

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

25-259

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

September 17, 2024

To recognize the Ethiopian New Year and declare September 11, 2024, “Ethiopian New Year Day” in the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, Enkutatash, the Ethiopian New Year celebration, will be celebrated on September 11, 2024;

WHEREAS, September 11 is Meskerem 1 on the Ethiopian calendar, the date that tradition recognizes as when Makeda, the Queen of Sheba, returned to Ethiopia after visiting King Solomon in Jerusalem;

WHEREAS, Ethiopian New Year is known as Enkutatash, or “Gift of Jewels,” in reference to the gifts her subjects presented to Queen Makeda upon her return;

WHEREAS, the Washington, DC, metropolitan area has one of the largest populations of Ethiopian-Americans and Eritrean-Americans in the United States, and many Ethiopian and Eritrean immigrants are prominent members of the Washington, DC business community;

WHEREAS, Washington, DC, and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, are signatories to a Sister Cities agreement, to create lasting partnerships and cooperation on economic development, public health, culture, tourism and education; and

WHEREAS, an Ethiopian New Year’s Eve Gala Dinner will be held on the night of September 10, 2024 at the Watergate Hotel.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Ethiopian New Year Day Recognition Resolution of 2024”.

Sec. 2. The Council recognizes the importance of and celebrates Enkutatash, the Ethiopian New Year. Members of the Council of the District of Columbia call upon all residents of the District to join our family, friends, and neighbors of Ethiopian and Ertirean descent in celebrating this occasion.

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Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.