

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

25-223

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

May 7, 2024

To recognize the history and the importance of DC Black Pride, to celebrate the efforts of the Center for Black Equity, and to welcome visitors from the greater Washington region, across the country, and around the world to the festivities.

WHEREAS, DC Black Pride is an annual event to increase awareness of and showcase pride in the diversity of the LGBTQIA+ populations in the African American community, and to support organizations that focus on health disparities, education, youth, and families;

WHEREAS, the mission of DC Black Pride is to increase awareness of and pride in the diversity of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in the African diaspora as well as support organizations that focus on health disparities, education, youth and families;

WHEREAS, from 1975 until 1990, the Club House was a premiere community gathering space for the African-American lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community of Washington, DC and was notable for its annual Memorial Day weekend celebration, called the Children’s Hour;

WHEREAS, Wilmore Cook, Theodore Kirkland, and Ernest Hopkins envisioned creating an event that would continue the tradition of the Children’s Hour as well as raise much-needed funds for the HIV/AIDS organizations that served the African American community after the Club House closed its doors in 1990;

WHEREAS, with the Children’s Hour as inspiration, the inaugural DC Black Pride was held on May 25, 1991 in cooperation with the DC Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gay Men and the Inner-City AIDS Network on the grounds of Banneker Field;

WHEREAS, as the very first Black Pride festival in the world, DC Black Pride fostered the beginning of the Center for Black Equity (formerly known as the International Federal of Black Prides, Inc. (IFBP)) and the “Black Pride Movement”;

WHEREAS, as DC Black Pride grew in popularity and in programmatic offerings, organizers created a board of directors, created a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, and officially established the Black Lesbian & Gay Pride Day, Inc.;

**ENROLLED ORIGINAL**

WHEREAS, since the birth of DC Black Pride, more than 50 other Black Pride celebrations now take place throughout the world and on 4 continents, with many using DC Black Pride as a model;

WHEREAS, during the 1998 festival, Black Lesbian & Gay Pride Day, Inc., and organizers of Black Prides from New York City, Detroit, Atlanta and several other cities formed the International Federation of Black Prides;

WHEREAS, the International Federation of Black Prides later became the Center for Black Equity, and today the organization has more than 50 members and serves as the principal body through which organizers find support, raise funds, and share best practices;

WHEREAS, May 20, 2024 through May 27, 2024, marks the 33<sup>rd</sup> annual DC Black Pride celebration;

WHEREAS, the theme for this year's celebration is "BLACK PRIDE FOREVER";

WHEREAS, DC Black Pride 2024 will feature our Opening Reception, two dozen educational workshops, Health & Wellness Pavilion, Rainbow Row, Mary Bowman Poetry Slam, Writer's Forum, Mini Ball, Faith Service, cultural and social offerings; Transgender, Elders and Youth focused discussions and women's programming;

WHEREAS, for more than 30 years, DC Black Pride has been an opportunity for the Black LGBTQIA+ community to gather and celebrate being both African American and members of LGBTQIA+ communities;

WHEREAS, DC Black Pride is the oldest and one of the largest Black Pride events in the world, drawing thousands of residents and visitors from around the globe; and

WHEREAS, DC Black Pride brings more than 500,000 people to the nation's capital from across the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, South Africa, Great Britain, France, Germany, and the Netherlands and will carry that tradition this year and into the future to celebrate their shared community, raise awareness and funding for HIV/AIDS prevention, and stand against homophobia inspired by violence and bigotry.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution be cited as the "DC Black Pride Recognition Resolution of 2024".

**ENROLLED ORIGINAL**

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and honors the hard work of everyone involved in organizing the 33<sup>rd</sup> annual DC Black Pride and the opportunity to celebrate the Black LGBTQIA+ community.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.