

A CEREMONAL RESOLUTION

25-228

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

May 7, 2024

To recognize and celebrate the Washington Informer for its 60th year anniversary.

WHEREAS, the Washington Informer is a Black, woman-owned multi-media organization serving the African American community in the Washington metropolitan area, and is one of the District's oldest Black-owned newspapers;

WHEREAS, the Washington Informer newspaper was incorporated on October 16, 1964 by Dr. Calvin Rolark, Sr.;

WHEREAS, the Washington Informer strives to educate, inform, and empower its 50,000 readers of the print edition in addition to its 30,000 plus unique visitors of its online edition;

WHEREAS, Dr. Calvin Rolark, Sr. moved from Texas in the early 1950s to the District, and started the Washington Informer to cover positive news about Black people;

WHEREAS, the Washington Informer is the official sponsor of the local Scripps National Spelling Bee in the District of Columbia and Prince George's County;

WHEREAS, the Washington Informer is also the sponsor of the African American Heritage Tour held in February in honor of Black History Month;

WHEREAS, the Washington Informer Charities is a non-profit organization that promotes 21<sup>st</sup> century literacy, sponsors writing competitions, internships, scholarships, and other events promoting African American history, culture, and literature;

WHEREAS, in 2015 the Washington Informer launched a print insert and video called "The Bridge" which focuses on the Black art scene and music and serves as a lifestyle guide for Black millennials in the Washington metropolitan area;

WHEREAS, the Washington Informer headquarters on Martin Luther King Avenue in Ward 8 houses its newspaper office upstairs and has a television studio with a green board on the first floor;

**ENROLLED ORIGINAL**

WHEREAS, the Washington Informer is part of a consortium of 10 legacy Black newspapers that are a part of the content-sharing website “Word in Black”;

WHEREAS, the Washington Informer also has a YouTube channel WITV with the weekly television show “Let’s Talk”, and the WIN daily newsletter;

WHEREAS, Denise Rolark Barnes joined the newspaper in 1980 after graduating from Howard Law School, succeeded her father Dr. Calvin W. Rolark, Sr. as publisher when he passed in 1994, and is the current publisher and second-generation owner of the Washington Informer; and

WHEREAS, Denise Rolark Barnes was appointed as a columnist and youth editor of the Washington Informer when she was a student at Rabaut Junior High in Northeast Washington by her father Dr. Calvin Rolark, Sr.;

WHEREAS, the Washington Informer’s motto is “EDUCATE, EMPOWER, and INFORM”.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Washington Informer 60<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Recognition Resolution of 2024”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia honors, recognizes, and celebrates the Washington Informer for its 60<sup>th</sup> year anniversary.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.