

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

24-72

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

August 3, 2021

To recognize and honor Sheila Alexander-Reid, Director of the Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning Affairs, for her service to the District of Columbia and its residents, on the occasion of her departure from her role as Director.

WHEREAS, in 1981, Sheila Alexander-Reid graduated from Spelman College with a Bachelor of Arts in English (Mass Communications);

WHEREAS, Ms. Reid joined the marketing and community outreach staff of the Washington City Paper in 1987 and helped lead that organization through a period of impressive growth, including as Director of Strategic Engagement;

WHEREAS, in the early 1990s, Ms. Reid founded Women in the Life, an organization that provided a newsletter and then a magazine celebrating the accomplishments of Black women, produced events centered around Black lesbians, and advocated for social justice;

WHEREAS, Ms. Reid has served the District's LGBTQ communities as the host of the Inside Out radio show, as a Vice President of the organization now known as Capital Stonewall Democrats, and as publisher of Zora's Journal, a collection of breast cancer memoirs by lesbians of color;

WHEREAS, in 2014, Ms. Reid joined the Washington Blade, a longstanding news organization serving LGBTQ communities in the District of Columbia and nationwide, as Vice President of Strategic Branding and Digital Initiatives;

WHEREAS, in January 2015, Mayor Muriel Bowser appointed Ms. Reid as Acting Director of the District of Columbia Office of LGBTQ Affairs (then known as the Office of GLBT Affairs), and on April 14, 2015, the Council of the District of Columbia unanimously confirmed Ms. Reid's nomination as Director;

WHEREAS, the Office of LGBTQ Affairs serves and advocates on behalf of the LGBTQ population of the District of Columbia, which is proportionally greater than that of any U.S. state;

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WHEREAS, during Ms. Reid's tenure as Director, she has built ties across the District government, overseen the Office of LGBTQ Affairs' growth, led the implementation of the LGBTQ Homeless Youth Reform Amendment Act of 2014, and established the Office's location in the Frank D. Reeves Center, to increase its accessibility to the community;

WHEREAS, organizations including the D.C. Center for the LGBT Community and An Uncommon Legacy Foundation Inc. have honored Ms. Reid for her contributions to the District of Columbia and its LGBTQ communities; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Reid has announced her intention to depart the Office to take on the challenge of promoting diversity and addressing bias in other areas.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Sheila Alexander-Reid Recognition Resolution of 2021".

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and honors Sheila Alexander-Reid for her service to the District of Columbia and its LGBTQ communities.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.