

A CEREMONAL RESOLUTION

25-286

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

November 12, 2024

To recognize and honor the accomplishments of Ballou Senior High School music teacher and University of the District of Columbia alum, Darrell ‘Dunnie’ Watson.

WHEREAS, Mr. Watson is a native Washingtonian;

WHEREAS, Mr. Watson earned a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from the University of the District of Columbia in 1995;

WHEREAS, Mr. Watson is a music teacher at Ballou Senior High School in Ward 8;

WHEREAS, in 2004, under the leadership of Mr. Watson, the Ballou High School Band, known as the Marching Knights, gained national attention when they competed in the Home Depot “Battle of the Bands” in Carson, California;

WHEREAS, out of 110 bands that entered the preliminary rounds, the Ballou Marching Knights were one of only eight selected for the final competition;

WHEREAS, in 2005, Mr. Watson directed the band toward achieving another prestigious milestone by receiving an invitation to perform in the 55th Presidential Inauguration Parade;

WHEREAS, Mr. Watson and his Ballou Marching Knights have also performed for former President William Clinton and the Ambassador of Taipei, China;

WHEREAS, Mr. Watson has had a music career that included performances with notable gospel artists such as Yolanda Adams, Karen Clark Sheard, Dorothy Norwood, Murna Summers, and Albertina Walker;

WHEREAS, Mr. Watson was honored with receiving the Cleveland L. Dennard Distinguished Service Award from the University of the District of Columbia.

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution be cited as the “Darrell Watson Recognition Resolution of 2024”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and honors Darrell Watson for his dedication and achievements as a musician and educator at Ballou Senior High School.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.