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Councilmember Anita Bonds

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

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COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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To posthumously honor, recognize, and memorialize the life and legacy of Betty King, and her charitable and civic contributions to the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, Betty King served the District of Columbia with distinction as a civic leader, community activist, women’s rights advocate, political advisor, artist, author, International educator, and celebrated civil servant;

WHEREAS, Ms. King was born in Cleveland, OH, in 1932 to Warren Griffin King and Katherine Elizabeth White King and attended Laurel School in Cleveland, Miss Masters School in Dobbs Ferry, NY, and Vassar and Finch Colleges in New York;

WHEREAS, while in New York, Ms. King began her lifelong support of the arts community working on and off Broadway and administering scholarships and training programs to the African American Institute;

WHEREAS, Ms. King was an enduring proponent of the African continent and people, becoming an educator when she served as Executive Director of the Mozambique Institute in Tanzania, East Africa and an international businesswoman when she was named Director and Chairman of the Board of Continental Ore Ltd. and International Gems;

WHEREAS, Ms. King worked for the 1972 McGovern for President campaign, the National Women’s Caucus, and the National Bicentennial Commission;

WHEREAS, Ms. King served as principal fundraiser and political organizer of the historic 1978 Marion Barry Mayoral Campaign, from which she spearheaded an oral history project that is now housed at George Washington University’s Gelman Library;

WHEREAS, Ms. King served as special Assistant to the Mayor for Boards and Commissions where she facilitated historic nominations of women, LGBTQ, and minority appointees; served as Deputy Chief of Staff for the Mayor; as Director of the Mayor’s Office of the Ombudsman; and Vice Chairperson of the Board of Zoning Adjustment in the Marion Barry administrations;

43 WHEREAS, Ms. King loved the social, political and cultural fabric of life in the District of  
44 Columbia, her home for over 30 years, where she was an elected member of the local Democratic  
45 State Committee, the national Democratic Party and Americans for Democratic Action, and non-  
46 profit organizations such as the Historical Society of Washington, D.C.; and was as a founding  
47 member of FRESHFARM Markets- DuPont Circle’s first farmer’s market;

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49 WHEREAS, Mr. King retired in Miami Beach, FL where she remained active with political,  
50 charitable and civic affairs, supported numerous artists and emerging arts, served on the Miami-Dade  
51 Democratic Executive Committee, and volunteered with Radio Reader, a radio station for the blind;

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53 WHEREAS, Ms. King was a publisher and author who wrote about various topics ranging  
54 from cooking, international travel, and history and genealogy; and

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56 WHEREAS, Mr. King passed peacefully on February 23, 2020 in Miami Beach, Florida.

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58 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this  
59 resolution may be cited as the “Betty King Posthumous Recognition Resolution of 2020”.

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61 Sec. 2. The Council recognizes and honors the late Betty King for her service to the District  
62 of Columbia

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