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Councilmember Brandon T. Todd

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A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To recognize and honor Brother, Help Thyself for 40 years of service to the LGBTQ/SGL and HIV/ AIDS community in the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, Brother, Help Thyself was founded in 1978 by four gay motorcycle clubs and is one of the first organizations in the United States to provide funding for LGBTQ/SGL health, cultural, and social services;

WHEREAS, Paul Rose, Rob Chelchowski, Tony Bachrach, and Lou Ritz formed Brother, Help Thyself as a mechanism for awarding grants to non-profits serving the LGBTQ community;

WHEREAS, in 1978, Brother, Help Thyself raised \$4,518 and distributed grants to the Gay Men's V.D. Clinic of Washington, DC and the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Washington. Today, the former is known as Whitman-Walker Health;

WHEREAS, the non-profits served by Brother, Help Thyself over the past 40 years include Food and Friends; Casa Ruby; AIDS Action Baltimore; Us Helping Us; Grandma's House; the Baltimore Men's Chorus; PFLAG chapters in Baltimore, Metro Washington, and Howard and Carroll Counties in Maryland; SMYAL; and the Northern Virginia AIDS Ministry, among many others;

WHEREAS, on February 2, 2019, at the Belvedere Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland, Brother, Help Thyself celebrated their history at its annual awards ceremony where it presented grants to 32 local nonprofits;

WHEREAS, over the course of its 40 years, Brother, Help Thyself has awarded 1,130 grants to more than 196 non-profits totaling over \$3.2 million; and

WHEREAS, under the current leadership of President Andrew McCarty, Vice President Jim Slattery, Secretary Nina Love, Treasurer Mark Clark, and board members Mike Lentz, Darrell Coffey, Mickey Braden, Bradley Hill, John Kane, Mario Ward, and Christopher Kimball-Aubrey, Brother, Help Thyself remains committed to addressing the needs of the LGBTQ/SGL and HIV/ AIDS community in the District of Columbia.

38 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
39 resolution may be cited as the "Brother, Help Thyself 40th Anniversary Ceremonial
40 Recognition Resolution of 2019".

41 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia expresses its appreciation to
42 Brother, Help Thyself for 40 years of service in the District of Columbia and honors the
43 organization for its incredible legacy.

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