

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare December 10, 2021, as Human Rights Day in the District of Columbia and to reaffirm the Council's commitment to defending human rights.

WHEREAS, on December 10, 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), a global commitment to dignity, liberty, and equality regardless of status and lays out civil, social, economic, and other rights;

WHEREAS, in the decades since, the UDHR and its principles have inspired transformational legal and social innovations around the world;

WHEREAS, on December 13, 1977, less than 4 years after enactment of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, the District of Columbia adopted the Human Rights Act of 1977 (DCHRA), which declared "the intent of the Council of the District of Columbia . . . to secure an end in the District of Columbia to discrimination for any reason other than that of individual merit";

WHEREAS, the Council has from time to time expanded and refined the DCHRA, which now prohibits discrimination in settings including housing, employment, public accommodations, and educational institutions based on over 20 types of protected characteristics;

WHEREAS, in 2008, the District of Columbia committed itself to serving as a Human Rights City by modeling how to “make every citizen a partner of sustainable change” and by building human rights into ongoing civic dialogue as a way of life;

WHEREAS, the Office of Human Rights and the Commission on Human Rights were established to eradicate discrimination, increase equal opportunity and protect human rights for persons who live in, work in, or visit the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, the work of recognizing and protecting the human rights of District residents is never complete;

WHEREAS, District residents continue to lead the fight to perfect our human rights laws in the District and around the world;

WHEREAS, the Council is evaluating legislation to ensure that residents experiencing homelessness, among other groups, are better protected from discrimination; and

WHEREAS, the Council remains committed to ensuring that the District of Columbia remains a leading jurisdiction in promoting dignity, liberty, equality, and freedom from discrimination.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Human Rights Day Recognition Resolution of 2021”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia reaffirms its dedication to human rights in the District and around the world, and declares December 10, 2021 as “Human Rights Day” in the District of Columbia.

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