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2 Councilmember Brooke Pinto



Councilmember Charles Allen

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6 A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

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11 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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16 To declare the month of April 2023 as “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” in the District of
17 Columbia, and to urge residents to show their support for victim-survivors and work to
18 prevent sexual assault, abuse, harassment, online harassment, and sex trafficking.

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20 WHEREAS, in 1978, the first “Take Back the Night” events in the United States were held
21 in San Francisco and New York City;

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23 WHEREAS, the movement that developed in the United States was created in the wake of
24 the civil rights movement, and was buoyed by Black women’s activism to disrupt the persistent
25 and systemic sexual violence they experienced;

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27 WHEREAS, the month of April has been designated as Sexual Assault Awareness Month
28 in the United States and was first observed nationally in April 2001, after the alarming statistics of
29 sexual assault and underreporting became more apparent;

30
31 WHEREAS, sexual assault awareness includes prevention and advocacy efforts to address
32 various forms of sexual violence, including child sexual abuse, sexual harassment, online sexual
33 harassment, sex trafficking, and rape;

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35 WHEREAS, sexual assault awareness activities have expanded to include the issues of
36 sexual violence against men and men’s participation in ending sexual violence;

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38 WHEREAS, sexual violence exists on a spectrum of behaviors, ranging from verbal
39 harassment to online harassment to sexual assault, and it is imperative to recognize that sexual
40 harassment in the workplace is a pervasive, yet often overlooked, manifestation of sexual violence;

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42 WHEREAS, according to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, every 68 seconds,
43 someone in the United States is sexually assaulted;

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45 WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, at least one in
46 seven children has experienced abuse or neglect in the last year;

47 WHEREAS, according to the National Center for Victims of Crimes, victim-survivors of
48 child sexual abuse have higher rates of being sexually assaulted again as adults, with children who
49 had an experience of rape or attempted rape in their adolescent years being 13.7 times more likely
50 to experience rape or attempted rape in their first year of college;

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52 WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, among adult
53 women surveyed, 22% of Black, 26.9% of American Indian/Alaska Native, 22% of non-Hispanic
54 Black, 18.8% of non-Hispanic White, 14.6% of Hispanic, and 35.5% of women of multiple races
55 experienced an attempted or a completed rape at some time in their lives;

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57 WHEREAS, according to the Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence, 23% of
58 Asian/Pacific Islander women experience some form of contact sexual violence;

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60 WHEREAS, according to research published by the Georgetown Journal on Poverty Law
61 and Policy, married immigrant women experience higher levels of physical and sexual abuse than
62 unmarried immigrant women, at rates of 59.5% compared to 49.8%, respectively;

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64 WHEREAS, according to the Department of Justice’s Office for Victims of Crime, 12%
65 of transgender youth report being sexually assaulted in K–12 settings by peers or educational staff,
66 13% of African-American transgender people surveyed were sexually assaulted in the workplace,
67 and 22% of homeless transgender individuals were assaulted while staying in shelters;

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69 WHEREAS, according to the National Sexual Violence Research Center, lesbian, gay,
70 bisexual, and queer people were three times more likely to report sexual violence or harassment
71 compared to heterosexual people;

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73 WHEREAS, in deaf communities, reliance on interpreters may create challenges, as some
74 sexual assault survivors feel like their private experiences are not correctly represented and feel
75 uncomfortable reporting their assault to a stranger outside of their community;

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77 WHEREAS, the rate of sexual assault against people with disabilities was three times that
78 of people without disabilities;

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80 WHEREAS, according to the Administration for Children and Families, racial and ethnic
81 minorities, communities exposed to multigenerational trauma, individuals with a history of
82 substance abuse or leaving home, homeless youth, people with lived experience of poverty, and
83 children in the child welfare system, as well as those with a history of sexual abuse, are identified
84 as some of the groups most vulnerable to human trafficking;

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86 WHEREAS, according to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council’s Statistical Analysis
87 Center, Black girls in their teens and twenties in the District were the largest proportion of
88 trafficking victims in 2016;

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90 WHEREAS, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission’s Task Force on the Study
91 of Harassment in the Workplace found that 45% of all workplace harassment complaints filed in

92 Fiscal Year 2015 were based on sex, and that sexual harassment victim-survivors experience
93 detrimental psychological and physical health effects.

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95 WHEREAS, according to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, in 2021,
96 its CyberTipline received 29.3 million reports of suspected online child sexual exploitation, an
97 increase of 35% from 2020; and

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99 WHEREAS, according to the 2021 District of Columbia Youth Risk Behavior Survey,
100 24.7% of District students who identify as LGBTQ and Questioning report being electronically
101 bullied.

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103 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
104 resolution may be cited as the “Sexual Assault Awareness Month Recognition Resolution of
105 2023”.

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107 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia declares the month of April 2023 as “Sexual
108 Assault Awareness Month” in the District of Columbia and urges residents to show their support
109 for victim-survivors and work to prevent sexual assault, abuse, harassment, online harassment, and
110 sex trafficking.

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