

  
Councilmember Zachary Parker

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A CEREMONAL RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To recognize and celebrate the Langston Terrace Dwellings for its 85<sup>th</sup> year anniversary.

WHEREAS, built from 1935 to 1938 exclusively for African American residents, the Langston Terrace Dwellings opened in 1938;

WHEREAS, Langston Terrace Dwellings were the first affordable housing complex in the District and second of its kind in the nation.

WHEREAS, at the time African Americans were denied equal opportunities such as housing, banks, and the court system to name a few;

WHEREAS, Langston Terrace Dwellings was funded by the Public Works Administration Housing Program;

WHEREAS, 274-unit Langston Terrace Dwellings were mostly built by African Americans and designed by native architect Washingtonian and African American Hilyard Robinson and named after John Mercer Langston, Howard University Law School founder and US congressman from Virginia;

WHEREAS, Langston Terrace Dwellings was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1987;

WHEREAS, Hilyard Robinson was born in Capitol Hill in 1899, graduated from M Street High School, studied architecture at the University of Pennsylvania, and received a graduate degree from Columbia University;

WHEREAS, Hilyard Robinson studied architecture in Europe, taught at Howard University, and worked at the Department of the Interior as an architect designing public housing for African Americans;

WHEREAS, the courtyard in Langston Terrace Dwellings houses a terra cotta frieze by Daniel Olney called “The Progress of the Negro Race” in the central courtyard and chronicles African American history from enslavement through World War I migration;

51 WHEREAS, Langston Terrace Dwellings was a catalyst for the passage of the national Housing  
52 Act;

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54 WHEREAS, Langston Terrace Dwellings are within walking distance of the Langston Golf  
55 Course and Driving Range, named after John Mercer Langston, the first African American elected into  
56 public office;

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58 WHEREAS, Langston Terrace Dwellings became a hub for the community and hosted a library,  
59 nursery school and recreation center;

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61 WHEREAS, the historic 11-acre site is undergoing a revitalization and modernization of the  
62 historic property.

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64 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this resolution  
65 may be cited as the “Langston Terrace Dwellings Ceremonial Resolution of 2023”.

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67 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia honors recognizes and celebrates the Langston  
68 Terrace Dwellings for its 85<sup>th</sup> year anniversary.

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