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2 Councilmember Mary M. Cheh

Councilmember Charles Allen

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6 Councilmember Vincent C. Gray

Councilmember Christina Henderson

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10 Councilmember Janeese Lewis George

Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie

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13 _____
14 Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau

Councilmember Brooke Pinto

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17 _____
18 Councilmember Elissa Silverman

Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.

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21 A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

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26 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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31 To declare the week of April 18 to 24, 2021 as “Crime Victims’ Rights Week” in the District of
32 Columbia.

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34 WHEREAS, preserving and improving the dignity and safety of all residents will
35 contribute to a vibrant and healthy District of Columbia;

36
37 WHEREAS, there are victims of 20 million crimes in the United States annually, and each
38 crime impacts both individuals and communities;

39
40 WHEREAS, the District must help victims access the justice, assistance, and support they
41 need to heal and rebuild their lives;

42
43 WHEREAS, many victims face barriers – such as isolation, distrust of government,
44 language access, transportation access, and cultural barriers – that keep them from accessing the
45 services and criminal legal processes that can help them recover from crime;

47 WHEREAS, reaching and serving all victims of crime is essential to supporting thriving
48 communities, because those who receive holistic services and support are more likely to remain
49 invested in their communities;

50
51 WHEREAS, with the unwavering support of their communities and victim service
52 providers behind them, survivors will be empowered to face their grief, loss, fear, anger, and hope
53 without fear of judgment, and will feel understood, heard, and respected;

54
55 WHEREAS, the District must expand the circle of those prepared to respond to victims
56 and link them to the resources that can help them recover;

57
58 WHEREAS, engaging a broad array of healthcare providers, community leaders, faith
59 organizations, educators, and businesses can provide new links between victims and services that
60 improve their safety, healing, and access to justice;

61
62 WHEREAS, crime victims' rights laws passed here in the District, including through the
63 D.C. Crime Victims' Bill of Rights, and at the federal level through the Crime Victims' Rights
64 Act, have provided victims with ways to meaningfully participate in criminal legal processes;

65
66 WHEREAS, the rights of crime victims are best protected when all participants in the
67 criminal legal process are appropriately educated about those rights and accountable to the
68 community;

69
70 WHEREAS, supporting victims of crime is crucial to the criminal legal system because
71 such support honors the experiences of victims and allows them to find autonomy and
72 empowerment through achieving self-defined goals;

73
74 WHEREAS, advocacy by and for victims of crime is itself a form of seeking justice and is
75 equally important to justice sought through the courts or alternative means, such as restorative
76 justice processes;

77
78 WHEREAS, the accomplishments of the victims' rights movement – achieved through
79 compassion and collaboration, and built on the courageous advocacy of individual victims and
80 their families across the country – inspire in us hope for future progress and greater healing;

81
82 WHEREAS, the District must respond to crime and violence by helping victims find not
83 only support, recovery, and justice, but also hope for their future;

84
85 WHEREAS, Crime Victims' Rights Week provides an opportunity to recommit ourselves
86 to ensuring that accessible, appropriate, and trauma-informed services are offered to all victims of
87 crime; and

88
89 WHEREAS, the District of Columbia is dedicated to strengthening victims in the aftermath
90 of crime, building resilience within our communities and among those serving crime victims, and
91 bringing hope and healing to all victims and survivors.

92

93 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
94 resolution may be cited as the “Crime Victims’ Rights Week Recognition Resolution of 2021”.

95
96 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia declares the week of April 18 to 24, 2021
97 as “Crime Victims’ Rights Week” in the District of Columbia.

98
99 Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in
100 the District of Columbia Register.