

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To observe December 10, 2022, as Human Rights Day in the District of Columbia and to reaffirm the Council’s commitment to defending and protecting human rights.

WHEREAS, Human Rights Day is annually observed on December 10th worldwide to recognize that each person deserves to be treated fairly with dignity and respect;

WHEREAS, Human Rights Day is also a day to commemorate the achievements of those who have fought for and protected human rights, as well as a day to reflect on what still needs to be done to create a more equitable society;

WHEREAS, on December 10, 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which consists of 30 articles of fundamental rights and freedoms to which all persons are entitled without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, national or ethnic origin, religion, and language;

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), through which the Council of the District of Columbia sought “to secure an end in the District of Columbia to discrimination for any reason other than that of individual merit”;

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

35 WHEREAS, over the years, the Council has expanded and refined the DCHRA to better
36 care for the lives of residents, such as the Human Rights Enhancement Amendment Act of 2021,
37 which protects individuals experiencing homelessness from discrimination;

38 WHEREAS, the work of defending human rights never ends;

39 WHEREAS, the Council is evaluating legislation that would prevent the District from
40 cooperating with interstate investigations that may infringe upon reproductive justice and to end
41 all inequitable practices toward women in District government agencies;

42 WHEREAS, this year marks the 74th anniversary of Human Rights Day and the United
43 Nations will launch a year-long campaign focused on the legacy, and relevance of the UDHR to
44 mark the 75th anniversary milestone in 2023;

45 WHEREAS, the Council encourages District residents to take action by mobilizing to
46 fight for defending and expanding human rights in the District and around the world; and

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

49 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
50 resolution may be cited as the “Human Rights Day Recognition Resolution of 2022”.

51 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia reaffirms its dedication to human rights
52 in the District and around the world, and declares December 10, 2022, as “Human Rights Day”
53 in the District of Columbia.

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