

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

24-144

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

March 1, 2022

To commemorate and celebrate March 2022 as Women’s History Month in the District of Columbia and to recognize the history and accomplishments of women in the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, Women’s History Month was established by Congress in 1987;

WHEREAS, since 1995, presidents have issued annual proclamations designating March as “Women’s History Month”;

WHEREAS, this month is a celebration of the contributions women have made to the United States and a recognition of specific achievements women have made over the course of history across all fields;

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, 52.6% of residents in the District identify as women;

WHEREAS, the District is home to a rich and exciting history of exceptional contributions of women across a variety of fields;

WHEREAS, many influential women throughout history have called the District home;

WHEREAS, Mary McLeod Bethune, as the president of the National Association of Colored Women, purchased property at 1318 Vermont Ave making the organization the first black-led organization to be headquartered in the District;

WHEREAS, Shirley Horn, a singer and pianist born in the District and who studied at Howard University, was nominated for 9 Grammy Awards and won in 1999 for Best Vocal Performance;

WHEREAS, Sharon Pratt, a native Washingtonian, became the first Black woman to be Mayor of the District of Columbia from 1991 to 1995;

WHEREAS, Chita Rivera, born in the District, is a singer, dancer, and actor who starred in Broadway Musicals including *West Side Story*, *Chicago*, and *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, has

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won 3 Tony Awards, and was the first Hispanic woman and first Latina to receive the prestigious Kennedy Center Honors award; and

WHEREAS, Women’s History Month is a time to celebrate how much women in the District have accomplished and contributed to make the District and the U.S. a better place to live;

WHEREAS, the celebration of Women’s History Month reminds us of the need to advance the cause of gender equity in the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, the District government has a role to play in both celebrating the historic accomplishments of women and proactively advancing gender equity through policy and legislation;

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia Commission for Women Act of 1978 established the Commission for Women and tasked it with conducting studies, reviewing progress, developing, recommending, and undertaking action, and initiating and conducting programs aimed at eliminating discrimination on the basis of sex and ensuring equality of rights and responsibilities of men and women under the law;

WHEREAS, the Commission for Women is assisted in its important role by the Office on Women’s Policy and Initiatives; and,

WHEREAS, the Commission for Women, the Office on Women’s Policy and Initiatives, the Council, and the entire District government should redouble efforts during Women’s History Month and throughout the year to advance gender equity in the District.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Women’s History Month Recognition Resolution of 2022”.

Sec. 2. The Council recognizes Women’s History Month in the District of Columbia and celebrates the exceptional contributions from women across the United States and the District.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.