

1 A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

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5 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
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10 To recognize, honor, and congratulate the Howard University Men’s Basketball team for their  
11 first NCAA Tournament appearance since 1992.

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13 WHEREAS, Howard University is located alongside Georgia Avenue in Ward 1, with its  
14 university motto being ‘excellence in truth and service’;

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16 WHEREAS, Howard University, prior to the season entered into a 20-year partnership with  
17 Jordan Brand, making Howard the only Division 1 HBCU to have one;

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19 WHEREAS, Howard University Men’s Basketball team won their first outright Mid-  
20 Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) regular season championship since 1987;

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22 WHEREAS, Howard University Men’s Basketball team won their first MEAC  
23 Tournament championship since 1992;

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25 WHEREAS, Howard University Men’s Basketball team won 22 games which is the  
26 second-most in program history;

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28 WHEREAS, Howard University Men’s Basketball team had back-to-back winning seasons  
29 for the first time since 1986-87 and 1987-88;

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31 WHEREAS, Howard University Men’s Basketball program engaged in a season-long  
32 social justice project centered on Black Maternal Health advocacy to honor the legacy of activism  
33 at Howard;

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35 WHEREAS, Howard University Men’s Basketball program as part of their advocacy they  
36 hosted volunteer events at Mamatoto Village and the DC Diaper Bank, while presenting  
37 scholarships to student mothers at Howard;

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39 WHEREAS, Howard University Men’s Basketball program received national recognition  
40 for their advocacy from outlets including CNN, Uninterrupted, and The Washington Post;

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42 WHEREAS, Howard University Men’s Basketball team was led by Washington, DC native  
43 and Head Coach Kenneth Blakeney who can be credited for the remarkable turnaround of the  
44 program;

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46 WHEREAS, Howard University Men’s Basketball Head Coach Kenneth Blakeney was  
47 recognized as the John McClendon National Coach of the Year, as well as the MEAC Coach of  
48 the Year;

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50 WHEREAS, Howard University Men’s Basketball Head Coach Kenneth Blakeney was  
51 assisted by his dedicated coaching staff of Associate Head Coach Rod Balanis, Assistant Coaches  
52 Tyler Thornton and Steve Ongley, and Chief Program Strategist Daniel Marks;

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54 WHEREAS, Howard University Men’s Basketball program was supported by 67 student-  
55 managers, with roughly 85% of them being females, making them a premier incubator of young  
56 African-American sports talent;

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58 WHEREAS, Howard University’s Men’s Basketball championship winning team  
59 members include:

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61 #0 Marcus Dockery – Junior  
62 #1 Khalil Robinson – Senior  
63 #2 Steve Settle – Redshirt Junior  
64 #3 Elijah Hawkins – Sophomore  
65 #4 Miles Stewart – Redshirt Freshman  
66 #5 Jelani Williams – Graduate Student  
67 #10 Talin Lewis – Graduate Student  
68 #11 Ose Okojie – Freshman  
69 #12 Kobe Dickson – Senior  
70 #13 Thomas Weaver – Junior  
71 #14 Ayodele Taiwo – Redshirt Freshman  
72 #15 Reece Brown – Junior  
73 #22 Shyheim Odom – Freshman  
74 #24 Jordan Wood – Junior  
75 #25 Aaron Roberson – Freshman  
76 #34 Bryce Harris – Sophomore  
77 #55 Freedom Rhames – Freshman

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79 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this  
80 resolution may be cited as the “Howard University Men’s Basketball Championship Recognition  
81 Resolution of 2023.”

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83 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and honors the Howard  
84 University Men’s Basketball program for winning the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference  
85 tournament and for participating in the NCAA Men’s Basketball Tournament for the first time  
86 since 1992.

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