

A RESOLUTION

22-526

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

June 26, 2018

To declare the sense of the Council that 2018 be declared the Year of the Anacostia.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Sense of the Council Declaring 2018 the Year of the Anacostia Resolution of 2018”.

Sec. 2. The Council finds that:

(1) The Anacostia River watershed stretches across 176 square miles, and the Anacostia River runs through the heart of the eastern half of the District.

(2) The Anacostia River is bordered by vital local and federal parks in Wards 5, 6, 7, and 8, including Kingman and Heritage Islands, the National Arboretum, Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, Yards Park, Diamond Teague Park, Buzzard Point Park, and Anacostia Park, providing District residents unique opportunities for recreation and connection to nature in the Nation’s Capital.

(3) The Anacostia watershed is home to nearly 500 species of fish, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates.

(4) Due to policies adopted by the District government and hard work undertaken by many local, private-sector partners, the water quality of the Anacostia River has improved markedly since a 2004 DC Appleseed report called the Anacostia River “one of the most polluted waterways in the nation.”

(5) The District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority began operations of the Anacostia Tunnel in March 2018, which reduces stormwater runoff to the Anacostia River by as much as 90% and improves the water quality of the river.

(6) August 31, 2018, will mark the 100th anniversary of the federal law designating most of the Anacostia River waterfront as Anacostia Park.

(7) 2018 will be the 50th anniversary of the National Park Service’s “Summer in the Parks” program, which includes a popular concert series in Anacostia Park, and the first year of operations under the National Park Service’s Anacostia Park management plan.

(8) In July 2018, the Washington Nationals will host the Major League Baseball All-Star Game and related events at Nationals Park on the banks of the Anacostia River.

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(9) In 2018, the nation will celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Frederick Douglass, sometimes known as the “Lion of Anacostia.”

(10) In light of the importance of the Anacostia River and Anacostia Park to the residents of the District, and the many events and milestones that will be celebrated along the river in 2018, it is appropriate that 2018 be declared the Year of the Anacostia.

Sec. 3. It is the sense of the Council that:

(1) The year 2018 shall be declared the Year of the Anacostia.

(2) The District government should:

(A) Identify resources and policies that create opportunities for recreation, education, health, and cultural events programming within the Anacostia watershed;

(B) Ensure sustainable development on and along the Anacostia River;

and

(C) Continue improvements to the water quality of the Anacostia River.

Sec. 4. The Council of the District of Columbia shall transmit a copy of this resolution, upon its adoption, to the Mayor, the Director of the Department of Energy and Environment, the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, and the Director of the National Park Service.

Sec. 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.