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2 Chairman Phil Mendelson



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6 Councilmember Matthew Frumin



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10 Councilmember Brooke Pinto



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12 Councilmember Janeese Lewis George



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16 Councilmember Anita Bonds



Councilmember Christina Henderson

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20 Councilmember Trayon White, Sr.



Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.

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24 Councilmember Wendell Felder

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29 A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

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33 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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36 To recognize, honor, and celebrate the life and legacy of the Reverend Jesse Jackson, Sr., and to
37 commend his lifelong leadership in advancing civil rights, social justice, faith, and equality in the
38 United States and the District of Columbia.

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40 WHEREAS, Reverend Jackson was born Jesse Louis Burns on October 8, 1941, in
41 Greenville, South Carolina, to Helen Burns and Noah Robinson, and was later adopted by his
42 stepfather, Charles Henry Jackson, whose name he carried throughout his life;

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44 WHEREAS, Reverend Jackson pursued higher education at North Carolina A&T State
45 University, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology, and later completed a

46 Master of Divinity degree at Chicago Theological Seminary, reflecting his enduring commitment
47 to faith, scholarship, and service;

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49 WHEREAS, Reverend Jackson began his lifelong commitment to civil rights by
50 participating in early civil rights demonstrations challenging segregation in Greenville, South
51 Carolina;

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53 WHEREAS, Reverend Jackson joined several protests in Selma, Alabama, led by Dr.
54 Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, contributing to
55 historic campaigns that advanced racial justice and equality across the nation;

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57 WHEREAS, Reverend Jackson was ordained as a Baptist minister in 1968 and dedicated
58 his life to ministry and public service, using his voice, faith, and leadership to advocate for
59 justice, dignity, and opportunity for underserved communities;

60
61 WHEREAS, Reverend Jackson founded Operation PUSH in 1971 to advance economic
62 empowerment, education, and civil rights, and later established the National Rainbow Coalition
63 in Washington, D.C., which ultimately merged with Operation PUSH to form the Rainbow
64 PUSH Coalition, a national organization committed to promoting fairness, opportunity, and
65 inclusion;

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67 WHEREAS, Reverend Jackson served as a Shadow Senator for the District of Columbia
68 from 1991 to 1997, advocating for statehood and full congressional representation for District
69 residents;

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71 WHEREAS, Reverend Jackson demonstrated extraordinary leadership on the national
72 and international stage, advocating for peace, negotiating the release of Americans from prison
73 abroad, and promoting dialogue and diplomacy as tools to advance justice and humanitarian
74 values;

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76 WHEREAS, Reverend Jackson twice sought the Democratic nomination for President of
77 the United States, inspiring millions of Americans and helping to expand civic engagement,
78 voter participation, and representation, particularly among historically marginalized
79 communities;

80
81 WHEREAS, Reverend Jackson's decades of advocacy, ministry, and public service were
82 recognized at the highest levels, including his receipt of the Presidential Medal of Freedom,
83 honoring his profound contributions to civil rights and public life;

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85 WHEREAS, Reverend Jackson maintained a lasting connection to the District of
86 Columbia through his national advocacy work, leadership of organizations headquartered in
87 Washington, D.C., and his continued engagement in advancing justice, opportunity, and equality
88 for residents of the District and the nation;

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90 WHEREAS, Reverend Jackson passed away on February 17, 2026, leaving behind an
91 extraordinary legacy as one of the most influential civil rights leaders, faith leaders, and
92 advocates for justice in American history;

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94 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this
95 resolution may be cited as the “Reverend Jesse Jackson, Sr. Posthumous Recognition Resolution
96 of 2026”.

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98 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes, honors, and celebrates the
99 life, legacy, and enduring contributions of the Reverend Jesse Jackson, Sr. for his lifelong
100 dedication to civil rights, faith, justice, equality, and the advancement of opportunity for all
101 people.

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103 Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.