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2 Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie

Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.

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7 Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau

Councilmember Anita Bonds

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12 Councilmember Brooke Pinto

Councilmember Trayon White, Sr.

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17 Councilmember Janeese Lewis George

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21 A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

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25 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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29 To commemorate and recognize October 2, 2021, as International Wrongful Conviction Day in
30 the District of Columbia.

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32 WHEREAS, International Wrongful Conviction Day was established on October 2, 2013,
33 by the Innocence Network to raise awareness of the causes and remedies of wrongful conviction;
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35 WHEREAS, the personal, social, and emotional costs of wrongful conviction on those
36 wrongfully convicted and their families are immense;
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38 WHEREAS, according to the National Registry of Exonerations' most recent report, it
39 recorded 129 exonerations in 2020 across 27 states;
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41 WHEREAS, there were two exonerations the District Columbia in 2020, Troy Burner,
42 who spent nearly 25 years in prison after being wrongfully convicted for a crime he did not
43 commit, and Dennis Butler, who was exonerated at the federal level in July 2020 nearly 50 years
44 after his arrest in 1970;
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46 WHEREAS, according to the National Registry of Exonerations, defendants exonerated
47 in 2020 spent an average of 13.4 years incarcerated for their convictions, which amounts to a
48 total of 1,737 years lost;

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50 WHEREAS, the Innocence Network is an affiliation of organizations dedicated to
51 providing pro-bono legal and investigative services to individuals who have been wrongfully
52 convicted, rectifying the causes of wrongful convictions, and supporting exonerees after their
53 release;

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55 WHEREAS, the Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project is a member of the Innocence Network
56 and works to prevent and correct the conviction of innocent individuals in the District of
57 Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia; and

58
59 WHEREAS, the Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project’s most recent victory in the District of
60 Columbia was for Troy Burner, who was exonerated after previously being released through the
61 Incarceration Reduction Amendment Act (IRAA).

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63 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
64 resolution may be cited as the “International Wrongful Conviction Day Recognition Resolution
65 of 2021”.

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67 Sec. 2. The Council recognizes International Wrongful Conviction Day in the District of
68 Columbia and honors the important work of organizations that work to end wrongful convictions
69 and help those who have been wrongfully convicted.

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