

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

25-94

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

July 11, 2023

To recognize and honor the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly Scholarship Program, on the occasion of its 50th celebration, for its continued efforts to encourage and support young people in the Southwest DC community to pursue post-secondary education.

WHEREAS, the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (“SWNA”) Scholarship Program began in 1974 when residents of the River Park Cooperative rallied together and raised funds to offer scholarships to several low-income young people in the surrounding community;

WHEREAS, that year, the residents raised \$1,650 for 3 deserving students from Southwest to receive scholarship awards;

WHEREAS, in 1975, recognizing the significance and impact of promoting scholarship, the SWNA Scholarship Program became an integral part of SWNA’s work through the SWNA Education and Scholarship Task Force;

WHEREAS, the mission of the SWNA Education and Scholarship Task Force is to join forces with educators, parents, and the community at large, with the common goal of empowering Southwest youth to complete primary, middle, secondary, and college/technical education, thereby enabling them to fully participate in the workforce and community;

WHEREAS, the dedicated efforts of the SWNA Education and Scholarship Task Force include not only awarding scholarships to students in zip code 20024, but also supporting neighborhood school groups, organizing students to participate in local and virtual college fairs and workshops, and promoting internships and part-time employment opportunities for Southwest youth;

WHEREAS, the SWNA Education and Scholarship Task Force has worked collaboratively in partnership with the SWNA Youth Activities Task Force to help ensure that Southwest youth are identified, guided, and oriented toward the importance of education and regularly advising them about future scholarship opportunities;

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WHEREAS, the SWNA Education and Scholarship Task Force gratefully acknowledges the support of our parents and guardians, their dedicated and committed volunteers and generous donors who have contributed to our success and longevity;

WHEREAS, the impact of the SWNA Scholarship Program has been profound, as evidenced by the awarding of 599 scholarships to 261 deserving Southwest students, totaling more than \$580,000; and

WHEREAS, the SWNA Scholarship Program, having garnered immense community support over the years, will hold its 50th celebration in 2023, marking half a century of empowering Southwest youth through educational opportunities.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Southwest Neighborhood Assembly Scholarship Program Recognition Resolution of 2023”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and honors the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly Scholarship Program, on the occasion of its 50th celebration, for its continued efforts to encourage and support young people in the Southwest DC community to pursue post-secondary education.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.