

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

1 To recognize and celebrate Experience Unlimited, also known as E.U. Band, for their impact on
2 go-go music culture and Ward 8.

3
4 WHEREAS, Gregory “Sugar Bear” Elliot is a native Ward 8 Washingtonian, go-go
5 music pioneer and founding member of the legendary Washington DC go-go band Experience
6 Unlimited (E.U.);

7 WHEREAS, Sugar Bear hails from the Ward 8 neighborhood of “Valley Green” and is a
8 proud graduate of Ballou Senior High School;

9 WHEREAS, the band chose the name Experience due to their respect for Rock & Roll
10 icon Jimi Hendrix and his band The Jimi Hendrix Experience, and selected Unlimited because
11 they did not want to limit the range of their musical style;

12 WHEREAS, Experience Unlimited developed into one of Washington, D.C.’s original
13 and longest lasting go-go acts. They had the opportunity to record two albums for Virgin
14 Records and tour all over the world including Japan, Antigua, Bermuda, Afghanistan, and El
15 Salvador;

16 WHEREAS, Experience Unlimited has toured Europe as a part of two USO tours,
17 entertaining US military, and they’ve also performed with Teena Marie, Bob Dylan, Morris Day
18 and The Time, Mint Condition, Cameo, and were featured on several tom Joyner cruises;

19 WHEREAS, Experience Unlimited is best known for their Grammy nominated, Soul
20 Train award winning, worldwide hit “De Butt” which was featured in Spike Lee’s School Daze
21 and charted at number 35 on the Billboard Hot 100;

22 WHEREAS, “Da Butt” also reached number one on the Billboard’s Hot Black Singles
23 chart at number 1 the week of April 23, 1988, and was ranked number 61 on VH1’s 100 Greatest
24 One Hit wonders of the 80s;

25 WHEREAS, Experience Unlimited also scored hits with Salt N’ Pepa’s song “Shake
26 Your Thing,” rap innovator Kurtis Blow’s “Party Time”, as well as chart topping originals “Buck
27 Wild” and the soulful ballad “Taste of Your Love”;

28 WHEREAS, Experience Unlimited and Sugar Bear released another hit “Umm Bop
29 Bopp” in 2000, which gave the band a fresh new fan base at the turn of the century, and went on
30 to release the hit single “Bounce” in 2001 to extensive airplay;

31 WHEREAS, one of Sugar Bear and Experience Unlimited’s finest moments came during
32 the grand opening of the national Museum of African American History and Culture, where they
33 not only performed for dignitaries from around the globe, but were also recognized with artifacts
34 that are displayed in an exhibit celebrating go-go music culture;

35 WHEREAS, over the years Sugar Bear has increased his involvement in community
36 activities through programs such as Teach the Beat, and other personal endeavors such as
37 feeding the homeless with members of Experience Unlimited;

38 WHEREAS, under Sugar Bear’s leadership Experience Unlimited had one of their best
39 years appearing on stage at the 2019 BET awards with superstar actresses Taraji P. Henson and
40 Regina Hall which opened them up to an entirely new fan base, and social media followers; and

41 WHEREAS, with this resurgence of interest in all things Sugar Bear and Experience
42 Unlimited, the band can keep the legacy of Experience Unlimited alive and well for generations
43 to come.

44 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
45 resolution may be cited as the “Experience Unlimited Band Ceremonial Resolution of 2019.”

46 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia honors Experience Unlimited for their
47 musical contributions to the Ward 8 community and Washington D.C. as a whole.

48 Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in
49 the District of Columbia Register.