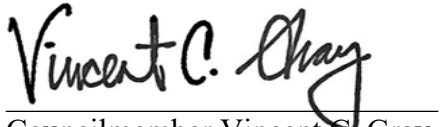



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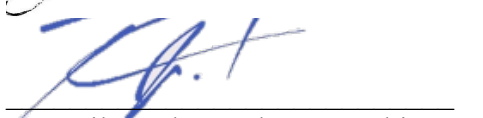
  
Chairman Phil Mendelson

  
Councilmember Anita Bonds

  
Councilmember Vincent C. Gray

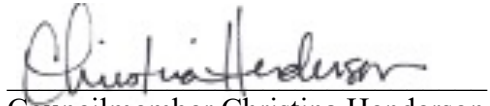
  
Councilmember Janeese Lewis George

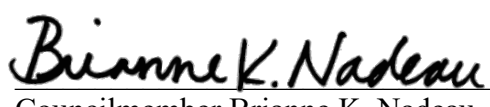
  
Councilmember Zachary Parker

  
Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.


  
Councilmember Charles Allen

  
Councilmember Matthew Frumin

  
Councilmember Christina Henderson

  
Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau

  
Councilmember Brooke Pinto

  
Councilmember Trayon White, Sr.

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

\_\_\_\_\_

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

\_\_\_\_\_

To recognize, honor, and celebrate Attorney General Karl A. Racine for his exemplary service to the District of Columbia and its residents as its first independent, elected Attorney General.

WHEREAS, Karl A. Racine was born in Haiti in 1962, where his family lived until they fled the repressive Duvalier regime;

WHEREAS, Racine and his family immigrated to the District, where he attended Murch Elementary School, Deal Junior High School, then-named Wilson High School, and St. John's College High School, from which he graduated;

47 WHEREAS, Racine was a standout student, with his academic success and talent on the  
48 basketball court leading him to continue his education and athletic career at the University of  
49 Pennsylvania;

50  
51 WHEREAS, Racine continued to excel at the University of Pennsylvania, including in  
52 basketball, where he served as captain of the team and Most Valuable Player;

53  
54 WHEREAS, Racine was inspired by his parents and civil rights leaders to use the law to  
55 promote equal justice and create social change, and he went on to attend the University of Virginia  
56 School of Law, during which took on cases defending migrant farm workers;;

57  
58 WHEREAS, following his graduation, Racine began his legal career as an associate at  
59 Venable LLP before transitioning to the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia, on  
60 the Board of which he would later serve;

61  
62 WHEREAS, Racine then began working at Cacheris & Treanor in criminal defense and  
63 civil litigation;

64  
65 WHEREAS, Racine served as Associate White House Counsel under President Bill  
66 Clinton from 1997 to 2000, where he represented the President and White House staff on civil and  
67 criminal investigations, including congressional, Department of Justice, and Office of Independent  
68 Counsel inquiries;

69  
70 WHEREAS, Racine rejoined Venable LLP in 2002 as a partner soon after leaving the  
71 White House, where he leaned into pro bono cases including defending a man facing execution in  
72 Virginia, and was appointed the head of the associate committee responsible for the hiring,  
73 training, and development of associates;

74  
75 WHEREAS, in 2006, Racine was elected managing partner of Venable LLP, making him  
76 the first African American managing partner of a top-100 U.S. law firm;

77  
78 WHEREAS, in 2014, Racine returned to public service when he was elected as the  
79 District's first independent, elected Attorney General;

80  
81 WHEREAS, in 2018, District voters reelected Racine to a second term;

82  
83 WHEREAS, as Attorney General, he has fought tirelessly to protect the District's interests  
84 and the public interest and has transformed the Office of the Attorney General into the best public  
85 interest law firm in the country;

86  
87 WHEREAS, under his leadership, the Office of the Attorney General has won more than  
88 \$200 million for District residents, including \$35 million in restitution for consumers, \$4.8 million  
89 for tenants living in unsafe and unlawful housing conditions, more than \$4 million for workers  
90 experiencing wage theft, and more than \$80 million against the nation's leading opioid  
91 manufacturers and distributors to be used to combat the opioid epidemic;

92

93 WHEREAS, Racine grew the agency’s affirmative civil litigation team that protects  
94 District residents from 14 to 78 professionals, significantly increasing enforcement of critical laws;  
95

96 WHEREAS, Racine has led on evidence-based and data-driven juvenile justice practices,  
97 including by supporting the extremely successful Alternatives to the Court Experience diversion  
98 program, launching the ATTEND truancy program, and creating a new 24/7 hotline to advise  
99 police officers on the scene of an alleged juvenile crime;

100  
101 WHEREAS, Racine has transformed juvenile prosecution by creating the nation’s first  
102 restorative justice program in a prosecutor’s office, which has completed more than 200 restorative  
103 justice conferences with victims of crime and young people;

104  
105 WHEREAS, Racine invested in violence interruption by launching the Cure the Streets  
106 violence intervention program in 2 sites in 2018, expanding the program over time to 10 sites  
107 across the District;

108  
109 WHEREAS, Racine established the Office of Consumer Protection to stop deceptive and  
110 unethical business practices, including by mediating more than 13,000 consumer complaints;

111  
112 WHEREAS, Racine championed affordable housing and housing justice, filing nearly 20  
113 cases taking on slumlords jeopardizing the health and safety of District renters;

114  
115 WHEREAS, Racine pursued innovative partnerships with the United States Attorney for  
116 the District of Columbia, including in sharing staff to combat elder abuse and financial  
117 exploitation;

118  
119 WHEREAS, Racine took on President Donald Trump for violating the Constitution’s  
120 Emoluments Clauses, anti-corruption provisions that prohibit the president from accepting money  
121 or benefits from foreign or domestic governments;

122  
123 WHEREAS, Racine filed the first civil lawsuit by a government entity against the January  
124 6 insurrectionists to hold them legally accountable for causing extensive harm to the District, our  
125 democracy, and particularly, the brave men and women of the Metropolitan Police Department;

126  
127 WHEREAS, Racine has elevated the standing of the Office of the Attorney General among  
128 its counterparts through strategic litigation, advocacy, and relationship-building;

129  
130 WHEREAS, Racine served as the President of the bipartisan National Association of  
131 Attorneys General in 2021 and launched his timely Presidential Initiative, The People v. Hate:  
132 Standing Up for Humanity, which focused on ending hate and bias;

133  
134 WHEREAS, Racine has also served as the Co-Chair of the Democratic Attorneys General  
135 Association;

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137 WHEREAS, Racine has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to serving District residents  
138 and unwavering support for statehood and local autonomy; and

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WHEREAS, Racine is deeply respected by his colleagues, residents, and the District’s legal community, and is known for his vision, courage, tenacity, and passion.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Attorney General Karl A. Racine Recognition Resolution of 2023”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes, honors, and celebrates Attorney General Karl A. Racine for his exemplary service to the District of Columbia and its residents as its first independent, elected Attorney General.

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