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2 Councilmember Mary M. Cheh

Councilmember Charles Allen

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6 A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

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10 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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15 To declare the month of October 2021 as “Domestic Violence Awareness Month” in the District
16 of Columbia.

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18 WHEREAS, protecting and improving the dignity and safety of all residents is the
19 foundation of a vibrant and healthy community;

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21 WHEREAS, domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behavior used to exert power and
22 control over an intimate partner that jeopardizes the security and well-being of District residents,
23 and such destructive acts will not be tolerated;

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25 WHEREAS, all forms of domestic violence – including physical, psychological,
26 emotional, and economic abuse – can have devastating consequences for survivors and their
27 families;

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29 WHEREAS, approximately 736 million women across the world experience physical or
30 sexual violence by an intimate partner or sexual violence from a non-partner;

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32 WHEREAS, nearly 99 percent of survivors experienced economic abuse from their
33 partner, with many also facing long-term financial consequences as a result of intimate partner
34 violence;

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36 WHEREAS, in 2014, the estimated lifetime cost of intimate partner violence was
37 \$107,767 per female victim and \$23,414 per male victim, totaling nearly \$3.6 trillion dollars
38 nationwide;

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40 WHEREAS, nationally, in a one-day snapshot in 2020, 76,525 survivors received help
41 from domestic violence service providers across the country, with 75 percent of those providers
42 offering emergency shelter and 43 percent of providers offering transitional shelter or other
43 critical services;

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45 WHEREAS, during that same one-day snapshot, domestic violence hotlines received
46 almost 15 contacts per minute, for a total of 21,321 contacts from survivors seeking assistance;

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48 WHEREAS, in that same 24-hour period, 933 survivors in the District received services,
49 with 507 individuals utilizing the District's emergency shelters, transitional housing, or other
50 housing provided by the Domestic Violence Housing Continuum;

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52 WHEREAS, in that same 24-hour period, providers were nevertheless unable to meet
53 approximately 20 survivors' requests for housing or emergency shelter, which translates to an
54 estimated 7,300 unmet requests annually;

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56 WHEREAS, of District residents experiencing homelessness in 2021, 44.1 percent of
57 adults in families and 19.8 percent of single adults reported having some history of domestic
58 violence victimization;

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60 WHEREAS, according to the 2017 DC Women's Needs Assessment Report, Black
61 women, who comprise only 52 percent of the adult women's population, accounted for 75
62 percent of the District's unaccompanied homeless women's population;

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64 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on many
65 communities and has exacerbated long-existing income and wealth inequalities that affect
66 domestic violence survivors globally;

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68 WHEREAS, in just a 2-month span during the COVID-19 pandemic, the National
69 Domestic Violence Hotline saw a 9 percent increase in calls or contacts;

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71 WHEREAS, compared to 2019, District service providers saw a 60% increase in the
72 demand for services from survivors in 2020;

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74 WHEREAS, in addition to the increased demand for services, local domestic violence
75 service providers are reporting a significant increase in the lethality of domestic violence;

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77 WHEREAS, economic stability and access to financial resources can be a critical
78 determinant of a survivor's ability to leave an abuser or dangerous environment;

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80 WHEREAS, since the beginning of the pandemic, more than 240,000 District residents
81 have filed claims for unemployment compensation and, nationally, Black workers have had the
82 highest national unemployment rate of any other racial group;

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84 WHEREAS, the District must commit to addressing the racial, social, and economic
85 inequities that are uniquely harmful to communities of color and that hinder many survivors from
thriving after leaving an abusive relationship;

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87 WHEREAS, there is a continuing need for survivors to have access to culturally-specific
88 services which affirm their heritage, customs, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other lived
89 experiences;

90 WHEREAS, service providers should receive adequate funding and support from local,
91 regional, and federal governments to address the growing demand and greater need for housing,
92 counseling, legal, and culturally-specific services;

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94 WHEREAS, the goal of Domestic Violence Awareness Month is to improve awareness
95 about domestic violence and outreach to residents and community members, and foster
96 cooperation between public and private actors to end domestic violence in the District;

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98 WHEREAS, the District can do much more to support survivors and service providers,
99 and the Council will continue to partner with District agencies, community-based organizations,
100 and residents to keep survivors safe; and

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102 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
103 resolution may be cited as the “Domestic Violence Awareness Month Recognition Resolution of
104 2021”.

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106 Sec. 2. The Council declares the month of October 2021 as “Domestic Violence
107 Awareness Month” in the District of Columbia.

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