

1 \_\_\_\_\_  
2 Chairman Phil Mendelson  
3  
4 \_\_\_\_\_  
5 Councilmember Trayon White, Sr.  
6  
7 \_\_\_\_\_  
8 Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau  
9  
10 \_\_\_\_\_  
11 Councilmember Mary Cheh  
12  
13 \_\_\_\_\_  
14 Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.  
15  
16 \_\_\_\_\_  
17 Councilmember Anita Bonds  
18  
19 \_\_\_\_\_  
20 Councilmember Janeese Lewis George

\_\_\_\_\_ Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie  
\_\_\_\_\_ Councilmember Elissa Silverman  
\_\_\_\_\_ Councilmember Vincent C. Gray  
\_\_\_\_\_ Councilmember Brooke Pinto  
\_\_\_\_\_ Councilmember Christina Henderson  
\_\_\_\_\_ Councilmember Charles Allen

21  
22  
23 A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION  
24 \_\_\_\_\_  
25

26  
27 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
28  
29 \_\_\_\_\_  
30

31 To posthumously celebrate the life and legacy of Elizabeth “Liz” A. Davis, president of  
32 the Washington Teachers’ Union and Ward 5 resident.  
33

34 WHEREAS, Elizabeth Davis was born in North Carolina, and with her mother moved to  
35 Washington, D.C. while Davis was in the third grade;  
36

37 WHEREAS, Elizabeth Davis attended Buchanan Elementary School, Hine Junior High  
38 School, Eastern High School, and the University of the District of Columbia;  
39

40 WHEREAS, Elizabeth Davis’ activism dates back to the 1960s when as a student at  
41 Eastern High School, Elizabeth staged a walkout protest of the school’s lack of African  
42 American history and culture in its curriculum;  
43

44 WHEREAS, Elizabeth Davis was a part of the Modern Strivers at Eastern High School –

45 a group committed to education that liberated youth and against police presence in schools;

46

47 WHEREAS, Elizabeth Davis, with the Modern Strivers, ran a Freedom School with  
48 courses on Black history, Swahili, Black philosophy, Black literature, contemporary problems,  
49 economics, Black art and drama, third world studies, and community organization;

50

51 WHEREAS, Jefferson Junior High School hired Elizabeth Davis in 1972 to teach  
52 drafting – a subject that had been previously reserved for male instructors and students;

53

54 WHEREAS, Elizabeth Davis was one of the first teachers in 1995 that worked with the  
55 D.C. Area Writing Project (DCAWP), a local site of the National Writing Project launched by  
56 the D.C. Public Schools, Howard University, and Teaching for Change that continues to this day  
57 at Howard University;

58

59 WHEREAS, on March 31, 2004, Elizabeth Davis was a speaker at the launch for Putting  
60 the Movement Back into Civil Rights Teaching at The National Council of Negro Women’s  
61 headquarters along with Dorothy Height, Jesse Jackson Jr., and Eloise Greenfield;

62

63 WHEREAS, Elizabeth Davis, with her students at Sousa Middle School, protected the  
64 school from demolition and preserved Sousa’s status as a National Historic Landmark through  
65 their research and community activism;

66

67 WHEREAS, Elizabeth Davis was actively involved with many local and national  
68 education organizations, including Empower D.C.; Save Our Schools; the Ward 5 Education  
69 Council; the Delta Kappa Gamma International Society for Women Educators; the National  
70 Commission on Writing; the National Coalition of Education Activists; DCAWP; Teaching for  
71 Change; D.C. VOICE; D.C. Jobs with Justice; and the National Writing Project;

72

73 WHEREAS, Elizabeth Davis’ career with the D.C. Public School system spanned four  
74 decades; she taught at seven D.C. schools;

75

76 WHEREAS, Elizabeth Davis was elected president of the Washington Teachers’ Union  
77 in 2013 and served in this position until her untimely death;

78

79 WHEREAS, Elizabeth Davis was a staunch advocate of neighborhood schools;  
80 campaigned against the closure of several D.C. school campuses; built a social justice activist  
81 and learning community within the Washington Teachers’ Union; pushed for public education  
82 advocacy and reform; and during the coronavirus pandemic, argued for more safety protections  
83 as the District sought to reopen schools; and

84

85 WHEREAS, Elizabeth Davis passed away on April 4, 2021.

86

87 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this  
88 resolution may be cited as the “Elizabeth A. Davis Posthumous Memorial Recognition  
89 Resolution of 2021”.

90

91           Sec. 2 The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and honors the life of  
92 Elizabeth A. Davis for her powerful impact on the lives of students, teachers, and families  
93 through her dedication to teaching, activism, and grassroots organizing for the betterment of  
94 public education in the District of Columbia.

95  
96           Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.  
97