

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

24-271

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

November 1, 2022

To recognize the Transgender Day of Remembrance, to celebrate the resilience of transgender individuals, and to declare Sunday, November 20, 2022, as Transgender Day of Remembrance in the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, the government of the District of Columbia has affirmatively and officially recognized the right of transgender people to live openly and freely as their authentic selves, without fear of discrimination or violence, including through the establishment of the “Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Affairs” in 2004 and the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of gender identity or expression in 2005;

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia nevertheless 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, Taya Ashton and too many others;

WHEREAS, bias violence and systemic oppression against transgender people remain unacceptably prevalent, including in the District of Columbia;

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

WHEREAS, 2022 has seen an unprecedented number of proposed laws that discriminate against, stigmatize, and criminalize transgender people, particularly youth, as well as ever-increasing hateful rhetoric against the transgender community, all of which encourage bias and violence against transgender people;

WHEREAS, transgender people and their allies are pushing back against these baseless attacks, as shown by the school walk-outs organized by students in response to proposed harmful policies in Virginia;

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

WHEREAS, transgender people in the District of Columbia have long exhibited incredible resilience and bravery, including by organizing in response to the 1997 death of Tyra Hunter, a Black transgender woman whom District employees refused to treat for life-threatening injuries after determining that she was transgender;

WHEREAS, since the 2021 Transgender Day of Remembrance, transgender people in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia, have continued to be murdered, including Aaron Lynch and Ariyanna Mitchell, but misgendering by media and police may have obscured additional instances of violence against transgender people in the region; 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, 2022.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Transgender Day of Remembrance Recognition Resolution of 2022”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia declares November 20, 2022, as the Transgender Day of Remembrance in the District of Columbia.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.