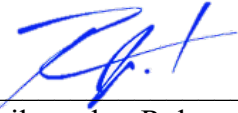


1 
2 Councilmember Elissa Silverman


Councilmember Christina Henderson

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6 Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.


Councilmember Zachary Parker

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10 Councilmember Charles Allen

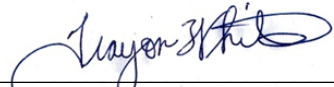

Councilmember Anita Bonds

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14 Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau


Councilmember Brooke Pinto

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18 Councilmember Matthew Frumin


Councilmember Wendell Felder

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22 Councilmember Trayon White, Sr.

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27 A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

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30
31 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

32
33
34
35 To proclaim the week of September 21 – 27, 2026 as "DC Calls It Quits Week" and to
36 promote smoking cessation as critical in efforts to protect the health of District of Columbia
37 residents.

38
39 WHEREAS, tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of disease, disability, and
40 death in the United States, killing 800 District residents every year and leading to a significant
41 decline in the quality of life for smokers;

42
43 WHEREAS, smoking prevalence among Black adults in DC is nearly 14%, and
44 prevalence is highest among residents in Wards 1, 7, and 8;

45
46 WHEREAS, in 2023, 3.1% of high school students in the District of Columbia smoked
47 and 9.6% used e-cigarettes at least one day in the past 30 days;
48

49 WHEREAS, smoking accounts for \$454 million in annual health care costs in the
50 District, \$101.5 million of which are paid by Medicaid;
51

52 WHEREAS, the state and federal tax burden for District residents from smoking-caused
53 government expenditures is equal to \$812 per household;
54

55 WHEREAS, the total economic cost burden of smoking in the United States exceeds
56 \$600 billion annually, including \$241 billion spent on direct medical care for adults;
57

58 WHEREAS, stopping smoking is associated with reduced heart disease risk within one to
59 two years of quitting, along with lowered risk for lung cancer and many other types of cancer;
60

61 WHEREAS, nearly seven in ten adults who smoke would like to quit smoking, and over
62 63% of District residents who smoke attempted to quit in 2022;
63

64 WHEREAS, the District of Columbia has recognized that flavored tobacco products,
65 including menthol cigarettes and other menthol and flavored tobacco products, pose a significant
66 public health threat because flavors can mask the harshness of tobacco smoke, make tobacco
67 products more appealing to youth and new users, and make it easier to initiate and sustain
68 nicotine use;

69 WHEREAS, menthol is particularly concerning because it creates a cooling sensation that
70 can make smoking feel less harsh, while contributing to nicotine dependence and making
71 quitting more difficult;

72 WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recognizes tobacco
73 dependence as a chronic disease that often requires repeated intervention and multiple attempts
74 to quit;
75

76 WHEREAS, of the over 28 million people in the United States who smoke cigarettes,
77 only 5% are able to quit without assistance from healthcare providers;
78

79 WHEREAS, counseling and medication are both effective for treating tobacco
80 dependence and using them together is more effective than using either one alone;
81

82 WHEREAS, people who smoke desiring to quit should have access to approved
83 therapies, such as counseling, nicotine replacement therapy and pharmaceutical interventions, as
84 well as multiple channels for outreach and support;
85

86 WHEREAS, tobacco is an environmental issue, as the cultivation, manufacturing,
87 distribution, consumption, and disposal of tobacco products contribute to environmental
88 degradation, pollution, toxic waste, greenhouse gas emissions, and litter; and
89

90 WHEREAS, DC Calls It Quits is a smoking cessation campaign that raises awareness of
91 the burden of tobacco on the District and provides resource and support for smoking cessation.
92

93 IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF
94 COLUMBIA, that this resolution may be cited as the “DC Calls It Quits Week Recognition
95 Resolution of 2026”.
96

97 Sec 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes September 21 through
98 September 27, 2026 as “DC Calls It Quits Week”.
99

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