

**ENROLLED ORIGINAL**

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

23-334

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

December 1, 2020

To celebrate the 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Washington Chapter of Girl Friends, Inc., and recognize and honor the organization for their pivotal role in the African American community.

WHEREAS, the Washington Chapter of Girl Friends, Inc. was formed on May 8, 1936, sponsored by the Baltimore Chapter of Girl Friends, Inc., and accepted into membership of the national organization at the annual National Girl Friends Conclave in Boston, Massachusetts;

WHEREAS, the charter members were 8 friends known since 1933 as the “Jolly Eight”, and include Thelma Baltimore, Marbelle Steele Fraser, Julia Singleton Jackson, Vivian Wilson Johnson, Bettie Taylor Julian, Elise Fletcher Nichols, Dorothy Howard Sayles and Garice Booker Williams;

WHEREAS, since its establishment, the Washington Chapter of Girl Friends, Inc. has contributed to many national and local charitable and cultural organizations that have included the Girl Friends Fund, Inc. (for scholarships), The Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial on the National Mall, Providence Hospital Teen Pregnancy Project, The High Tea Society, the National Urban League, Black Women’s Agenda, Children’s Defense Fund, Howard University Medical School, Howard University Cancer Research Center, Healthy Babies, Adult Literacy Council (Metropolitan Baptist Church), National Council of Negro Women, Black Child Development Institute, House of Ruth, NAACP, National Museum of African American History and Culture, and many more;

WHEREAS, the Washington Chapter of Girl Friends, Inc. Social Action Committee has organized a Career Day at the Washington School for Girls and Easter Egg Hunt for the children at the Community of Hope Apartments. The Committee has arranged donations of Thanksgiving baskets, collected books for District of Columbia school children and instituted an annual holiday drive to provide shoebox gifts of hats, gloves, undergarments, socks and toiletries for men, women and children at SOME (So Others May Eat);

WHEREAS, the Washington Chapter of Girl Friends, Inc. continues to promote the ideals of friendship through its active monthly calendar of social activities and through the designation of the months of December, February and June as purely social gatherings;

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WHEREAS, the Washington Chapter of Girl Friends, Inc. has expressed its philanthropic mission by sponsoring several cotillions since 1960 and enabled the financial support of local charities through its 501(c)3 Outreach Fund;

WHEREAS, the Washington Chapter of Girl Friends, Inc. hosted the National Conclave in 1941, 1955 and 1987 and hosted the National Executive Meetings in November 1954, October 1973, 1982 and October 1993;

WHEREAS, the neighboring Chapters of Potomac, Baltimore, and Loudoun have joined with the Washington Chapter of Girl Friends, Inc. to form a Friendship group to share special concerns and acknowledge each other during the Friendship Month of February with jointly planned activities; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Chapter of Girl Friends, Inc. welcomes its role as one of the guardians of African American culture, champions of the beauty, grace and power of African American women and proponents of civility and the strength of friendship, which is precious.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Washington Chapter of Girl Friends, Inc. Ceremonial Recognition Resolution of 2020”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and commends the Washington Chapter of Girl Friends, Inc. for its social and charitable contributions to the District of Columbia and celebrates its 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.