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3 Councilmember Robert White



Councilmember Matthew Frumin

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8 Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie

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11 A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION
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15 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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19 To recognize, honor, and celebrate the late William Hall "Spence" Spencer IV for his devotion to
20 his community in Palisades to which he gave much love and was loved in return, as well as his
21 advocacy of human rights, and dedication to bettering the lives of others.

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23 WHEREAS, William Hall "Spence" Spencer IV was born in Durham, North Carolina to
24 Dr. William "Bill" Spencer and Charlotte Temple, spending his childhood in North Carolina,
25 Texas, and California;

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27 WHEREAS, Mr. Spencer graduated from Vanderbilt University in 1984 where he met his
28 wife Kathryn McDonnel;

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30 WHEREAS, Mr. Spencer lived the mantra "think globally, act locally;"

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32 WHEREAS, in his hyperactive and joyous work on behalf of his beloved Palisades
33 community, Mr. Spencer served as the President of the Palisades Community Association for
34 more than 5 years, led in the creation of the Palisades Main Street organization, farmers market,
35 and supported many community events for years, including Chairing the Palisades 4th of July
36 Parade for 20 years and helping build the community celebration into the iconic event it is today;

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38 WHEREAS, Mr. Spencer served as an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner for
39 Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D from 2015 to 2016;

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41 WHEREAS, through his community work Mr. Spencer was a ubiquitous presence,
42 spreading joy and mentoring one community leader after another with the goal of building
43 community and lifting quality of life for all;
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45 WHEREAS, Mr. Spencer engaged in this community work while also using his energy to
46 make a better world globally;
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48 WHEREAS, Mr. Spencer joined the United States Foreign Service in 1987, where he and
49 his wife were stationed in Argentina and the Bahamas;
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51 WHEREAS, in 1996 Mr. Spencer helped to configure Bosnia's first post-war elections,
52 and oversaw implementation of human rights components of the General Framework Agreement
53 for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and coordinated policy and resource support for human
54 rights in the former Yugoslavia and the Yugoslav War Crimes Tribunal;
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56 WHEREAS, from 2005 to 2024, Mr. Spencer advised the Iraqi government on diverse
57 constitutional and legislative issues;
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59 WHEREAS, Mr. Spencer's dedication to pluralism and inclusivity in Iraq prompted him
60 to establish and lead the Institute for International Law and Human Rights in 2007 through
61 which he oversaw a legal team that advised both the Iraqi Federal and Kurdistan Regional
62 parliaments and worked on accountability and justice issues with Iraq's judiciary;
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64 WHEREAS, Mr. Spencer served as board member of the TLL Temple Foundation
65 advocating for innovation solutions to support rural East Texas through the legacy of his late
66 grandfather, Arthur Temple Jr.;

67
68 WHEREAS, Mr. Spencer passed away on Thursday February 1, 2024;
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70 WHEREAS, Mr. Spencer is survived by his wife, Kathryn, his children, Sam and Sarah,
71 his parents, three siblings, one stepbrother, and many extended relatives and close friends;
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73 WHEREAS, the Palisades community lost an extraordinary community leader and the
74 world lost a powerful and relentless advocate for human rights when Mr. Spencer passed away in
75 2024.
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77 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this
78 resolution may be cited as the "William Hall "Spence" Spencer IV Posthumous Recognition
79 Resolution of 2024".
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81 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes, honors, and celebrates
82 William Hall "Spence" Spencer IV for his passion and dedication to bettering the lives of others
83 both abroad and in the District.
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85 Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in
86 the District of Columbia Register.