



Councilmember Brandon T. Todd

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To recognize and honor Michael L. Benjamin for his outstanding accomplishments as an award-winning public and mental health advocate, author and educator, and commend him for his civic and professional contributions to the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, Michael L. Benjamin is a native of Oakland, California;

WHEREAS, Michael L. Benjamin received his B.A. in psychology from Texas Southern University 1964, and a M.P.H. in Mental Health Administration from Yale University in 1972;

WHEREAS, Michael L. Benjamin started his career as a German language high school teacher in Beaumont, Texas;

WHEREAS, in 1967, Michael L. Benjamin served as a Public Health Advisor with the U.S. Public Health Services in New York, NY where he served as a field epidemiologist and developed public health education programs for community organizations;

WHEREAS, in 1969, Michael L. Benjamin co-authored a five-year NIMH grant with Yale University School of Medicine for evaluating the scope of drug use among adolescent;

WHEREAS, from 1974 to 1977, Michael L. Benjamin served as the Associative Legislative Director for Human Services and Program Director for Mental Health Service for the National Association of Counties where he directed a three-year project funded by the National Institute of Mental Health that created county based operational manuals for alcohol treatment and mental health services in the criminal justice system;

44 WHEREAS, from 1977 to 1981, Michael L. Benjamin served as a Health Scientist
45 Administrator and Public Health Advisor with the National Institute of Mental Health
46 in Rockville, Maryland and after serving there, he became the first Executive Director of
47 a comprehensive community mental health center in Portland, Oregon;

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49 WHEREAS, from 1991 to 1993, Michael L. Benjamin served as the Chief
50 Executive Officer for Employee Assistance Professionals Association in Arlington,
51 Virginia, where he collaborated with the President’s Commission on Model State Drugs
52 Laws that created a model EAP statute in 1993;

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54 WHEREAS, from 1993 to 1999, Michael L. Benjamin served as the Executive
55 Director of the Institute for Mental Health Initiatives where he collaborated with the
56 National PTA and the University of Wisconsin in conducting a national survey of
57 parents regarding TV Ratings System in response to the 1996 Telecommunication Act;

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59 WHEREAS, from 1999 to 2006 Michael L. Benjamin served as the Executive
60 Director of the National Council of Family Relations in Minneapolis, Minnesota, an
61 international organization with 7,000 members, and served as the author and principal
62 investigator of a five-year federal grant from the Administration of Children and
63 Families to establish a National Healthy Marriage Resource Center;

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65 WHEREAS, from 2006 to 2013, Michael L. Benjamin served as the Executive
66 Director of the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, in Reston, Virginia
67 where he provided strategic planning, leadership for partnerships and expanded
68 marketing and outreach programming to high school students of color;

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70 WHEREAS, for two years after his retirement in 2013, Michael L. Benjamin
71 served in a volunteer capacity as the Collaboration Manager with the Executive Office
72 of the Mayor where he assisted the Director of the Office of Partnerships and Grant
73 Services with stakeholder reengagement and outreach programming as well as
74 consulting with the DC Criminal Justice Coordinating Council in developing its grant
75 management protocols;

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77 WHEREAS, Michael L. Benjamin worked as a Census Field Supervisor where he
78 was responsible for training, deployment, and support for the field staff conducting the
79 2020 Census based out of Washington D.C.;

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81 WHEREAS, Michael L. Benjamin, now retired, continues to serve as a substitute
82 teacher in the District of Columbia Public Schools;

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86 WHEREAS, Michael L. Benjamin has served in a number of faculty appointments
87 with numerous universities including George Mason University, Howard University,
88 Evergreen State College (Vancouver, Washington Campus), Oregon Health and
89 Sciences University and Yale University;

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91 WHEREAS, Michael L. Benjamin has received numerous grants and special
92 recognition awards including the Outstanding Young Man of America Award, the
93 Texas Southern University Alumni of the Year Award, the Dedicated Service Award
94 from the University of Minnesota and a Gimbel Foundation Research Fellowship; and

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96 WHEREAS, Michael L. Benjamin has received numerous civic awards from
97 organizations both nationally and in the District of Columbia, has held board positions
98 with several organizations including having served as the Treasurer of the Board of the
99 Hillcrest Children and Family Center and since 2016 has served as the President of the
100 Civic League of North Portal Estates.

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102 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this
103 resolution may be cited as the “Michael L. Benjamin Ceremonial Recognition Resolution
104 of 2020”.

105 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes, honors, and
106 congratulates Michael L. Benjamin for his invaluable contributions to public and mental
107 health, human and family services policies and programs, education, and criminal
108 justice.

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