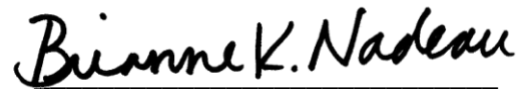
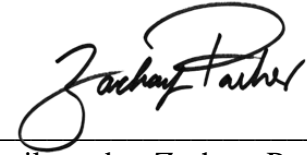




Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.



Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau



Councilmember Zachary Parker

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

1 To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to grant the Deputy Mayor for
2 Planning and Economic Development the authority to issue sole-source grants to the
3 African American Civil War Museum and Ben’s Chili Bowl to support renovation
4 efforts.
5

6 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
7 resolution may be cited as the “African American Civil War Museum and Ben’s Chili Bowl
8 Limited Grant-Making Authority Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2023”.
9

10 Sec. 2. (a) The African American Civil War Museum (“AACWM”) opened to the public
11 more than 20 years ago, and helps visitors understand the largely unknown role of black and
12 brown soldiers who fought for freedom from slavery during the Civil War. The AACWM
13 displays photographs, documents, and artifacts, and holds regular seminars and historic
14 presentations by community members. The museum serves as a unique resource for teachers,

15 scholars, students, and professionals of museum studies, descendants of Civil War soldiers, and
16 the general public. More than 200,000 visitors come to the Memorial and Museum each year.

17 (b) Ben’s Chili Bowl has been a pillar of U Street community and D.C. culture since it
18 opened its doors in 1958. Although U Street has seen many changes over the decades, Ben’s has
19 remained, satisfying tens of thousands of customers with their famous homemade chili and half
20 smokes. As a DC landmark, Ben’s has served as a destination for visitors from around the world
21 and has served everyone from jazz legends Duke Ellington and Ella Fitzgerald to President
22 Barack Obama.

23 (c) Emergency legislation is necessary to cover renovations and improvements to both
24 locations; to close the funding gap experienced by the AACWM to build out the museum into the
25 remainder of its facility; and to assist Ben’s Chili Bowl’s U Street location in HVAC
26 replacement, electrical and plumbing repairs and upgrades, roofing repairs, and substantial
27 concrete and masonry work.

28 (d) Expanding the AACWM will also complete a key recommendation from Office of
29 Planning’s DUKE small area plan on the historic Cardozo/Shaw neighborhood, utilizing the
30 former Grimke School for the AACWM and its foundation.

31 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances in
32 Section 2 constitute emergency circumstances, making it necessary that the African American
33 Civil War Museum and Ben’s Chili Bowl Limited Grant-Making Authority Emergency
34 Emergency Act of 2023 be adopted after a single reading.

35 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.