

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

25-161

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

December 5, 2023

To commemorate, recognize and support Brandon Burke and Shaun Mykals, Co-Owners of Thurst Lounge, a new entertainment establishment that aims to uplift LGBTQ+ culture for the District's Black queer community.

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia values and celebrates diversity, inclusivity, and the establishment of spaces that honor and represent the unique experiences of its many different and valued communities;

WHEREAS, co-owners Brandon Burke and Shaun Mykals, with over a decade of experience in the nightlife scene, have demonstrated a commitment to filling a gap that exists in the community for our Black and Brown members of the LGBTQ+ community;

WHEREAS, the co-owners garnered significant support from the LGBTQ community when they began this journey with Thursday Bliss: An Open Mic Experience initially held for their musician friends only on Thursdays, but so popular it evolved into an everyday weekly event;

WHEREAS, Mr. Burke and Mr. Mykals will open a new establishment in December at 2204 14th Street, NW called Thurst to fill the void created by the sale in 2006 of The Bachelor's Mill, a bar on Capitol Hill that served as a hub where all LGBTQ + people felt welcome;

WHEREAS, this new establishment will pay homage to the culturally rich Black and Brown queer experience and will create a warm and welcoming area for members of the Black and Brown LGBTQ+ community;

WHEREAS, Thurst Lounge is situated in the old Sakerum Restaurant just north of U Street, providing a two-story establishment that will offer a unique combination of food, drink, live music, and a welcoming atmosphere for all;

WHEREAS, Thurst owners will focus on providing a diverse and inclusive environment, not only through its physical space but also by actively connecting with organizations like the Gay Men's Health Alliance to host events and fundraisers; and will contribute to the cultural

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landscape of the District by hosting weekly parties, drag shows, and by providing a platform for artistic expression;

WHEREAS, by the above actions, the owners of Thurst are demonstrating their commitment to fostering authenticity by acknowledging the increased need for Black and Brown people of D.C.'s queer community to have spaces that center and recognize their unique experiences.

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

Sec. 2 The Council of the District of Columbia congratulates and appreciates co-owners Brandon Burke and Shaun Mykals and officially recognizes and supports the opening of Thurst Lounge as a valuable addition to the cultural richness and inclusivity of our great city.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.