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2 Councilmember XXX

Councilmember Zachary Parker

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27 A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

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31 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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35 To recognize the history and the importance of DC Black Pride, to celebrate the efforts of
36 the Center for Black Equity, and to welcome visitors from the greater Washington
37 region, across the country, and around the world to the festivities.

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39 WHEREAS, DC Black Pride is an annual event to increase awareness of and
40 showcase pride in the diversity of the LGBTQIA+ populations in the African American
41 community, and to support organizations that focus on health disparities, education,
42 youth, and families;

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44 WHEREAS, the mission of DC Black Pride is to increase awareness of and pride in
45 the diversity of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in the African diaspora as
46 well as support organizations that focus on health disparities, education, youth and families;

48 WHEREAS, from 1975 until 1990, the Club House was a premiere community
49 gathering space for the African-American lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender
50 community of Washington, DC and was notable for its annual Memorial Day weekend
51 celebration, called the Children’s Hour;

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53 WHEREAS, Wilmore Cook, Theodore Kirkland, and Ernest Hopkins envisioned
54 creating an event that would continue the tradition of the Children’s Hour as well as raise
55 much-needed funds for the HIV/AIDS organizations that served the African American
56 community after the Club House closed its doors in 1990;

57
58 WHEREAS, with the Children’s Hour as inspiration, the inaugural DC Black
59 Pride was held on May 25, 1991 in cooperation with the DC Coalition of Black Lesbians
60 and Gay Men and the Inner-City AIDS Network on the grounds of Banneker Field;

61
62 WHEREAS, as the very first Black Pride festival in the world, DC Black Pride
63 fostered the beginning of the Center for Black Equity (formerly known as the
64 International Federal of Black Prides, Inc. (IFBP)) and the “Black Pride Movement”;

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66 WHEREAS, as DC Black Pride grew in popularity and in programmatic
67 offerings, organizers created a board of directors, created a 501(c)3 nonprofit
68 organization, and officially established the Black Lesbian & Gay Pride Day, Inc.;

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70 WHEREAS, since the birth of DC Black Pride, more than 50 other Black Pride
71 celebrations now take place throughout the world and on four continents, with many
72 using DC Black Pride as a model;

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74 WHEREAS, during the 1998 festival, Black Lesbian & Gay Pride Day, Inc., and
75 organizers of Black Prides from New York City, Detroit, Atlanta and several other cities
76 formed the International Federation of Black Prides;

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78 WHEREAS, the International Federation of Black Prides later became the Center
79 for Black Equity, and today the organization has more that 50 members and serves as the
80 principal body through which organizers find support, raise funds, and share best
81 practices;

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83 WHEREAS, May 20, 2024 through May 27, 2024, marks the 33rd annual DC
84 Black Pride celebration;

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86 WHEREAS, the theme for this year’s celebration is “BLACK PRIDE
87 FOREVER”;

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91 WHEREAS, DC Black Pride 2024 will feature our Opening Reception, two dozen
92 educational workshops, Health & Wellness Pavilion, Rainbow Row, Mary Bowman Poetry
93 Slam, Writer’s Forum, Mini Ball, Faith Service, cultural and social offerings; Transgender,
94 Elders and Youth focused discussions and women’s programming;

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96 WHEREAS, for more than 30 years, DC Black Pride has been an opportunity for
97 the Black LGBTQIA+ community to gather and celebrate being both African American
98 and members of LGBTQIA+ communities;

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101 WHEREAS, DC Black Pride is the oldest and one of the largest Black Pride
102 events in the world, drawing thousands of residents and visitors from around the globe;
103 and

104

105 WHEREAS, DC Black Pride brings more than 500,000 people to the nation's
106 capital from across the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, South Africa, Great Britain,
107 France, Germany, and the Netherlands and will carry that tradition this year and into the
108 future to celebrate their shared community, raise awareness and funding for HIV/AIDS
109 prevention, and stand against homophobia inspired by violence and bigotry.

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111 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that
112 this resolution be cited as the "DC Black Pride Recognition Resolution of 2024".

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114 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and honors the hard
115 work of everyone involved in organizing the 33rd annual DC Black Pride and the
116 opportunity to celebrate the Black LGBTQIA+ community.

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