

Brianne K. Nadeau

Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To recognize, honor, and celebrate Brenda Donald’s leadership and guidance as Director of the Child and Family Services Agency and exemplary service and contribution to the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, Brenda Donald was born on April 16, 1955;

WHEREAS, a native Washingtonian, Brenda Donald attended Ballou Senior High School;

WHEREAS, Brenda Donald is a mother to Justin and Brittany, grandmother to Kayla, Nadia, Alexis, and Joshua, and sister to Adrian;

WHEREAS, Brenda Donald received her Bachelor’s degree in Communication, Journalism, and Related Programs from The George Washington University, and her Master of Public Administration from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock;

WHEREAS, Brenda Donald served as Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services (DMHHS) for the District from 2015 to 2017 in which she ensured residents of all ages receive the services they need to lead healthy and productive lives;

1 WHEREAS, under her leadership, Brenda Donald led efforts to establish the Safe
2 at Home program, a partnership between the DC Office on Aging and the Department of
3 Housing and Community Development;

4 WHEREAS, Brenda Donald initiated the Genesis program, the first
5 intergenerational housing program for seniors and teen moms aging out of foster care;

6 WHEREAS, Brenda Donald established Safer Stronger DC Community
7 Partnership Prevention Programs, which connects more residents to job training and
8 employment opportunities, works to end cycles of violence, and enriches students
9 throughout all eight wards to benefit from summer and out-of-school programs;

10 WHEREAS, Brenda Donald served as Vice President of the Center for Effective
11 Family Services and Systems (CEFSS) at the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Nation's
12 largest organization dedicated to improving the lives of vulnerable children and families;

13 WHEREAS, while at CEFSS, Brenda Donald oversaw programs that promoted
14 improvements in public systems such as child welfare and juvenile justice, with a focus
15 on expanding evidence-based best practices;

16 WHEREAS, Brenda Donald served as Director of Child and Family Services
17 Agency (CFSA) in three instances from January 2005 until present;

18 WHEREAS, within the first two months of her initial tenure, Brenda Donald
19 established a strategic agenda known for as the Four Pillars that has focused the District
20 child welfare system on improving outcomes for children, youth, and families;

21 WHEREAS, through the Four Pillars, CFSA uses the best practices in addressing
22 reports of child abuse/neglect and increased support for families to reduce the number of

1 District children in foster care from about 1,800 at the start of 2012 to under 700 today,
2 even as the city’s population has increased by 100,000 residents;

3 WHEREAS, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Brenda Donald oversaw the
4 timely opening of 10 Family First Success Centers, which offers youth and families the
5 needed assistance of mitigating trauma and preventing crises through early engagement;

6 WHEREAS, Brenda Donald is the recipient of Child Welfare League of America
7 (CWLA) 100th Anniversary Champions for Children Award;

8 WHEREAS, Brenda Donald continues her service to the District government as
9 she prepares for her new role as the Interim Director of DC Housing Authority; and

10 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That
11 this resolution may be cited as the “Brenda Donald Recognition Resolution of 2021.”

12 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and celebrates Brenda
13 Donald for 25 years of senior management service to both the District government and
14 the non-profit sectors.

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