



Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To recognize and celebrate the significance of Howard University’s 100th Homecoming, which will be held from October 13th through October 20th, 2024.

WHEREAS, The 100th Howard Homecoming theme, 'Yard of Fame,' celebrates the leaders and trailblazers who once walked Howard’s campus as students and faculty, later achieving global recognition and influence across various fields;

WHEREAS, in 1919, Howard University and Lincoln University began to discuss the idea of hosting a Homecoming event at their respective HBCUs;

WHEREAS, Howard’s first Homecoming was solely a football game against Lincoln University on November 27, 1924, sparking a national movement that helped HBCU Homecomings grow into a cherished national tradition;

WHEREAS, Howard Homecoming is a celebration of Black culture and African American heritage that showcases the contributions of Black excellence, ranging from accomplished alumni, artists, musicians, and entertainers;

WHEREAS, the 100th Howard Homecoming tradition includes A Call to Chapel, Royal Court Coronation, Bison Madness pep rally featuring Howard’s Showtime Marching Band, Lavender Reception, annual student-organized and directed fashion show, Greek Step Show, Graduate Alumni Breakfast, Community Parade, WHUT Famfest, Alumni VIP Day Party, Bison Football game, Alumni Relations “Wine” Down, Young Alumni Brunch, Alumni Jazz Brunch, and the iconic and world-famous Yard Fest;

WHEREAS, in a 2020 Black History Month campaign for Google’s “The Most Searched,” data collected over 15 years revealed that Howard University’s Homecoming was the site’s “Most Searched Homecoming”;

WHEREAS, Howard Homecoming is a celebration of unity that brings together alumni and current students to honor their collective sense of community;

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WHEREAS, Howard Homecoming has continued to attract a number of the nation’s biggest stars, such as D.C. native Wale, The Notorious B.I.G., Drake, Jay-Z, Kanye West, Common, HU alumni Taraji P. Henson, Ludacris, DMX, and more;

WHEREAS, every year tens of thousands of alumni, students, guests, and community members congregate at Howard University for Homecoming;

WHEREAS, Howard Homecoming has made significant contributions to social justice and civil rights movements, having featured activists such as Howard alumni Stokely Carmichael and Thurgood Marshall at past homecomings;

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this resolution may be cited as the “Howard University 100th Homecoming Ceremonial Recognition Resolution of 2024”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and honors Howard University’s Homecoming for 100 years of continued tradition and excellence.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.