

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

24-58

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

June 15, 2021

To join the global community in recognition of the “International Decade for People of African Descent” from January 1, 2015, to December 31, 2024.

WHEREAS, the Council of the District of Columbia supports the “International Decade for People of African Descent” and recognizes the Federal City Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated for its commitment to social action, especially on issues pertaining to women and the Black community;

WHEREAS, as a nongovernmental organization, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated holds official Special Consultative Status at the United Nations, and the Federal City Alumnae Chapter practices international awareness and involvement, especially concerning the rights and policies affecting women, children, and the African Diaspora;

WHEREAS, on November 18, 2014, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 69/16 to outline a program of activities to recognize the implementation of the “International Decade for People of African Descent” as nearly 200 million people in the Americas identified as Afro-descendants, and millions more reside around the world, outside of the African continent;

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2015, the International Day of the Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, the United Nations unveiled the *Permanent Memorial to Honour the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade* at the United Nations Visitors Plaza in New York City;

WHEREAS, on December 4, 2015, President Barack Obama issued a proclamation recognizing the 150th Anniversary of the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery in the United States;

WHEREAS, the 2015 annual implementation report described the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent’s findings on the “alarming levels of police brutality, excessive use of lethal force by law enforcement officials, racial bias and disparities in the criminal justice system, mass incarcerations and tough-on-crime policies that have had a disproportionate

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impact on African Americans.” The Group further stated that there is “a persistent gap in almost all the human development indicators between African Americans and the rest of the population”;

WHEREAS, the United Nations Secretary-General’s 2017 implementation annual report specifically highlighted the lack of “universal health insurance” and disproportionate impact on and treatment of African American women resulting from the intersection between the existing disparities and discrimination in the United States’ legal system and the resulting challenges in accessing preventive care and treatment;

WHEREAS, with only 4 years remaining in the “International Decade for People of African Descent,” time is of the essence. The Federal City Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated supports measures that prioritize the needs of people of African descent in the District of Columbia, such as B24-0048, “the Reparations Foundation Fund and Task Force Establishment Act of 2021”; and

WHEREAS, the alarming rates of continued disparities in issues like health care, maternal mortality, education, housing, economic opportunity, policing, environmental justice, and additional sectors that were exacerbated and further exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, highlight the considerable and intense work that remains for Washington, D.C. and the United States to make progress in realizing the goals, promises, and intentions of the “International Decade for People of African Descent”.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “International Decade for People of African Descent Recognition Resolution of 2021”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2024 as the “International Decade for People of African Descent” in the District of Columbia.

Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia also affirms the belief that all levels of government must prioritize effective policies and programs to combat systematic racism, racial discrimination, and xenophobia, which people of African descent encounter – a view also held by the Federal City Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.