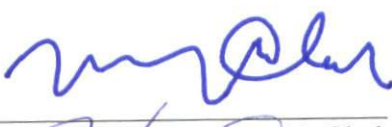
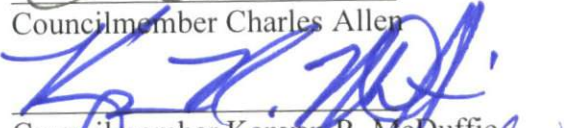




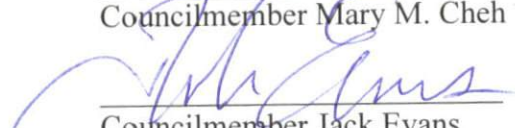
Councilmember Charles Allen



Councilmember Mary M. Cheh



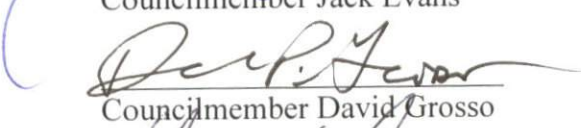
Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie



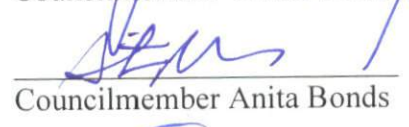
Councilmember Jack Evans



Councilmember Yvette Alexander



Councilmember David Grosso



Councilmember Anita Bonds



Councilmember Elissa Silverman



Councilmember Brianne Nadeau



Chairman Phil Mendelson



Councilmember Vincent Orange

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare the sense of the Council that the District of Columbia supports the principles of the Biophilic Cities Network and commits to promoting, learning about, and sharing biophilic programs and projects with other participating municipalities, to supporting urban biodiversity, and to creating opportunities for all District residents to connect with nature.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Sense of the Council on Biophilic Cities Resolution of 2015".

Sec. 2. The Council finds that:

39 (1) Evidence demonstrating that people are happiest, emotionally and
40 physically healthiest, and most productive, when working and living in close proximity to
41 nature.

42 (2) Research shows that exposure to nature can reduce stress, aid recovery
43 from illness, enhance cognitive skills, improve academic performance, and aid in
44 moderating the effects of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder , autism, and other
45 child illnesses.

46 (3) The District has a rich and unique natural heritage, including a
47 diversity of ecosystems that provide benefits to District residents and the animal species
48 we share it with.

49 (4) Greening neighborhoods has been shown to reduce crime, strengthen
50 community connections, and increase walkability.

51 (5) All District residents, especially children, in every neighborhood,
52 should have direct experience with nature.

53 (6) In an increasingly urbanized world, cities provide vital natural habitat
54 to animal species that may otherwise perish.

55 (7) Leading universities, urban thinkers, citizens, corporations, and
56 innovative governments around the world are developing nature-based approaches to
57 design, urban planning, and governance that support human and environmental health.

58 (8) The Biophilic Cities Network includes a loose confederation of cities
59 from all over the world whose leaders strive to recognize the important connection
60 between humans and the natural world. Participating municipalities include Birmingham,

61 Brisbane, Milwaukee, New York City, Perth, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Portland, Oslo, San
62 Francisco, Singapore, Vitoria-Gasteiz, and Wellington.

63 (9) A biophilic city is a city of abundant nature, where residents, young
64 and old, have rich daily contact with the natural environment no matter where they
65 reside; where larger natural areas and deeper natural experiences are an easy walk, bike,
66 or transit ride away; and where the urban environment allows for and fosters connections
67 with diverse flora and fauna. In biophilic cities, residents recognize, respect, are curious
68 about, and actively care for the nature around them, and they spend extensive time
69 outside learning about, enjoying, and participating in the natural world.

70 (10) In biophilic cities, leaders and elected officials give nature and natural
71 capital a central place in their decision making, and evaluate their planning and
72 development decisions by the extent to which nature is restored and protected, and
73 connections with the natural environment enhanced. Leaders and residents of biophilic
74 cities recognize that proximity to nature makes for more desirable communities and
75 provides numerous benefits to all.

76 (11) A biophilic city recognizes the important role cities play in protecting
77 and increasing biodiversity in a world where biodiversity is greatly threatened.

78 (12) A commitment to becoming a biophilic city with abundant and
79 accessible nature will support the District's goals for a sustainable DC, environmental
80 literacy plans, and an enhanced science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
81 curriculum in schools.

82 (13) By joining the Biophilic Cities Network, the District will demonstrate
83 international leadership on the environment and local commitment to the well-being and
84 health of its residents.

85 Sec. 3. It is the sense of the Council that the District of Columbia supports the
86 principles of the Biophilic Cities Network and commits to:

87 (1) Working to protect and restore nature; to creating opportunities for
88 new connections to the natural world wherever possible;

89 (2) Sharing information and insights about biophilic tools, techniques,
90 programs and projects successfully applied in the District; and

91 (3) Assisting other cities in becoming more biophilic through technical
92 expertise and political and professional support for efforts to protect and expand urban
93 nature.

94 Sec. 4. The Secretary to the Council of the District of Columbia shall transmit
95 copies of this resolution, upon its adoption, to the Mayor, the City Administrator, and the
96 Director of the District Department of the Environment.

97 Sec. 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of
98 publication in the District of Columbia Register.