

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

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IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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1 To recognize and honor the life, contributions and legacy of Karen Lee Williams.  
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3 WHEREAS, Karen Lee Williams was a fifth generation Washingtonian, born on October  
4 24, 1948;  
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6 WHEREAS, Karen Lee Williams attended and graduated from Frank W. Ballou Senior  
7 High School;  
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9 WHEREAS, Karen Lee Williams attended George Washington University, where she  
10 graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Education;  
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12 WHEREAS, Karen Lee Williams was united in holy matrimony to W. Earl Williams on  
13 December 28, 1996 and remained married for 26 years;  
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15 WHEREAS, Karen Lee Williams had an illustrious career in education, education policy,  
16 public safety, and community organizing;  
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18 WHEREAS, Karen Lee Williams was the Director of Big Mama's Children Center;  
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20 WHEREAS, Karen Lee Williams. Prior to that, she was an elementary special education  
21 teacher with the District of Columbia Public School System (DCPS);  
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23 WHEREAS, Karen Lee Williams had previously worked with the Washington Lawyer's  
24 Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs and the Washington Parent Fund Group as an  
25 Executive Assistant and Grant Administrator;  
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27 WHEREAS, Karen Lee Williams Before that, Karen was an Officer with the United  
28 States Park Police (USPP), where she was involved in the creation of the Community Relations  
29 Unit and a partnership with the D.C. Special Olympics;  
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31 WHEREAS, Karen Lee Williams She came to the USPP from St. John’s Child  
32 Development Center, where she worked as a special education teacher;  
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34 WHEREAS, Karen Lee Williams was a member of the District of Columbia State Board  
35 of Education representing Ward 7, first elected to the board in November 2012 and was re-  
36 elected in 2016 and served until 2020, and during her tenure, she served as both Vice President  
37 and President, played a key role in the creation of a Student Advisory Committee, and initiated  
38 the Board’s District-wide initiative on the retention of qualified teachers;  
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40 WHEREAS, Karen Lee Williams’ experience in education policy, public safety, and  
41 community organizing were vitally important during her tenure on the D.C. State Board of  
42 Education as she keenly focused on creating equitable educational opportunities for all DCPS  
43 students, providing early intervention services for at-risk students and creating opportunities for  
44 D.C. children to succeed;  
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46 WHEREAS, Karen Lee Williams demonstrated a firm commitment to and involvement  
47 with The Hillcrest Community Civic Association (HCCA), working tirelessly for years  
48 promoting the similar desires and dreams and maintaining the integrity of the “Hillcrest the  
49 Hidden Secret” neighborhood in which she resided; and  
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51 WHEREAS, Karen Lee Williams’ grace, creativity and inspiration will be truly missed  
52 by family, friends and community members.  
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54 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this  
55 resolution may be cited as the “Karen Lee Williams Recognition Resolution of 2023”.  
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57 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia posthumously celebrates the Karen Lee  
58 Williams, her years of successful service to her community, and the lasting impact of her life  
59 spent in service.  
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61 Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in  
62 the District of Columbia Register.