

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

25-7

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

January 17, 2023

To recognize and honor the life, contributions and legacy of Karen Lee Williams.

WHEREAS, Karen Lee Williams was a fifth generation Washingtonian, born on October 24, 1948;

WHEREAS, Karen Lee Williams attended and graduated from Frank W. Ballou Senior High School;

WHEREAS, Karen Lee Williams attended George Washington University, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Education;

WHEREAS, Karen Lee Williams was united in holy matrimony to W. Earl Williams on December 28, 1996 and remained married for 26 years;

WHEREAS, Karen Lee Williams had an illustrious career in education, education policy, public safety, and community organizing;

WHEREAS, Karen Lee Williams was the Director of Big Mama's Children Center;

WHEREAS, Karen Lee Williams was an elementary special education teacher with the District of Columbia Public School System (DCPS);

WHEREAS, Karen Lee Williams also worked with the Washington Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs and the Washington Parent Fund Group as an Executive Assistant and Grant Administrator;

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WHEREAS, Karen Lee Williams was an Officer with the United States Park Police (USPP), where she was involved in the creation of the Community Relations Unit and a partnership with the D.C. Special Olympics;

WHEREAS, Karen Lee Williams worked as a special education teacher at St. John's Child Development Center;

WHEREAS, Karen Lee Williams was a member of the District of Columbia State Board of Education representing Ward 7, first elected to the board in November 2012 and was re-elected in 2016 and served until 2020, and during her tenure, she served as both Vice President and President, played a key role in the creation of a Student Advisory Committee, and initiated the Board's District-wide initiative on the retention of qualified teachers;

WHEREAS, Karen Lee Williams' experience in education policy, public safety, and community organizing were vitally important during her tenure on the D.C. State Board of Education as she keenly focused on creating equitable educational opportunities for all DCPS students, providing early intervention services for at-risk students and creating opportunities for D.C. children to succeed;

WHEREAS, Karen Lee Williams demonstrated a firm commitment to and involvement with The Hillcrest Community Civic Association (HCCA), working tirelessly for years promoting the similar desires and dreams and maintaining the integrity of the "Hillcrest the Hidden Secret" neighborhood in which she resided; and

WHEREAS, Karen Lee Williams' grace, creativity and inspiration will be truly missed by family, friends and community members.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Karen Lee Williams Recognition Resolution of 2023".

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia posthumously celebrates Karen Lee Williams, her years of successful service to her community, and the lasting impact of her life spent in service.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.