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Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie



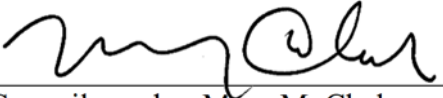
Chairman Phil Mendelson



Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau



Councilmember Brooke Pinto



Councilmember Mary M. Cheh



Councilmember Charles Allen

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To celebrate Nowruz and recognize its cultural and historical significance.

WHEREAS, Nowruz, meaning “New Day”, occurs on the vernal equinox and celebrates the arrival of spring, usually falling on March 20th or March 21st;

WHEREAS, Nowruz is an ancient cultural celebration that has been celebrated and preserved for over 3,000 years;

WHEREAS, according to the United Nations, Nowruz is currently celebrated by more than 300 million people worldwide, including individuals in Iran, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, and other countries and peoples spanning from Eastern Europe to China, and their diaspora communities in the United States and across the world;

WHEREAS, Nowruz symbolizes a time of renewal and community, it harkens the departure from the trials and tribulations of the previous year and brings hope for the New Year, hand in hand with nature;

WHEREAS, Nowruz is celebrated by peoples of all religious and cultural and racial backgrounds, including those with Muslim, Christian, Jewish, Baha’i, Zoroastrian, and nonreligious backgrounds;

WHEREAS, Nowruz is celebrated by the large population of Afghan refugees who have recently arrived in the United States, many of whom are resettling in the District of Columbia and the region;

WHEREAS, Nowruz is recognized by the United Nations on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity as a cultural tradition observed by numerous peoples and the United Nations officially recognized the “International Day of Nowruz” with the adoption of UN Resolution 64/253 in 2010;

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WHEREAS, Nowruz embodies the tradition that each individual’s thinking, speaking, and conduct should always be virtuous, and the ideal of compassion for our fellow human beings regardless of ethnicity or religion, and is centered around family and community;

WHEREAS, Nowruz is an ancestral festivity marking the first day of spring and the renewal of nature, that promotes values of peace and solidarity between generations and within families as well as reconciliation and neighborliness, thus contributing to cultural diversity and friendship among different peoples and communities;

WHEREAS, Nowruz symbolizes a time of rebirth in connection with nature’s renewal in the Spring, and connects humans to the earth and the natural environment around them;

WHEREAS, Nowruz serves to remind the United States of the many lasting contributions of the larger Persian civilization to the world over millennia, and the noteworthy impact of the diverse diaspora communities who celebrate Nowruz to the social and economic fabric of society in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the diverse diaspora communities who celebrate Nowruz continue to enrich the tapestry of the diversity in Washington, DC and the region generally.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, This resolution may be cited as the “Nowruz Recognition Resolution of 2022”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and celebrates the cultural, historical, and environmental significance of Nowruz and adds this ancient holiday to the city’s calendar, and wishes all of those who observe this holiday a prosperous new year.

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