

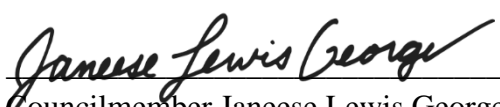
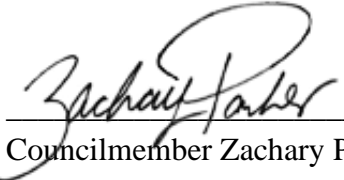



1 
2 Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie



Councilmember Charles Allen

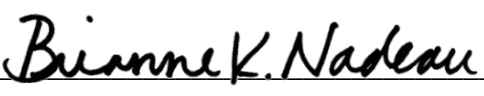
4 
5 Councilmember Janeese Lewis George

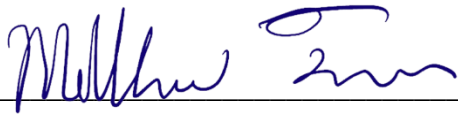

Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.

8 
9 Councilmember Zachary Parker


Councilmember Christina Henderson

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13 Councilmember Brooke Pinto


Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau


Councilmember Matthew Frumin

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22 A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

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25 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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31 To recognize Transit Equity Day and to emphasize our commitment to equitable
32 transportation systems across the District and Washington Metropolitan Region on the occasion of
33 the day of action on February 4, 2023.

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35 WHEREAS, Transit Equity Day is observed annually on February 4 to commemorate the
36 life and legacy of Rosa Parks, recognizing her as a pivotal figure in the Civil Rights Movement
37 when she refused to give up her seat on a segregated Montgomery, Alabama public bus and was
38 arrested in 1955;

39 WHEREAS, Rosa Parks was an iconic figure in the movements for social justice and racial
40 equality and played a significant role in the inception of the Civil Rights movement that ended
41 legal segregation in the United States;

42 WHEREAS, Unequal access to public transit based on race, income, and disability has
43 persisted since the Civil Rights era and has become worse in many areas of the country, with cuts
44 in public funding for transit and consequent fare increases in many transit systems across the
45 country, including the DC Metro region;

46 WHEREAS, Public transit is a fundamental right for all District residents and is often the
47 only form of mobility for many in our communities, and the fight for transit equity continues in
48 many communities across the District and around the country for high-quality, accessible and
49 reliable transportation service;

50 WHEREAS, Public transit is essential urban infrastructure – just like roads, bridges,
51 tunnels, and utilities – that is crucial to the economic, social, and environmental well-being of the
52 District and the metropolitan region;

53 WHEREAS, Public transportation is a right that all District residents and others should
54 have access to, and failing to make substantial investments in free or affordable transportation is
55 to deny our residents a basic essential needed to be contributing members of our city and
56 communities;

57 WHEREAS, Often, communities that rely on public transit the most often face the most
58 difficulty accessing it, namely people of color and lower-income communities, who are literally
59 stranded in their communities;

60 WHEREAS, The District must prioritize more investment in paratransit as a necessary
61 component of any public transit system to ensure accessibility for people with disabilities and

62 others who require it. Any expansion of public transit necessitates the further strengthening of
63 paratransit so that it is as reliable and efficient as other parts of the transit system;

64 WHEREAS, The expansion of public transportation is a significant step towards meeting
65 our climate mitigation goals and will be essential in reducing harmful transit-related emissions and
66 ensuring that all District residents can safely and reliably get around the city and region;

67 WHEREAS, Our nation and the world are faced with the growing crisis of climate change,
68 with record-breaking temperatures, with consequences including sea level rise, prolonged drought,
69 more frequent wildfires, more severe storms and flooding, and spread of diseases;

70 WHEREAS, The overwhelming scientific consensus attributes the warming trend to
71 human emissions of greenhouse gases from the combustion of fossil fuels such as oil, gas, and
72 coal, and it is essential for the survival of humanity to drastically cut our emissions of greenhouse
73 gases and convert our economy to renewable non-emitting energy sources;

74 WHEREAS, Emissions from the public transportation system are a major part of
75 greenhouse gas emissions, and transitioning our transportation system from excessive automobile
76 dependence to public transit, especially electrified public transit with electricity from renewable
77 sources, is key to transitioning our economy from fossil fuels to renewable energy and cutting our
78 greenhouse gas emissions;

79 WHEREAS, The required expansion of public transit to address the climate crisis also
80 provides an unprecedented opportunity to create a large number of good, high-skill, family-
81 supporting transit operation jobs, as well as construction jobs for building new transit facilities;

82 WHEREAS, The growth of public transit will also reduce automotive pollutants that have
83 the worst impacts on the communities closest to highways and other major roads, which tend to be
84 disproportionately communities of color and economically disadvantaged communities;

85 WHEREAS, The required expansion of public transit to address the climate crisis also
86 provides an unprecedented opportunity to create a large number of good, high-skill, family-
87 supporting transit jobs, as well as construction jobs for building new transit facilities and rail;

88 WHEREAS, Increased community access to public transit, reduction in racial, economic,
89 and other disparities in access to transit and clean air and the burden of climate change impacts,
90 and increased opportunities for employment in good jobs form a key part of a “just transition”
91 from a carbon-intensive, fossil-fuel based, highly unequal extractive economy to a pollution-free,
92 regenerative, renewable energy-based economy;

93 WHEREAS, Public transportation is a civil right, and the District will continue combating
94 racial, economic, and other inequalities in access to adequate public transit and will lead efforts to
95 provide affordable and accessible transit to all District residents.

96 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this
97 resolution may be cited as the “District of Columbia Transit Equity Day Recognition Resolution
98 of 2023”.

99 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and hereby proclaims February
100 4, 2023, as Transit Equity Day.

101 Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.