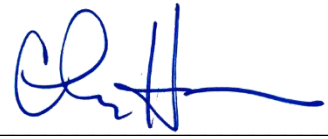
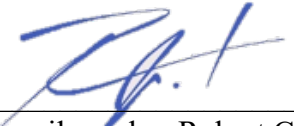


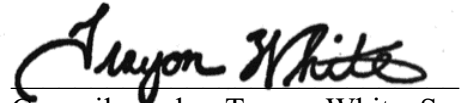
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2 Chairman Phil Mendelson

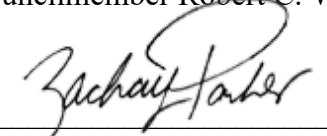

Councilmember Christina Henderson

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5 Councilmember Janeese Lewis George


Councilmember Charles Allen

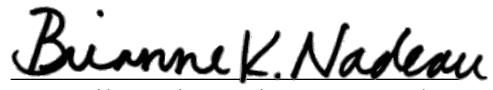
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7 
8 Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.


Councilmember Trayon White, Sr.

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11 Councilmember Zachary Parker


Councilmember Brooke Pinto

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14 Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie


Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau

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22 A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

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26 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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29
30 To recognize the need to honor dedicated speech-language pathologists, thank the American
31 Speech-Language Hearing Association and speech therapy awareness and advocacy
32 groups for their selfless work, and declare May 18, 2023 as Speech Language Pathologist
33 Appreciation Day in the District of Columbia.

34
35 WHEREAS, Communication serves as a litmus test of how humans process information,
36 and is the key to maintaining relationships, improving literacy rates, and expressing one's
37 thoughts, emotions, aspirations, and ideas.

38
39 WHEREAS, Speech Language Pathologists are trained healthcare providers that
40 work with patients whether they are in school, the hospital, senior living facilities, the patient's
41 home or their private clinic office;

42
43 WHEREAS, Speech Language Pathologists, nationwide and within the District, prevent,

44 detect, assess, and treat adults, children and teens with a stutter, dysarthria, hearing loss and
45 impairment, ADHD, ADD, autism, swallowing disorders, selective mutism, dyslexia, and those
46 with speech impairments from traumatic brain injuries and strokes;

47
48 WHEREAS, according to American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA),
49 90% of Speech Language Pathologists in the United States are women;

50
51 WHEREAS, whether Speech Language Pathologists provide treatment or conduct
52 clinical research, they are essential in providing those with communication disorders and hearing
53 loss with the tools necessary for success;

54
55 WHEREAS, according to ASHA, over 40 million Americans have dyslexia, 37 million
56 Americans report trouble hearing, and 3 million Americans stutter, but most go undiagnosed;

57
58 WHEREAS, according to ASHA, nearly 5% of children have a noticeable speech
59 disorder by the time they enter the first grade in the United States;

60
61 WHEREAS, according to the National Institute of Health, white children with a voice,
62 speech, language, or swallowing disorder are more likely to have received intervention services
63 in the past 12 months compared to Black and Hispanic children.

64
65 WHEREAS, children of families with low income are more likely to have speech and
66 language disorders than the general population;

67
68 WHEREAS, over 125,000 children live in the District of Columbia, and there are 825
69 speech language pathologists licensed by District of Columbia Board of Audiology and Speech-
70 Language Pathology;

71
72 WHEREAS, families and those seeking individual therapy outside of school for speech
73 language disorders have three speech therapy providers to choose from in Ward 2, four providers
74 in Wards 3 and 6, five providers in Ward 5, and none in Wards 7 and 8;

75
76 WHEREAS, under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the
77 District is dedicated to supporting children and adolescents between 0-21 with quality early
78 intervention services and special education services, bolstering the Strong Start DC Early
79 Intervention Program, and ensuring that residents of low-income households have a clear
80 pathway to speech therapy providers;

81
82 WHEREAS, the scholarship, selflessness, and zeal of the District's speech language
83 pathologists has shepherded those with speech, voice, language, swallowing, and hearing
84 disorders on the path to success;

85
86 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
87 resolution may be cited as the "Speech Language Pathologist Appreciation Day Recognition
88 Resolution of 2023".

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Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes the need to honor dedicate speech-language pathologists, thank the American Speech-Language Hearing Association and speech therapy awareness and advocacy groups for their work, and declare May 18, 2023 as Speech Language Pathologist Appreciation Day in the District of Columbia.

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