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2 Chairman Phil Mendelson


Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.

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7 Councilmember Anita Bonds


Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie


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12 Councilmember Charles Allen


Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau

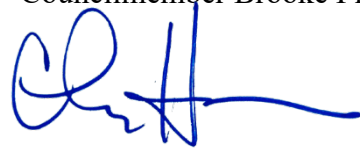
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17 Councilmember Trayon White, Sr.



Councilmember Vincent C. Gray

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22 Councilmember Janeese Lewis George


Councilmember Brooke Pinto

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27 Councilmember Zachary Parker


Councilmember Christina Henderson


Councilmember Matthew Frumin

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36 A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

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40 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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44 To commemorate and recognize October 2nd, 2023, as International Wrongful Conviction Day
45 in the District of Columbia.
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47 WHEREAS, International Wrongful Conviction Day was established on October 2, 2013,
48 by the Innocence Network to raise awareness of the causes and remedies of wrongful
49 convictions;

50 WHEREAS, according to the National Registry of Exonerations, there have been 3,360
51 exonerations since 1989 in the United States;

52 WHEREAS, further according to the National Registry of Exonerations, 26 of the 3,360
53 individuals exonerated since 1989 were sentenced in the District,

54 WHEREAS, of the 26 people exonerated, all are men, 62% are Black, 23% are White,
55 and 8% are Hispanic;

56 WHEREAS, the personal, social, and emotional costs of wrongful convictions are
57 immeasurable;

58 WHEREAS, psychological research shows that those who are wrongfully convicted
59 suffer mental health consequences such as post-traumatic stress disorder, suicidal thoughts,
60 anxiety, depression, institutionalization, and personality changes;

61 WHEREAS, the District is grateful to the attorneys who work to exonerate those who are
62 wrongfully convicted;

63 WHEREAS, the former Chief Judge of the DC Superior Court, Robert E. Morin, prior to
64 being a judge, advocated for over a decade as a defense lawyer specializing in death-penalty
65 cases;

66 WHEREAS, in 1993, Judge Morin represented Kirk N. Bloodsworth, an Eastern Shore
67 waterman who was freed from prison in 1993 after DNA evidence cleared him of the 1984 rape
68 and murder of a 9-year-old Baltimore girl;

69 WHEREAS, according to the Innocence Project, Kirk Bloodsworth was the first
70 American to be sentenced to death and then subsequently exonerated by DNA evidence;

71 WHEREAS, Kirk Bloodsworth is now a published author and an effective advocate for
72 the rights of those who are wrongfully convicted;

73 WHEREAS, the District of Columbia recognizes International Wrongful Conviction Day
74 and thanks Judge Morin for his dedication to the residents of the District of Columbia and for
75 working to exonerate those who have been wrongfully convicted;

76 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
77 resolution may be cited as the “International Wrongful Conviction Day Ceremonial Recognition
78 Resolution of 2023”.

79 Sec. 2. The Council recognizes International Wrongful Conviction Day in the District of
80 Columbia and honors the important work of attorneys and organizations that work to end
81 wrongful convictions.

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