

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

23-212

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

December 3, 2019

To recognize and honor Coach Neal Henderson for his induction into the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame and for his many contributions to the Fort Dupont Ice Hockey Club, and to the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, Coach Neal Henderson moved to Washington, D.C., in the 1960s and began teaching hockey to neighborhood kids;

WHEREAS, when the demand grew, Coach Henderson rented space at the Fort Dupont Ice Arena and established the Fort Dupont Ice Hockey Club, known as the Cannons, with his high school classmate, Betty Dean in 1978;

WHEREAS, the Fort Dupont Ice Hockey Club is a developmental program with a mission to use hockey to establish self-esteem and a sense of purpose in young people, and to offer them an incentive to excel academically;

WHEREAS, the Fort Dupont Ice Hockey Club is the oldest minority hockey club in North America;

WHEREAS, the Fort Dupont Ice Hockey Club provides the District of Columbia's youth the opportunity to learn hockey and participate in an organized league;

WHEREAS, the program has more than 1,000 children over four decades;

WHEREAS, Coach Henderson ensures each participant excels in school by checking participants' report cards and implementing consequences for any failing grade, including sending participants to do homework while dressed in hockey gear;

WHEREAS, the team is made up of 50 players ages 8 to 18 and is free to participants;

WHEREAS, Coach Henderson uses the club's uniform and colors to teach players about African American history in the nation's capital;

WHEREAS, Coach Henderson's work with the D.C. hockey community has been routinely recognized by the Washington Capitals, including a visit by Capitals captain Alex Ovechkin and

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owner Ted Leonsis, who brought the Stanley Cup to share with Coach Henderson and his players; and

WHEREAS, Coach Neal Henderson was inducted into the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame Class of 2019 for his immeasurable contributions to the game of hockey.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Coach Neal Henderson Recognition Resolution of 2019”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and honors Coach Neal Henderson for his induction into the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame and his commitments and contributions to the Fort Dupont Ice Hockey Club, and to District of Columbia.

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