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Councilmember Robert C. White Jr.



Councilmember Trayon White, Sr.



Councilmember Mary Cheh



Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau



Councilmember Charles Allen



Councilmember Christina Henderson

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To recognize and honor Helen Marie White, for 36 years of dedication and service to the Ward 8 Community as the owner of Ultimate Touch Hair Salon and as a Ballou High School STAY Opportunity Academy educator.

WHEREAS, in 1959, Helen Marie White was born in the Southeast Washington, DC, Ward 8 public housing community, Barry Farms.

WHEREAS, Helen Marie White met her husband, Tony White, when she was a teenager, and they remained married for 40 years;

WHEREAS, Helen Marie White had 5 children and 9 grandchildren;

1 WHEREAS, Helen Marie White, together with her husband, was the owner and
2 operator of the Ultimate Touch Hair Salon, at 2025 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue SE in
3 Ward 8 across from the Big Chair, which became a widely popular gathering place not
4 only for the latest hair styles; but also, fellowship, advice and prayer. Ward 8 residents
5 noted that everyone was treated like family;

6 WHEREAS, in 2007, Helen Marie White closed the Ultimate Touch Hair Salon
7 and decided to share her cosmetology skills and talents with students in the STAY
8 Opportunity Academy program at Ballou High School in Ward 8;

9 WHEREAS, Helen Marie White taught cosmetology for STAY at Ballou High
10 School for 14 years. She loved her students and called them all her “babies.” She cooked
11 potlucks for Thanksgiving, gave gifts at Christmas, and hosted baby showers for pregnant
12 students;

13 WHEREAS, in February 2021, Helen Marie White contracted COVID-19 and at
14 the young age of 62, became the first active in-school District of Columbia Public School
15 teacher to die of COVID-19 in 2021;

16 WHEREAS, Helen Marie White was mourned and recognized by Ward 8, Ballou
17 High School, and the Washington Teacher’s Union for her status in the community and
18 her combined contributions to District residents;

19 WHEREAS, Helen Marie White encouraged all of her STAY students to launch a
20 career or business of their own so that they might have a “second chance at life.” Her
21 final class graduated June 2021 and their class photo caption read on Twitter, “Mrs.
22 White is smiling down on her babies.”

1 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That
2 this resolution may be cited as the “Helen Marie White Posthumous Memorial
3 Recognition Resolution of 2021.”

4 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia posthumously recognizes and
5 honors the life of Helen Marie White for her outstanding career and contributions to
6 residents of the District of Columbia and Ward 8.

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