

1 A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

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5 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
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9 To commemorate and recognize October 2nd, 2023, as International Wrongful Conviction Day  
10 in the District of Columbia.

11 WHEREAS, International Wrongful Conviction Day was established on October 2, 2013,  
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13 by the Innocence Network to raise awareness of the causes and remedies of wrongful  
14 convictions;

15 WHEREAS, according to the National Registry of Exonerations, there have been 3,360  
16 exonerations since 1989 in the United States;

17 WHEREAS, further according to the National Registry of Exonerations, 26 of the 3,360  
18 individuals exonerated since 1989 were sentenced in the District,

19 WHEREAS, of the 26 people exonerated, all are men, 62% are Black, 23% are White,  
20 and 8% are Hispanic;

21 WHEREAS, the personal, social, and emotional costs of wrongful convictions are  
22 immeasurable;

23 WHEREAS, psychological research shows that those who are wrongfully convicted  
24 suffer mental health consequences such as post-traumatic stress disorder, suicidal thoughts,  
25 anxiety, depression, institutionalization, and personality changes;

26 WHEREAS, the District is grateful to the attorneys who work to exonerate those who are  
27 wrongfully convicted;

28 WHEREAS, the former Chief Judge of the DC Superior Court, Robert E. Morin, prior to  
29 being a judge, advocated for over a decade as a defense lawyer specializing in death-penalty

30 cases;

31 WHEREAS, in 1993, Judge Morin represented Kirk N. Bloodsworth, an Eastern Shore  
32 waterman who was freed from prison in 1993 after DNA evidence cleared him of the 1984 rape  
33 and murder of a 9-year-old Baltimore girl;

34 WHEREAS, according to the Innocent Project, Kirk Bloodsworth was the first American  
35 to be sentenced to death and then subsequently exonerated by DNA evidence;

36 WHEREAS, Kirk Bloodsworth is now a published author and an effective advocate for  
37 the rights of those who are wrongfully convicted;

38 WHEREAS, the District of Columbia recognizes International Wrongful Conviction Day  
39 and thanks Judge Morin for his dedication to the residents of the District of Columbia and for  
40 working to exonerate those who have been wrongfully convicted;

41 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this  
42 resolution may be cited as the “International Wrongful Conviction Day Ceremonial Recognition  
43 Resolution of 2023”.

44 Sec. 2. The Council recognizes International Wrongful Conviction Day in the District of  
45 Columbia and honors the important work of attorneys and organizations that work to end  
46 wrongful convictions;

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