

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

25-128

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

October 3, 2023

To recognize, honor, and celebrate Kristi C. Whitfield’s leadership as the Director of the Department of Small and Local Business Development and contributions to the District of Columbia, on the occasion of her transitioning to a new role outside of District government.

WHEREAS, Kristi C. Whitfield was confirmed by the Council of the District of Columbia as the Director of the Department of Small and Local Business Development on February 6, 2018;

WHEREAS, Director Whitfield is the longest serving Director of the Department of Small and Local Business Development;

WHEREAS, Director Whitfield led the Department of Small and Local Business Development to give over one billion dollars to help small businesses thrive in a competitive market;

WHEREAS, Director Whitfield re-envisioned programs to better serve resident entrepreneurs from traditionally underserved communities such as Aspire and Dream Pitch, which gained national recognition for assisting returning citizens and entrepreneurs located east of the Anacostia River;

WHEREAS, Director Whitfield successfully reinvested nearly \$9 million dollars in fines levied and collected from prime contractors not meeting their required Small Business Enterprise spend goals, going directly back into the small business community ensuring that local dollars stay local;

WHEREAS, Director Whitfield led the creation of the digital version of the Green Book, making it more accessible to Small Business Enterprises ensuring that critical resources reach businesses that need assistance with navigating the local government procurement process;

WHEREAS, Director Whitfield led the effort for the District achieved record-breaking spend with Small Business Enterprises of over \$1 billion dollars within a fiscal year;

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

WHEREAS, Director Whitfield led DC Art All Night to flourish to become a cornerstone of the city's cultural calendar, with far-reaching positive impacts on the local economy where 22 DC Main Streets, four Business Improvement Districts, and seven DC libraries hosted over 600 activations at over 275 venues with 160,000 attendees across the city in 2022, making it the most successful Art All Night festival in its 11-year history;

WHEREAS, Director Whitfield created the first-of-its-kind Equity Impact Enterprise Grant Program to provide targeted financial assistance, where 240 businesses received \$1.2 million dollars; and

WHEREAS, Director Whitfield's implemented the District Enterprise System, a platform that promotes ease of doing business with District government, increases the level of transparency both businesses and the District have into the local contracting and procurement process, and improves the District's collection, tracking, and evaluation of spending and demographic data.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Kristi C. Whitfield Ceremonial Recognition Resolution of 2023"

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes Director Whitfield for her distinguished tenure at the Department of Small and Local Business Development and celebrates her contributions to the city and innovative approach to serving the District's small business community.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.