

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

25-238

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

June 11, 2024

To celebrate the achievements, contributions, and diversity of Caribbean communities and declare June 2024 as Caribbean Heritage Month in the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, the Caribbean consists of 33 political entities, including 13 independent nations, 12 dependencies, and seven territories;

WHEREAS, the month was founded by Dr. Claire Nelson and was celebrated across the nation for the first time by the Institute of Caribbean Studies in 2000;

WHEREAS, the move to officially declare June as National Caribbean American Month started in 2004 when a legislative bill was passed by Congresswoman Barbara Lee;

WHEREAS, a presidential proclamation declared June to be an annual recognition of National Caribbean American Heritage Month to celebrate the contributions of Caribbean Americans in the United States in 2006;

WHEREAS, in 2006, actress and singer Sheryl Lee Ralph and basketball player Rick Fox were named official spokespersons for National Caribbean American Heritage Month;

WHEREAS, individuals of Caribbean descent have made substantial contributions to American society in various fields, including science, education, politics, sports, business, and civil rights, reflecting their dedication, resilience, and innovative spirit;

WHEREAS, the Caribbean region, known for its vibrant culture, diverse heritage, and profound influence on music, literature, cuisine, and the arts, has significantly enriched the cultural landscape of the United States;

WHEREAS, the recognition of Caribbean Heritage Month serves as an opportunity to educate the public about the history and achievements of Caribbean-Americans, promoting an inclusive society where all cultures are valued and respected;

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WHEREAS, the Office on Caribbean Affairs Establishment Act of 2020 was passed to establish an Office on Caribbean Affairs to monitor the delivery of District services, and to make policy recommendations to the Mayor and Council regarding housing, health, education, employment, social services, public safety, and business opportunities for the District's Caribbean community;

WHEREAS, on June 2, 2022, Natalee S. Snider was appointed the Director of the Mayor's Office on Caribbean Community Affairs (MOCCA).

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Caribbean Heritage Month Recognition Ceremonial Resolution of 2024".

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and honors the many contributions of the Caribbean community, celebrates the rich cultural heritage of the Caribbean community, and designates June 2024 as Caribbean Heritage Month in the District of Columbia.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.