



Chairman Phil Mendelson



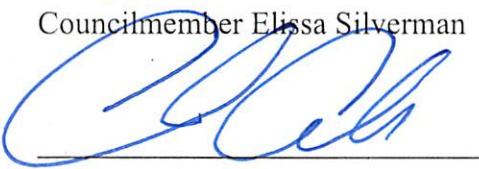
Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau



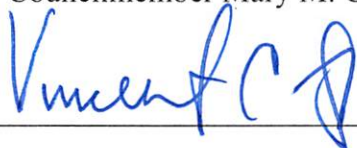
Councilmember Elissa Silverman



Councilmember Mary M. Cheh



Councilmember Charles Allen



Councilmember Vincent C. Gray



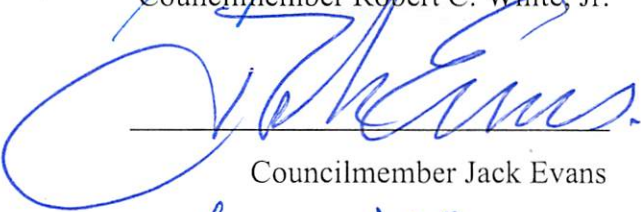
Councilmember Anita Bonds



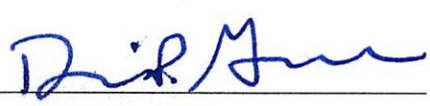
Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.



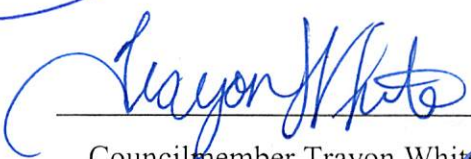
Councilmember Brandon T. Todd



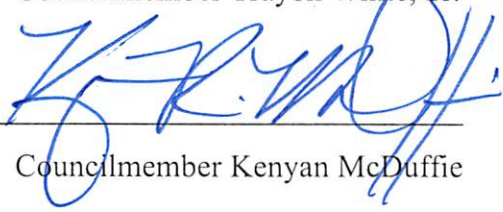
Councilmember Jack Evans



Councilmember David Grosso



Councilmember Trayon White, Sr.



Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

34 To declare the sense of the Council in support of calling upon Congress to pass the Justice for
35 Victims of Lynching Act of 2018.

36
37 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
38 resolution may be cited as the “Sense of the Council Supporting Passage of the Justice for
39 Victims of Lynching Act Resolution of 2018”.

40 Sec. 2. The Council finds that:

41 (1) The crime of lynching represents a dark part of America’s extensive racialized
42 history. Lynching was used to terrorize African-Americans and enforce a strict racial caste
43 system during the period following Reconstruction and continuing through the mid-twentieth
44 century. Lynch mobs would seize, torture, and kill African-Americans without judicial process,
45 and often with the willing cooperation of local law enforcement. The domestic terrorism of
46 lynchings and other hate crimes served as one of the driving factors behind the “Great
47 Migration” of 6 million African-American refugees northward. Enslaved people began to walk
48 off of plantations during the Civil War, because of Union “contraband” laws, and then began to
49 move northward in droves because of southern Black Codes designed to continue the oppression
50 of African-Americans.

51 (2) More than 4,000 people, predominantly African-Americans, were lynched between
52 1882 and 1968. In addition to the thousands of dead, the racial terrorism of lynching left lasting
53 wounds on families, survivors and communities that have yet to heal. In the District, the “Red
54 Summer” Riots of 1919 saw mob violence perpetrated on African Americans.

55 (3) Despite the impact of lynching, the act has never been classified as a federal crime.
56 Since 1882, over 200 attempts have been made to pass meaningful anti-lynching legislation in
57 Congress: each has been defeated. Ninety-nine percent of the perpetrators of lynching have
58 escaped any form of punishment.

59 (4) On April 26, 2018, the National Memorial for Peace and Justice opened to
60 commemorate the victims of lynching and racial terrorism in the United States – the first
61 monument of its kind in the country.

62 (5) On June 28, 2018, U.S. Senators Kamala Harris, Cory Booker, and Tim Scott, as well
63 as U.S. Representative Bobby Rush, introduced the Justice for Victims of Lynching Act of 2018.
64 The bill would specify lynching as a deprivation of civil rights after centuries of inaction. (6)
65 Injustice and terror must be acknowledged before their effects can be healed. Passing the Justice
66 for Victims of Lynching Act is one step in that acknowledgement, and a direct confrontation of
67 the multigenerational legacy of the terror of lynchings. Though lynch mobs are not as
68 widespread today, other forms of extrajudicial violence persist as the expression of racist
69 attitudes has evolved. A condemnation of the terror of lynchings is as important now as ever, in a
70 time when radical white supremacy, racism, anti-Semitism, and misogyny have spurred acts of
71 violence and hate crimes across the country.

72 Sec. 3. It is the sense of the Council that Congress expeditiously pass the Justice for
73 Victims of Lynching Act of 2018 to further the process of national healing and reconciliation
74 regarding racial violence.

75 Sec. 4. The Council shall transmit a copy of this resolution, upon its adoption, to the
76 President of the United States and the United States Congress.

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