

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

23-232

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

January 7, 2020

To recognize the 45th anniversary of Sasha Bruce Youthwork and to celebrate and honor Deborah Shore for her 45 years of service to Sasha Bruce Youthwork and the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, Deborah Shore is the daughter of a social worker mother and a chemist father who was an activist, both of whom sparked her interest in advocating for youth and families;

WHEREAS, one of Deborah Shore's first jobs was as a recreation counselor in a public housing development in Ohio, where she advocated for families seeking employment;

WHEREAS, after graduating from Antioch College in Ohio, Deborah Shore relocated to the District of Columbia and founded Sasha Bruce Youthwork, originally known as the Washington Streetwork Project in 1974;

WHEREAS, with a small staff and a few volunteers, Deborah Shore counseled homeless youth and out-of-town runaways in the Georgetown and Dupont neighborhoods of the District of Columbia, where they congregated;

WHEREAS, in 1976, Evangeline Bruce, wife of Ambassador David Bruce, discovered the Washington Streetwork Project, following the tragic death of their daughter Sasha;

WHEREAS, Evangeline Bruce donated funds to Deborah Shore and the Washington Streetwork Project to start a youth shelter in memory of Sasha;

WHEREAS, Deborah Shore opened the Sasha Bruce House in 1977, becoming the District of Columbia's premiere 24-hour homeless youth shelter;

WHEREAS, Sasha Bruce Youthwork works to improve the lives of runaway, homeless, abused, and neglected youth and their families in the metropolitan area;

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WHEREAS, Sasha Bruce Youthwork provides shelter, counseling, life skills training, and positive youth development activities to approximately 6,000 consumers each year;

WHEREAS, Deborah Shore created a competency-based approach to counseling and supportive services that empowers at-risk and homeless youth with the assistance of an exceptional staff and strong management systems;

WHEREAS, through her visionary work, Deborah Shore has grown Sasha Bruce Youthwork from a small outreach organization to a leading provider of youth homeless services in the metropolitan area;

WHEREAS, through 45 years of mission-driven work, Deborah Shore has developed a deep understanding of the needs of troubled youth and families, and with supreme expertise, has met the needs of thousands of youth and families;

WHEREAS, Deborah Shore played a key role in the passage of the *Runaway and Homeless Youth Act*, that was signed into law in 1974 by President Gerald Ford, establishing the National Runaway Safeline, a critical component of the nation's response to homeless youth;

WHEREAS, Deborah Shore utilizes her knowledge and experience to change local and federal policies by testifying before Congress and the Council of the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, Deborah Shore has committed her life to advocating, uplifting and empowering youth and families and has led groundbreaking work in youth and family services in the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, Deborah Shore received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Network for Youth in 2007 and in 2012 she was awarded the prestigious Champions of Change Award from President Barack Obama for her ongoing work in preventing youth homelessness; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, Deborah Shore was inducted into the Washington, DC Hall of Fame Society in recognition of her historic contribution to civic and community development in the nation's capital, and in 2016, the Washingtonian Magazine recognized Deborah Shore as Washingtonian of the Year.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this resolution be cited as the "45th Anniversary of Sasha Bruce Youthwork and the Deborah Shore Recognition Resolution of 2020".

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Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes the 45th Anniversary of Sasha Bruce Youthwork and honors Deborah Shore for her commitment to homeless youth in the District of Columbia and her groundbreaking work in youth and family services in the nation's capital.

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