

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

24-87

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

October 5, 2021

To commemorate and recognize October 2, 2021, as International Wrongful Conviction Day in the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, International Wrongful Conviction Day was established on October 2, 2013, by the Innocence Network to raise awareness of the causes and remedies of wrongful conviction;

WHEREAS, the personal, social, and emotional costs of wrongful conviction on those wrongfully convicted and their families are immense;

WHEREAS, according to the National Registry of Exonerations' most recent report, it recorded 129 exonerations in 2020 across 27 states;

WHEREAS, there were 2 exonerations in the District Columbia in 2020, Troy Burner, who spent nearly 25 years in prison after being wrongfully convicted for a crime he did not commit, and Dennis Butler, who was exonerated at the federal level in July 2020 nearly 50 years after his arrest in 1970;

WHEREAS, according to the National Registry of Exonerations, defendants exonerated in 2020 spent an average of 13.4 years incarcerated for their convictions, which amounts to a total of 1,737 years lost;

WHEREAS, the Innocence Network is an affiliation of organizations dedicated to providing pro-bono legal and investigative services to individuals who have been wrongfully convicted, rectifying the causes of wrongful convictions, and supporting exonerees after their release;

WHEREAS, the Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project is a member of the Innocence Network and works to prevent and correct the conviction of innocent individuals in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project's most recent victory in the District of

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

Columbia was for Troy Burner, who was exonerated after previously being released through the Incarceration Reduction Amendment Act (IRAA).

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “International Wrongful Conviction Day Recognition Resolution of 2021”.

Sec. 2. The Council recognizes International Wrongful Conviction Day in the District of Columbia and honors the important work of organizations that work to end wrongful convictions and help those who have been wrongfully convicted.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.