

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44


Councilmember Janeese Lewis George

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To recognize Caribbean-American Heritage Month and the Caribbean-American community as a valued and celebrated cultural community in the District of Columbia, and to declare the month of June as Caribbean-American Heritage Month in the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia is home to thousands of people of Caribbean descent;

WHEREAS, the first celebration of Caribbean-American month was conceived in 1996 by residents of Ward 4 of the District of Columbia, mainly, Doreen Thompson, Esq., with the significant contribution of Dr. Basil Buchanan, a resident of Ward 1;

WHEREAS, Ward 4 has been the historical base for the Caribbean community, and continues to have the largest number of persons of Caribbean heritage in the District of Columbia, and includes many Caribbean American restaurants and food businesses, as well as a major church of worship for the Caribbean community;

WHEREAS, countless residents of Caribbean heritage serve the District of Columbia in the areas of public service, education, business, technology, healthcare, family services, the arts and culture in every corner of the city.

WHEREAS, Caribbean Americans played an active role in the civil rights movement and other social and political causes, and have continued to contribute to the government, military, arts, business, music, sports and science and technology in the District of Columbia and the United States;

WHEREAS, in 2001, Mayor Anthony Williams first proclaimed June as Caribbean-American Heritage Month in the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, in June 2005, the official campaign to nationally recognize the contributions

45 of Caribbean people was jumpstarted through the efforts of Jamila Thompson, a District resident,
46 and Dr. Claire A. Nelson, Founder of the Institute of Caribbean Studies, a District of Columbia
47 nonprofit;
48

49 WHEREAS, this effort lead to the House of Representatives unanimous adoption of H.
50 Con. Res. 71, sponsored by Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-DCA), recognizing the significance
51 of Caribbean people and their descendants in the history and culture of the United States;
52

53 WHEREAS, President George W. Bush issued the first Presidential proclamation
54 declaring June as Caribbean-American Heritage Month on June 5, 2006;
55

56 WHEREAS, June of 2021 is the 20th Anniversary of celebrating Caribbean-American
57 Heritage Month in the District of Columbia;
58

59 WHEREAS, in 2021, we celebrate the resilience of the Caribbean-American
60 hospitality industry with the recognition of June as Caribbean Cuisine Month and June 6-
61 12 as National Caribbean-American Restaurant Week; and
62

63 WHEREAS, Caribbean-American Heritage Month is an opportunity to honor and
64 celebrate the history, culture, and essential role of Caribbean Americans in the District of
65 Columbia and across the United States.
66

67 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
68 resolution may be cited as the “Caribbean-American Heritage Month Ceremonial Recognition
69 Resolution of 2021”.
70

71 Sec. 2. The Council recognizes the outstanding contributions and valued
72 accomplishments of the Caribbean-American community in the District of Columbia and the
73 United States of America, recognizes District residents of Caribbean heritage on the occasion of
74 National Caribbean-American Heritage Month, and declares June 2021 as “Caribbean-American
75 Heritage Month” in the District of Columbia.
76

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