


Councilmember Vincent B. Orange, Sr.

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A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To recognize the Washington Nationals baseball organization for winning the 2014 National League East Division Title for the second time in three seasons, and advancing to the Major League Baseball playoffs.

WHEREAS, on September 29, 2004, Major League Baseball (“MLB”) announced the Montreal Expos would move to Washington, DC and would begin playing in 2005, the first time baseball was to be played in the nation’s capitol since 1971.

WHEREAS, on November 22, 2004, the team officially changed its name to the Washington Nationals (“Nationals”).

WHEREAS, on December 21, 2004, the Council of the District of Columbia in a 7-6 vote passed the “Ballpark Omnibus Financing Revenue Act of 2004” (“the Act”).

WHEREAS, the Act authorized the construction of Nationals Park and finalized a deal with MLB to make the Nationals the official baseball team of the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, the current members of the Council who voted in the affirmative to bring baseball back to the District are Vincent B. Orange Sr., Jack Evans and former members Harold Brazil, Sharon Ambrose, Kevin P. Chavous, Sandy Allen, and former Council Chairwoman Linda Cropp.

26 WHEREAS, a great deal of hard work to bring baseball to the District must also be
27 attributed to former Mayor Anthony Williams, to former Deputy Chief of Staff to Mayor
28 Williams and now Vice President for the Nationals baseball organization, Greg McCarthy, to
29 former Chairman of the DC Sports and Entertainment Commission, Mark Tuohey, and to former
30 member of the DC Sports and Entertainment Commission, Bill Hall.

31 WHEREAS, on April 4, 2005, the Nationals played their inaugural game against the
32 Philadelphia Phillies.

33 WHEREAS, on April 14, 2005, the Nationals played their first game in the District of
34 Columbia at Robert F. Kennedy Stadium in front of a sell-out crowd against the Arizona
35 Diamondbacks, with former President George W. Bush throwing out the first pitch.

36 WHEREAS, the Nationals cemented the return of major league baseball to the District
37 with a 5-3 win over the Arizona Diamondbacks on April 14, 2005.

38 WHEREAS, construction broke ground on Nationals Park on May 4, 2006.

39 WHEREAS, on March 30, 2008, the Nationals played their first game at Nationals Park
40 in front of a sell-out crowd and a nationally televised audience on ESPN's Sunday Night
41 Baseball broadcast.

42 WHEREAS, All-Star and Gold Glove third baseman, Ryan Zimmerman, hit a walk-off
43 home run against the Atlanta Braves that night to give the Nationals their first win at Nationals
44 Park.

45 WHEREAS, Nationals Park has been an important part of the revitalization of the
46 Southwest/Anacostia Riverfront area.

47 WHEREAS, the Nationals baseball organization has quickly become a pillar of the
48 community with philanthropic efforts such as the Washington Nationals Dream Foundation and
49 their sponsorship of the DC Public Library's Summer Reading program.

50 WHEREAS, on September 16, 2014, the Nationals clinched the National League East
51 Division Title with a 3-0 win over the Atlanta Braves.

52 WHEREAS, the Nationals became the first team in the National League to achieve 90
53 wins during the 2013-2014 season.

54 WHEREAS, on September 28, 2014, in a 1-0 victory over the Miami Marlin, Jordan
55 Zimmermann pitched the first no-hitter in the history of the Washington Nationals, the
56 Nationals finished the regular season with the best record in the National League, and outfielder
57 Denard Span broke Cristian Guzman's franchise record for the most hits in a season with 184.
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60 WHEREAS, the Washington Nationals finished the regular season with 96-66 record, the
61 best record in the National League.
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64 WHEREAS, the Washington Nationals, despite valiant play, were defeated by the San
65 Francisco Giants in the National League Division Series in four games.
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68 WHEREAS, a great deal of gratitude and appreciation goes to Mr. Theodore Lerner and
69 the Lerner family, Nationals General Manager & President of Baseball Operations Mike Rizzo,
70 first-year manager Matt Williams, the Nationals staff and administrators, and the 40 players that
71 make up the Washington Nationals, the 2014 National League East Division Champions.
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74 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this
75 resolution may be cited as the “Washington Nationals 2014 Season Celebration Ceremonial
76 Recognition Resolution of 2014”.

77 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and honors the
78 Washington Nationals baseball organization for its outstanding contributions both on and off the
79 field to the District of Columbia.

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