

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

25-154

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

December 5, 2023

To recognize and honor DC Central Kitchen on its 35th anniversary, and to declare January 20, 2024 as “DC Central Kitchen Day” in the District.

WHEREAS, DC Central Kitchen began operations in 1989 with the belief that food alone would never end hunger, but that food could be a powerful tool for strengthening bodies, empowering minds, and building communities;

WHEREAS, DC Central Kitchen’s Culinary Job Training Program has empowered residents with histories of homelessness, addiction, incarceration, trauma, and chronic unemployment to pursue meaningful careers in our community, producing more than 2,200 skilled graduates across 160 graduating classes;

WHEREAS, DC Central Kitchen has prepared 49 million nutritious, dignified meals for shelters, front-line nonprofits, and schools in the District;

WHEREAS, DC Central Kitchen has prevented the waste of 36 million pounds of perfectly safe, nutritious food and creatively transformed it into balanced meals for our community;

WHEREAS, DC Central Kitchen has hosted more than 150,000 community volunteers who have shown what our city can accomplish when we work side by side to solve problems;

WHEREAS, DC Central Kitchen has never missed a day of meal service in its 12,783 days of continuous operation;

WHEREAS, DC Central Kitchen provided more than 8 million meals in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in partnership with the DC Emergency Food Providers network, DC Food Policy Council, and District of Columbia Public Schools;

WHEREAS, DC Central Kitchen has served 11 million scratch-cooked, locally sourced meals to 30 District schools as a core partner of the DC Healthy Schools Act, winning the nationally coveted Golden Carrot Award in 2015 and Good Food Purchasing Program’s Good Food Hero Award in 2019;

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WHEREAS, DC Central Kitchen’s Healthy Corners program has equipped more than 50 small businesses in neighborhoods without easy access to grocery stores to stock and sell more than 2.3 million units of fresh, nutritious, affordable food to District residents while working to make Federal WIC benefits available at DC corner stores for the first time;

WHEREAS, DC Central Kitchen models the values of a mission-driven social enterprise by paying all employees a living wage, providing them with comprehensive health, retirement, and paid leave benefits, and sustainably earning more than half its annual budget through foodservice contracts;

WHEREAS, the success of DC Central Kitchen’s model has inspired the launch of more than 100 like-minded culinary training programs and social enterprises across the United States;

WHEREAS, DC Central Kitchen now creates \$76 million of measurable economic and social returns in the District each year from an award-winning new 36,000 square foot headquarters on Buzzard Point made possible with the support of the Council and the Government of the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, DC Central Kitchen’s successes have been recognized by *The Atlantic*, *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*, *CNN*, *MSNBC*, *National Geographic*, *National Public Radio*, *Newsweek*, *The New York Times*, *PBS NewsHour*, *Nightline*, *No Reservations*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *Washington Business Journal*, the DC Chamber of Commerce, the US Chamber of Commerce, the feature documentary *The Liberation*, and *Washington City Paper’s* Best DC Food Nonprofit Award;

WHEREAS, DC Central Kitchen will celebrate its 35th anniversary on January 20, 2024, commemorating its efforts to strengthen the District’s economy, broden prosperity, and defeat hunger and poverty in the region.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "DC Central Kitchen 35th Anniversary Recognition Resolution of 2023".

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and honors DC Central Kitchen on its 35th anniversary, and declares January 20, 2024 as “DC Central Kitchen Day” in the District.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.