

Chairman Phil Mendelson



Councilmember Matthew Frumin



Councilmember Brooke Pinto



Councilmember Charles Allen



Councilmember Christina Henderson



Councilmember Anita Bonds



Councilmember Janeese Lewis-George



Councilmember Trayon White

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To recognize the celebrate WAMU on its 65th anniversary and honor its service to the residents of the District of Columbia through journalism, public affairs programming, and community engagement.

WHEREAS, WAMU 88.5 FM has been broadcasting news, music, and interviews across the Washington, DC metropolitan region since it signed on the air at 4 p.m. on October 23, 1961,

for its first commercially licensed FM broadcast, and October 23, 2026 marks the 65th anniversary of its first FM broadcast;

WHEREAS, WAMU is a community-supported public radio station licensed to American University, connecting the university's educational and public service mission with the District of Columbia and the greater Washington region;

WHEREAS, it began as only the sixth member of the Educational Radio Network, and then was a founding member of National Public Radio in 1971;

WHEREAS, WAMU has broadcast 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for free, educating listeners about District government, elections, and issues affecting their neighborhoods since before the internet, cable, or public television were available;

WHEREAS, half a million listeners in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia listen to WAMU programming each week;

WHEREAS, WAMU covered monumental events such as the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his *I Have a Dream* speech, as well as the protests and uprisings in response to his assassination five years later, President John F Kennedy's AU commencement address in June of 1963 and then his assassination that November, both the Washington baseball team's departures and returns to the city, and each of Marion Barry's mayoral races;

WHEREAS, WAMU reporters highlighted local voices for instance through its three-month series focused on voices of underserved Washingtonians called "Voices of Poverty" in the wake of the riots;

WHEREAS, in 1971, WAMU broadcast directly to local public elementary schools from 9:00 am until 12:30 pm each morning through the D.C. Schools Radio Project;

WHEREAS, it currently produces and airs in-depth conversations on current events on the show 1A, interviews with local politicians on The Politics Hour with Kojo Nnamdi, vintage radio from the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s on The Big Broadcast, and vintage jazz, swing, and Big Band recordings on Hot Jazz Saturday Night;

WHEREAS, WAMU is the recipient of numerous awards for its investigative reporting, talk shows, and digital news including multiple Edward R. Murrow Awards, Public Media Journalists Association national wards, James Beard Foundation Awards;

WHEREAS, WAMU's home on Connecticut Avenue, Northwest, reflects its longstanding presence in Ward 3 and its connection to the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, WAMU's 65th anniversary offers an opportunity to honor its history and recognize the role of local journalism and public radio in the civic life of the District of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, WAMU has been both a witness and a participant in the District of Columbia's most important events over the past 65 years and continues to be a medium for residents to stay informed, make their voices heard, and learn new things.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "WAMU 65th Anniversary Recognition Resolution of 2026".

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and celebrates WAMU on its 65th anniversary and honors its contributions to journalism, public affairs programming, and community engagement in service to the residents of the District of Columbia.

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