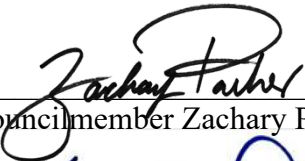



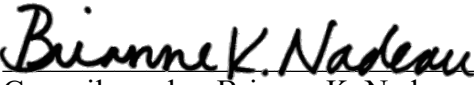
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2 Councilmember Zachary Parker

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6 Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie

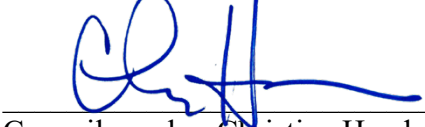
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10 Councilmember Vincent C. Gray

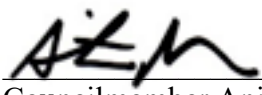
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14 Councilmember Brooke Pinto


Councilmember Janeese Lewis George


Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau


Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.


Councilmember Christina Henderson


Councilmember Anita Bonds

21 A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

26 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

31 To recognize the importance of kinship families in the District of Columbia and the many
32 benefits kinship caregivers bestow on the children in their care as well as the many
33 challenges they face when raising these children, and to declare the month of September
34 2024 as “Kinship Care Month” in the District of Columbia.

36 WHEREAS, the DC Council seeks to proclaim September 2024 as Kinship Care Month
37 in the District of Columbia;

39 WHEREAS, Kinship Care Month is observed to recognize children in kinship families,
40 and the grandparents, other relatives, and family friends who raise them, ensuring their safety,
41 promoting their well-being, and establishing a safe and stable home for these young people;

43 WHEREAS, in kinship families, a caregiver cares for a child or children who were
44 biologically born to another family member or close friend because the biological parents are
45 unable to raise them;

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47 WHEREAS, nationally, approximately 2.7 million children are living with grandparents
48 and other relatives or fictive kin in kinship care; more than 22,000 of these young people reside
49 in the District of Columbia, with fewer than 120 of them in foster care;
50

51 WHEREAS, one in 11 of all children, and one in five African-American children, will
52 live within a kinship family sometime during their childhood;
53

54 WHEREAS, kinship caregivers report tremendous satisfaction in caring for and raising
55 children but face substantial challenges in accessing the resources they need to care for their
56 families;
57

58 WHEREAS, many kinship caregivers live at or below the margins of financial stability
59 themselves even before they agree to take a child into their homes, while others may give up
60 their retirement years to assume parenting duties for these children;
61

62 WHEREAS, many children come to live with kinship caregivers after allegations of
63 parental abuse or neglect;
64

65 WHEREAS, children in kinship care frequently have mental health conditions from
66 trauma experienced in their homes and communities;
67

68 WHEREAS, kinship caregivers offer a refuge, as well as love, nurturing and care, for
69 these children;
70

71 WHEREAS, research shows that kinship care helps maintain family, sibling and
72 community ties, improves behavioral and mental health outcomes, and promotes permanency for
73 children who cannot live with their parents;
74

75 WHEREAS, it is vitally important the public grow in awareness of the challenges faced
76 by children, grandparents and other relatives in kinship families; so as to ensure there are
77 services and supports available and accessible to enable kinship youth to grow and thrive; and
78

79 WHEREAS, Kinship Care Month honors the priceless role these grandparents and other
80 kinship caregivers play in the lives of the children they love.
81

82 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
83 resolution may be cited as the “Kinship Care Month Recognition Resolution of 2024”.
84

85 Sec. 2. The Council recognizes the contributions of kinship families raising children in
86 the District of Columbia, and declares the month of September 2024 as “Kinship Care Month”,
87 as a confirmation of the District’s continued support to kinship caregivers for stepping up in
88 times of crisis to provide loving homes for children in the District.
89

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