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Chairman Phil Mendelson

Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.

Councilmember Jack Evans

Councilmember Mary M. Cheh

Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie

Councilmember Anita Bonds

Councilmember David Grosso

Councilmember Elissa Silverman

Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau

Councilmember Charles Allen

Councilmember Brandon T. Todd

Councilmember Vincent C. Gray

Councilmember Trayon White, Sr.

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To recognize and commemorate the 65th Anniversary of the United States Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* and *Bolling v. Sharpe* and to declare May 17, 2019 as “*Brown v. Board of Education* and *Bolling v. Sharpe* Day” in the District of Columbia.

47 WHEREAS, on May 17, 1954, the Supreme Court decided the landmark cases *Brown v.*
48 *Board of Education* and *Bolling v. Sharpe*, along with three others, in which the Court held that
49 the Constitution of the United States prohibits segregated public schools;

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51 WHEREAS, in 1941, a group of parents called the Consolidated Parents Group from
52 Anacostia in Southeast, Washington, DC petitioned the Board of Education of the District of
53 Columbia to open John Philip Sousa Junior High as an integrated school;

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55 WHEREAS, the school board denied the petition and opened the school to admit only
56 white students;

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58 WHEREAS, on September 11, 1950, Gardner Bishop, a civil rights activist, Nicholas
59 Stabile, and the Consolidated Parents Group tried to get 11 African-American students, including
60 Spottswood Bolling, admitted to Sousa Junior High;

61
62 WHEREAS, James Nabrit Jr., a professor of law at Howard University School of Law,
63 filed suit on behalf of Bolling and the other Black students in the United States District Court for
64 the District of Columbia seeking the students' admission to the all white school;

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66 WHEREAS, when the case was dismissed by the District Court, the United States
67 Supreme Court agreed to review the case and decided unanimously in favor of the plaintiffs that
68 racial segregation in public schools was a denial of due process of law guaranteed by the Fifth
69 Amendment;

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71 WHEREAS, on the same day, May 17, 1954, the Supreme Court decided unanimously on
72 *Brown v. Board of Education* that "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal" and
73 violate the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment; and

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76 WHEREAS, these two court cases and three others, initiated the slow process of
77 integrating American schools and mark a pivotal advancement of civil rights and progress on the
78 road to justice and equality in the United States.

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80 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
81 resolution may be cited as the "*Brown v. Board of Education* and *Bolling v. Sharpe* Recognition
82 Resolution of 2019".

83
84 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia celebrates 65 years since segregated
85 public schools were determined to be unconstitutional, honors the brave individuals who brought
86 the cases forward to change the course of history, and declares May 17, 2019 as "*Brown v. Board*
87 *of Education* and *Bolling v. Sharpe* Day" in the District of Columbia.

88
89 Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in
90 the District of Columbia register.