

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

24-104

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

November 2, 2021

To recognize the Transgender Day of Remembrance, to celebrate the resilience of transgender individuals, and to declare Saturday, November 20, 2021, as “Transgender Day of Remembrance” in the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, on August 7, 1995, Tyra Hunter, a Black transgender woman, suffered life-threatening injuries in a traffic accident in the District of Columbia, but emergency medical service technicians and other employees of the District government refused to provide her with standard lifesaving medical treatment after determining that she was transgender;

WHEREAS, Tyra Hunter died that night, and expert testimony in a subsequent lawsuit against the District of Columbia revealed that adequate medical treatment would have given her an 86% chance of survival, but the District government appealed a jury verdict awarding her mother \$2.9 million and insisted on a lesser settlement amount;

WHEREAS, in 1998, residents of Allston, Massachusetts and surrounding communities came together to mourn Rita Hester, a Black transgender woman whose murder inspired the Remembering Our Dead online project and eventually the Transgender Day of Remembrance observed each year on November 20;

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia has a particularly alarming history of violence against transgender individuals including the murders of Zoe Spears, Ashanti Carmon, Deeniquia Dodds, Deoni Jones, Lashai Mclean, Tyli’a Mack, Elexius Woodland, Bella Evangelista, Emonie Spaulding, Stephanie Thomas, Ukea Davis, and too many others;

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia strives to be a city that is welcoming and safe for all, including with its laws and budget, but the District government must continue to find ways to make the District of Columbia a safe and supportive place for transgender residents and visitors to thrive;

WHEREAS, over the past several years hateful and discriminatory rhetoric and actions toward transgender individuals and communities have steadily increased, including new laws in many states targeting transgender people for mistreatment;

WHEREAS, incarceration, homelessness, and poverty disproportionately harm transgender people, especially transgender women of color, and continue to claim their lives;

**ENROLLED ORIGINAL**

WHEREAS, since the 2020 Transgender Day of Remembrance, transgender people in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia, have continued to die by homicide, including Taya Ashton, EJ Boykin, and Danika Henson;

WHEREAS, the inequities faced by transgender people have claimed the lives this year of Giselle Hartzog, Kim Tova Wirtz, and Nona Moselle Conner;

WHEREAS, many transgender community members die every year without recognition of the true impact of discrimination they shouldered; and

WHEREAS, the transgender community and allies in the District of Columbia have commemorated Transgender Day of Remembrance since 2001 and communities and organizations here and around the world will observe the Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20, 2021.

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

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia declares November 20, 2021, as the “Transgender Day of Remembrance” in the District of Columbia.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.