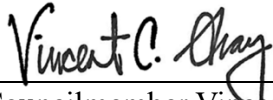


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3 Councilmember Vincent C. Gray



Councilmember Trayon White Sr.

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8 Councilmember Anita Bonds



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10 Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie

11
12 A CEREMONAL RESOLUTION

13
14 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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17
18
19 May 3, 2024

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21
22
23 To Recognize and honor the life and legacy of Mary Bernadette Tolson who passed on April 22,
24 2024, for her service to the District of Columbia and their residents.

25
26 WHEREAS, Tolson was born in Newton Grove, North Carolina on December 5, 1942;

27
28 WHEREAS, Tolson arrived in Washington, D.C. in 1955;

29
30 WHEREAS, Tolson offered her services in her career to the D.C. Board of Education to
31 the Department of Employment Services, implementing Mayor Marion Barry's Summer Youth
32 Employment Program;

33
34 WHEREAS, Tolson serviced time as the Chief of Staff, Senior Advisor, and Special
35 Assistant to Mayor Sharon Pratt, Mayor Vincent Gray, Mayor Adrian Fenty, And Mayor Anthony
36 Williams, which culminated in 31 years of service to the District of Columbia;

37
38 WHEREAS, Tolson assisted many Washingtonians in starting their careers in the D.C.
39 Government;

40
41 WHEREAS, in retirement, Tolson helped create the Black Women for Obama
42 organization in 2008;

43
44 WHEREAS, Tolson was a founder and charter member of Black Women For Positive
45 Change, focusing on changing the issues of violence in the District;

46

47 WHEREAS, Tolson was fondly referred to as the “Mayor” of Mississippi Avenue, South
48 East by the residents of the neighborhood;

49
50 WHEREAS, Tolson tirelessly offered her services to community service, mentorship, and
51 friendship until her passing.

52
53 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this
54 resolution be cited as the “Mary Bernadette Tolson Ceremonial Recognition Resolution of 2024”.

55
56 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia honors Mary Bernadette Tolson for her
57 years of dedication to the District of Columbia and the residents of the District of Columbia.

58
59 Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in
60 the District of Columbia Register.