

  
Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie

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A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

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IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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To commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the District of Columbia Chamber of Commerce, and to recognize the District of Columbia Chamber of Commerce for its devotion to the local business community and its commitment to create a vibrant, thriving economy that improves the quality of life for all in the District, establishing mutually beneficial partnerships between business, government, and the community.

WHEREAS, the Washington Chamber of Commerce was incorporated on June 20, 1938;

WHEREAS, the Washington Chamber of Commerce initially formed to provide services for African-American businesses in the city;

WHEREAS, the name of the organization was changed to the Negro Chamber of Commerce in 1946 to reflect the unique needs of black businesses in the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, on October 23, 1956, the name was changed to the District of Columbia Chamber of Commerce;

WHEREAS, with the new name established, the DC Chamber of Commerce expanded its operations to address the needs of all businesses in the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, the mission of DC Chamber of Commerce is to be the most valuable resource and leading advocate for businesses throughout the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, the DC Chamber of Commerce has continued to uphold its commitment to delivering the capital to businesses and citizens;

44 WHEREAS, the DC Chamber of Commerce provides invaluable tools to help business  
45 develop, and it leverages relationships with key contacts in the DC Council and the Federal  
46 Government to improve the business climate and attract new businesses to the District;

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48 WHEREAS, on August 15, 2016, Vincent Bernard Orange, Sr. was named President &  
49 Chief Executive Officer of the DC Chamber of Commerce;

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51 WHEREAS, under the leadership of its Board of Directors and Officers, including Chair  
52 of the Board, Marie Johns of Leftwich LLC; Chair-Elect, Ajay Madan of Optimal Solutions and  
53 Technologies; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair, Henry Osborne of Anchor Construction; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair, Jan Adams  
54 of AMA Solutions; Treasurer James Martinko of CohnReznick; and Secretary, Benjamin Soto of  
55 Premium Title & Escrow, the DC Chamber of Commerce builds on its efforts to develop  
56 businesses, build resources for the community, sponsor opportunities for events and networking,  
57 and cultivate learning opportunities for call businesses;

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59 WHEREAS, the DC Chamber of Commerce is building economic trade opportunities  
60 through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce;

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62 WHEREAS, the DC Chamber of Commerce is a DC Talent Leader, placing youth in the  
63 Marion S. Barry Summer Youth Employment Program in private sector positions;

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65 WHEREAS, the DC Chamber of Commerce promotes the approval of business-friendly  
66 laws and regulations that encourage company growth and create and maintain a tax environment  
67 that draws companies and entrepreneurs to the District;

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69 WHEREAS, the DC Chamber of Commerce offers a wide variety of business and  
70 professional development programs for members and helps connect and forge relationships  
71 between members and the broader business community; and

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73 WHEREAS, The DC Chamber of Commerce is a 501(c)(6) organization that has for 80  
74 years dedicated its efforts to improving the climate of business in the District of Columbia.

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76 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this  
77 resolution may be cited as the “80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the District of Columbia Chamber of  
78 Commerce Recognition Resolution of 2018”.

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80 Sec. 2. The Council declares that June 20<sup>th</sup> shall be known as the DC Chamber of  
81 Commerce Day in the District of Columbia.

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83 Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in  
84 the District of Columbia Register.