

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To commemorate and celebrate March 2022 as Women’s History Month in the District of Columbia and to recognize the history and accomplishments of women in the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, Women’s History Month was established by Congress in 1987;

WHEREAS, since 1995, presidents have issued annual proclamations designating March as “Women’s History Month”;

WHEREAS, this month is a celebration of the contributions women have made to the United States and a recognition of specific achievements women have made over the course of history across all fields;

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, 52.6% of residents in the District identify as women;

WHEREAS, the District is home to a rich and exciting history of exceptional contributions of women across a variety of fields;

WHEREAS, many influential women throughout history have called the District home;

WHEREAS, Mary McLeod Bethune, as the president of the National Association of Colored Women, purchased property at 1318 Vermont Ave making the organization the first black-led organization to be headquartered in the District;

WHEREAS, Shirley Horn, a singer and pianist born in the District and who studied at Howard University, was nominated for nine Grammy Awards and won in 1999 for Best Vocal Performance;

WHEREAS, Sharon Pratt, a native Washingtonian, became the first Black woman to be Mayor of the District of Columbia from 1991 to 1995;

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48 WHEREAS, Chita Rivera, born in the District, is a singer, dancer, and actor who starred
49 in Broadway Musicals including *West Side Story*, *Chicago*, and *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, has
50 won three Tony Awards, and was the first Hispanic woman and first Latina to receive the
51 prestigious Kennedy Center Honors award; and

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53 WHEREAS, Women’s History Month is a time to celebrate how much women in the
54 District have accomplished and contributed to make the District and the U.S. a better place to
55 live;

56 WHEREAS, the celebration of Women’s History Month reminds us of the need to
57 advance the cause of gender equity in the District of Columbia;

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59 WHEREAS, the District government has a role to play in both celebrating the historic
60 accomplishments of women and proactively advancing gender equity through policy and
61 legislation;

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63 WHEREAS, the District of Columbia Commission for Women Act of 1978 established
64 the Commission for Women and tasked it with conducting studies, reviewing progress,
65 developing, recommending, and undertaking action, and initiating and conducting programs
66 aimed at eliminating discrimination on the basis of sex and ensuring equality of rights and
67 responsibilities of men and women under the law;

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69 WHEREAS, the Commission for Women is assisted in its important role by the Office on
70 Women’s Policy and Initiatives; and,

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72 WHEREAS, the Commission for Women, the Office on Women’s Policy and Initiatives,
73 the Council, and the entire District government should redouble efforts during Women’s History
74 Month and throughout the year to advance gender equity in the District.

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76 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
77 resolution may be cited as the “Women’s History Month Recognition Resolution of 2022”.

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79 Sec. 2. The Council recognizes Women’s History Month in the District of Columbia and
80 celebrates the exceptional contributions from women across the United States and the District.

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