



## COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

**ZACHARY PARKER**  
COUNCILMEMBER, WARD 5

**COMMITTEE MEMBER**  
Facilities and Family Services  
Health  
Hospital and Health Equity  
Housing  
Transportation and the Environment

May 26, 2023

Nyasha Smith, Secretary  
Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Secretary Smith,

Today, I am introducing the Black Queer History Commission Establishment Act of 2023. Please find enclosed a signed copy of the legislation, which is co-introduced by Councilmembers Charles Allen, Brianne K. Nadeau, Robert C. White, Jr, Kenyan R. McDuffie, Brooke Pinto, Matt Frumin, Janeese Lewis George, Christina Henderson, Trayon White, Sr., Vincent C. Gray, and Anita Bonds.

This legislation seeks to establish a Black Queer History Commission to research and publish a report documenting the Black LGBTQIA+ history of the District of Columbia. This report would be housed in the DC Archives, and serve as a resource on the rich history of Black Queer contributions in the District. As the birthplace of Black Pride, the earliest and second largest Black LGBTQIA+ event in the world, DC is well-positioned to lead the way in collecting and preserving this important history. In doing so, our communities will also lead the way in building the future we want to see. As James Baldwin famously wrote, "History is not the past. It is the present. We carry our history with us. We are our history."

Please contact my Legislative Director, Kendra Wiley, at [kwiley@dccouncil.gov](mailto:kwiley@dccouncil.gov) if you have any questions about this legislation.

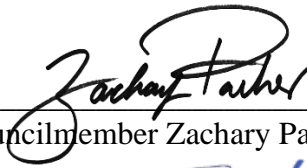
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zachary Parker". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "Z".

Zachary Parker  
Ward 5 Councilmember

1 

2 Councilmember Charles Allen



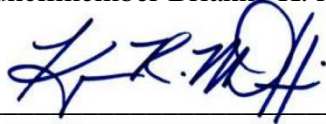
Councilmember Zachary Parker

4 

6 Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau



Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.

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10 Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie



Councilmember Brooke Pinto

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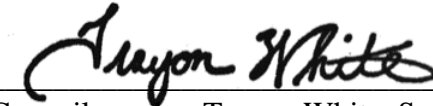
14 Councilmember Matt Frumin



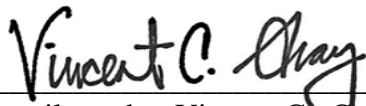
Councilmember Janeese Lewis George

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18 Councilmember Christina Henderson



Councilmember Trayon White, Sr.

21 

23 Councilmember Vincent C. Gray



Councilmember Anita Bonds

29 A BILL

32 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

37 To establish the Black Queer History Commission to research and publish a report documenting  
38 the Black LGBTQIA+ history of the District.

40 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this  
41 act may be cited as the “Black Queer History Commission Establishment Act of 2023”.

42 Sec. 2. Establishment and purpose.

43 (a) There is established the Black Queer History Commission (“Commission”) to serve as  
44 a collaborative body to research, collect, develop, and archive Black LGBTQIA+ history, and to  
45 educate and promote knowledge of the history of the Black Pride Movement and the notable  
46 people, places, and events that contribute to the rich history of the national and global queer  
47 culture.

48 (b) The purpose of the Commission will be to research, document, and archive Black  
49 LGBTQIA+ history in the District and produce a report to be housed in the District of Columbia  
50 Archives. The report shall include recommendations on how to educate the public on the  
51 contents in the report.

52 (c)(1) The Commission shall be comprised of six voting members to be appointed as  
53 follows:

54 (A) One member from Howard University with expertise in Black  
55 LGBTQIA+ history;

56 (B) Two members appointed by Council;

57 (C) Two members appointed by the Mayor, with the advice and consent of  
58 the Council, pursuant to section 2(e) of the Confirmation Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979  
59 (D.C. Law 2-141; D.C. Official Code § 1-523.01(3); and

60 (D) One member from the Commission on Arts;

61 (2) A majority of the sitting voting members shall constitute a quorum.

62 (3) All voting members shall have equal power to vote.

63 (4) The first meeting of the Commission shall occur no later than May 1, 2024.

64 (5) The Commission shall convene at least 12 times and meet at least once a  
65 month.

66 (6) Subject to an appropriation for the purpose, members of the Commission shall  
67 be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses for up to 12 meetings.

68 (7) The Commission shall sunset on November 1, 2025, or after the report  
69 required by subsection (d) of this section has been published.

70 (d)(1) No later than 18 months after the effective date of this act the Commission shall  
71 publish and transmit to the Mayor and Council a report.

72 (2) The Commission shall gather input for the report as follows:

73 (A) Hold a minimum of 5 public meetings; and

74 (B) At least 90 days prior to completing the Report, the Commission shall  
75 publish a draft report and provide a 30-day public comment period.

76 Sec. 3. Applicability.

77 (a) Section 2(c)(6) shall apply upon the date of inclusion of its fiscal effect in an  
78 approved budget and financial plan.

79 (b) The Chief Financial Officer shall certify the date of the inclusion of the fiscal effect in  
80 an approved budget and financial plan, and provide notice to the Budget Director of the Council  
81 of the certification.

82 (c)(1) The Budget Director shall cause the notice of the certification to be published in  
83 the District of Columbia Register.

84 (2) The date of publication of the notice of the certification shall not affect the  
85 applicability of this act.

86 Sec. 4. Fiscal impact statement.

87 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal  
88 impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,

89 approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

90 Sec. 5. Effective date.

91 This act shall take effect after approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the  
92 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as  
93 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December  
94 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of  
95 Columbia Register.