

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

24-56

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

June 1, 2021

To recognize and honor the Gay Men’s Chorus of Washington, DC on the occasion of its 40th anniversary.

WHEREAS, led initially by Marsha Pearson, gay men and allies began meeting to organize what is now the Gay Men’s Chorus of Washington, DC on June 28, 1981;

WHEREAS, the Gay Men’s Chorus of Washington, DC held its first public performance on September 23, 1981, at the invitation of then-Mayor Marion Barry, to mark the opening of an office of what is now known as the National LGBTQ Task Force, in what is now known as the John A. Wilson Building;

WHEREAS, today, the Gay Men’s Chorus of Washington, DC is a community performing arts organization that is open to performers of all gender identities and sexual orientations and that includes several lower-register vocal ensembles, a dance ensemble, and an LGBTQ+ youth chorus;

WHEREAS, the Gay Men’s Chorus of Washington, DC brings together over 250 singing members and reaches more than 10,000 audience members through over 125 outreach performances in a typical year;

WHEREAS, in the years since its founding, the Gay Men’s Chorus of Washington, DC has sung at the White House, performed in Kennedy Center Honors galas, appeared on national television, sent ensemble tours across the nation and around the world, and earned multiple Washington Area Music Awards for its recordings;

WHEREAS, the Gay Men’s Chorus of Washington, DC also organizes its members and the broader community to participate in charitable and community service actions, including at food banks and health care facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Gay Men’s Chorus of Washington, DC will present its 40th anniversary show, “GMCW Turns 40,” from June 5 through June 20, 2021.

**ENROLLED ORIGINAL**

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Gay Men’s Chorus of Washington, DC 40th Anniversary Recognition Resolution of 2021”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and honors the Gay Men’s Chorus of Washington, DC’s 40 years of visibility, dedication, and joyful musicality.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.