serves opulent Afro-Caribbean food;

WHEREAS, in recognizing the success of “Kith and Kin,” *Forbes* awarded him a position on the “30 Under 30” list;

WHEREAS, in 2019, Kwame Onwuachi was named Rising Star Chef of the Year at the James Beard Awards and *Food & Wine* magazine named him one of its Best New Chefs;

**ENROLLED ORIGINAL**

WHEREAS, in 2019, Kwame Onwuachi released his auto biography “Notes from a Young Black Chef: A Memoir,” which admirably illustrates the extreme highs and lows of his extensive journey to becoming a successful chef in an elite and relentless industry;

WHEREAS, Kwame Onwuachi was featured on “The Daily Show” where he announced that his autobiography will be adapted into a feature film;

WHEREAS, Kwame Onwuachi has been an active member of his community where he fundraises for non-profit organizations such as No Hungry Kid and DC Central Kitchen; and

WHEREAS, Kwame Onwuachi has served his community in the District of Columbia in a variety of ways, including hiring and mentoring at-risk adults, and has had an immense impact on the lives of our residents.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Kwame Onwuachi Ceremonial Recognition Resolution of 2019”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and honors Kwame Onwuachi for his culinary contributions, his entrepreneurial spirit, and his commitment to the District of Columbia.

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