

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

24-280

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

November 1, 2022

To recognize and honor the Ethiopian Community Center for its 43-year anniversary as an essential pillar of support for African immigrant families in the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, the Ethiopian Community Center was founded in 1980 to provide culturally and linguistically targeted programs that have successfully connected thousands of African immigrant families to critical social services, resources, and opportunities;

WHEREAS, among the many crucial support programs provided by the Ethiopian Community Center include youth development, job readiness training, lead poisoning prevention outreach, and sexual assault survivor support programming;

WHEREAS, the African Youth Program (AYP) pioneered by the Ethiopian Community Center supports the social and emotional well-being of school-age children and youth of African origin by providing comprehensive, nurturing, and culturally-specific space for learning, self-discovery, creative expression, and civic engagement. The program provides positive youth development for students K-8 in DC Public and Charter Schools during winter, spring, and summer school closures. Thousands of DC youth and families have benefited from this program;

WHEREAS, the Ethiopian Community Center's English as a Second Language program has equipped thousands of African immigrants with employment relevant English language skills that have allowed them to successfully access educational and workforce development opportunities;

WHEREAS, since 2019, the Ethiopian Community Center has led the Bilingual Career and Service Navigator program to support the economic mobility of immigrant workers with limited English proficiency. The program has yielded tangible employment and educational outcomes for over 900 African immigrants who would otherwise be unable to access such opportunities;

WHEREAS, between 2018 and 2021, the Ethiopian Community Center provided education to over 2,000 employees across all 8 wards in the District regarding worker's rights, minimum wage changes, overtime pay, paid sick leave policies, and wage theft awareness;

WHEREAS, for the past three years through funding from the DC Department of Energy and Environment, the Ethiopian Community Center provides culturally and linguistically targeted

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

outreach and education on lead safety to African immigrant residents of the District of Columbia on how to identify, prevent, and address childhood lead exposure;

WHEREAS, the Ethiopian Community Center’s African Immigrant Victim Services Program has provided robust, culturally specific, and trauma-informed support services to underserved African immigrant victims of sexual assault in the Washington Metropolitan Area;

WHEREAS, in addition to the aforementioned programming, the Ethiopian Community Center has supported the Ethiopian and larger African immigrant community with COVID outreach services, and worked closely with various District agencies including the Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Justice Office of Victims Resources, the Mayor’s Office of African Affairs, and numerous local organizations to best support our African immigrant neighbors in Ward 4 and across the District;

WHEREAS, the Ethiopian Community Center is an outstanding and crucial component in the work the District of Columbia does to support our immigrant families;

WHEREAS, the Ethiopian and larger African community are a rich part of the District of Columbia’s history and livelihood. Thousands of African immigrants have benefited from the Ethiopian Community Center’s critical programming and many more stand to be served as the Center garners further financial and legislative support from the Council of the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, the Ethiopian and larger African immigrant community face numerous structural barriers in accessing essential housing, health, employment, and educational opportunities. The Ethiopian Community Center has worked diligently to understand, address, and dismantle these barriers to create networks of care that bolster the livelihood of our African immigrant neighbors;

WHEREAS, the Council of the District of Columbia recognizes the outstanding and critical role of the Ethiopian Community Center and honors the generations of leadership provided by the Center’s staff and seeks to enhance the Center’s work through robust investment and legislative support.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Ethiopian Community Center 43-Year Anniversary Recognition Resolution of 2022”.

Sec. 2. The Council recognizes and honors the Ethiopian Community Center on its 43-year anniversary.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.