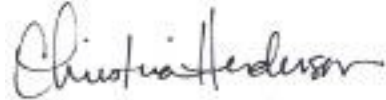
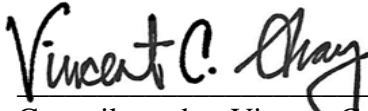




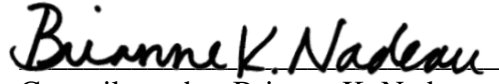
Councilmember Elissa Silverman



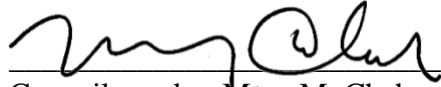
Councilmember Christina Henderson



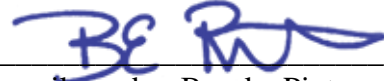
Councilmember Vincent C. Gray



Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau



Councilmember Mary M. Cheh



Councilmember Brooke Pinto

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To recognize and honor Roberta Flack for her contributions to the District of Columbia and to the music industry.

WHEREAS, Roberta Flack was born in Black Mountain, North Carolina, on February 10, 1937, and raised in Arlington, Virginia, where she played the piano with the choir of Lomax African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church;

WHEREAS, Roberta Flack was so proficient at piano that she was awarded a full scholarship to Howard University at age 15, where she studied voice, participated in the university choir, and became a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.;

WHEREAS, Roberta Flack graduated from Howard University with a bachelor's degree in music education at age 19 and began to pursue a graduate degree, but relocated to North Carolina upon her father's death and taught English and music in Farmville, North Carolina;

WHEREAS, Roberta Flack returned to the District and taught at Banneker Junior High School, Browne Junior High School, and Rabaut Junior High School, in addition to teaching piano lessons at her home on Euclid St. NW;

WHEREAS, Roberta Flack performed in the evenings at District institutions such as the 1520 Club on K Street, the Tivoli Restaurant in Georgetown, where she accompanied opera singers at the piano and performed blues, folk, and pop music in the back room, and Mr. Henry's Restaurant and Lounge in Capitol Hill, where she was a featured performer on evenings and weekends and was discovered by the jazz musician Les McCann who helped her land a contract with Atlantic Records;

WHEREAS, Roberta Flack released her first album, *First Take*, in 1968, which included the track "The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face" that was featured in the 1971 film *Play Misty for Me* and spent 6 weeks at number 1 on the Billboard Hot 100. The album subsequently reached number 1 on both the Billboard album chart and the Billboard R&B album chart in 1972;

WHEREAS, Roberta Flack produced many subsequent top hits, including "Killing Me Softly with His Song" in 1973, "Feel Like Makin' Love" in 1974, "The Closer I Get to You" in 1978, "Making Love" in 1982, "Tonight I Celebrate My Love" in 1983, the theme song for television show *The Hogan Family* "Together Through the Years" in 1986, and "Set the Night to Music" in 1991;

WHEREAS, Roberta Flack founded the Roberta Flack School of Music at the Hyde Leadership Charter School in the Bronx to offer music education programming to musically gifted low-income students and in 2010 established The Roberta Flack Foundation with the mission of supporting animal welfare and music education;

WHEREAS, Roberta Flack has received many accolades over her career, including being nominated for 14 Grammy Awards over her career, winning the Grammy Award for Record of the Year and the Grammy for Best Pop Vocal Performance by a Duo, Group, or Chorus in 1973, the Grammy Award for Album of the Year and the Grammy Award for Best Pop Vocal Performance, Female, in 1974, and a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 2020, and being nominated for 6 American Music Awards and winning the award for Favorite Female Artist (Soul/R&B) in 1974;

WHEREAS, Roberta Flack's achievements have been recognized by academic, civic, and cultural institutions, as she was awarded a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 1999, inducted into the North Carolina Music Hall of Fame in 2009, awarded a Doctor of Arts, *honoris causa* degree by Long Island University in 2017, and recognized by the Daughters of the American Revolution, who awarded her the DAR Women in American History Award and restored a Capitol Hill fire callbox, in her honor, a block away from Mr. Henry's Restaurant and Lounge in 2022;

WHEREAS, Roberta Flack is renowned as a groundbreaking artist who has been a guiding light to Black communities and Black artists, whose music has integrated elements of jazz, R&B, Latin, rock, reggae, classic, and pop musical styles, and who created a style of music marketed as "quiet storm", and has produced music that beautifully articulates feelings of love, friendship, loss, and triumph through emotive, clear, and transformative musical storytelling;

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Roberta Flack Ceremonial Resolution of 2022."

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and celebrates Roberta Flack and her contributions to the District of Columbia and to the music industry.

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