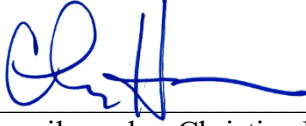


1 Brianne K. Nadeau

2 Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau

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6 Councilmember Christina Henderson

Janeese Lewis George

Councilmember Janeese Lewis George



Councilmember Anita Bonds



Councilmember Robert White

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15 A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

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17 _____
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19 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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24 To recognize, honor, and celebrate the Red-backed Salamander, *Plethodon cinereus*, and other
25 amphibians that call the District of Columbia home, and declare May 5 to May 11, 2024
26 “Amphibian Week” in the District of Columbia.

27
28 WHEREAS, May 5 to May 11, 2024 is National Amphibian Week.

29 WHEREAS, amphibians are unique because they begin their lives in the water, but live
30 most of the rest of their lives on land. Amphibians are also ectothermic, or “cold blooded,”
31 meaning they cannot regulate their own body temperature and rely on external sources of heat,
32 like a rock warmed by the sun or a body of water.

33 WHEREAS, salamanders are a scientific order of amphibians.

34 WHEREAS, the Red-backed Salamander, *Plethodon cinereus*, is a species of salamander
35 found throughout the Eastern and Appalachian regions of the United States, including in the
36 District of Columbia.

37 WHEREAS, Red-backed Salamanders are native to the District of Columbia and can be
38 found in just about every wooded area within its boundaries.

39 WHEREAS, Red-backed Salamanders eat bugs which helps control pests and maintain
40 the balance of the ecosystem.

41 WHEREAS, Red-backed Salamanders contribute to nutrient cycling by consuming
42 organic matter and releasing nutrients back into the soil through their waste, which helps
43 maintain soil fertility and supports the growth of plants in the forest.

44 WHEREAS, Red-backed Salamanders are important food for snakes, birds, and
45 mammals.

46 WHEREAS, Red-backed Salamander burrows provide shelter for a variety of small
47 animals, including insects, spiders, and other invertebrates.

48 WHEREAS, Red-backed Salamanders' presence and the abundance of Red-backed
49 Salamanders are indicators of healthy and mature eastern forest ecosystems.

50 WHEREAS, Red-backed Salamanders collectively outweigh any other vertebrates in
51 eastern forests (yes, even humans or deer!).

52 WHEREAS, Red-backed Salamanders' red stripes emulate the red horizontal bars on the
53 District of Columbia's flag.

54 WHEREAS, the Red-backed Salamander has good friends at Powell Elementary School,
55 who studied the Red-backed Salamander and proposed that the Council adopt the Red-backed
56 Salamander as the official state amphibian of the District of Columbia.

57 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
58 resolution may be cited as the "District of Columbia Amphibian Week Recognition Resolution
59 of 2024".

60 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia declares May 5 – May 11, 2024,
61 “Amphibian Week” in the District of Columbia and hereby recognizes just how cool amphibians
62 are and encourages everyone in the District to turn over a fallen log and search for a Red-backed
63 Salamander.

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