


Councilmember Mary. M Cheh

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A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To recognize and celebrate Sally White for 35 years of exemplary service, leadership, and advocacy on behalf of the District’s older adults at Iona Senior Services.

WHEREAS, Sally White joined Iona Senior Services, a nonprofit organization focused on supporting seniors and their caregivers, in 1986 as a Helpline Specialist. Ms. White quickly advanced to other roles, excelling in every position before being named Iona’s Executive Director in 2009;

WHEREAS, the organization has thrived under Ms. White’s leadership, with Iona’s hallmark adult Wellness & Arts Center in Ward 3’s Tenleytown neighborhood expanding to provide direct essential services to thousands of seniors each year who experience memory loss, cognitive decline, intellectual disability, and/or physical frailty;

WHEREAS, in recognizing the value of art therapy for adults who experience memory loss and cognitive impairment, Ms. White developed the initial funding proposal that enabled Iona to support a full-time art therapist at the organization’s adult day health center. The program has since grown to include specialized senior programming with The Phillips Collection with an annual participant art exhibit held each fall;

WHEREAS, in 2009, Ms. White became the Co-Chair of the DC Senior Advisory Coalition (S.A.C) and shepherded the small, ad-hoc group into becoming a leading voice for the interests of D.C.’s older adults;

WHEREAS, now comprised of 30 local organizations, S.A.C. advocates for improved quality of life and greater access to services for seniors in every neighborhood across the District. Ms. White led this work and played an integral role in relationship building between member organizations and outside foundations;

WHEREAS, Ms. White has also been instrumental in creating and expanding several internal programs at Iona Senior Services, including the Take Charge/Age Well Academy and Aging Solo educational program to support “younger older” adults build their social networks and develop detailed plans for advanced age;

34 WHEREAS, Ms. White has sought to foster an inclusive environment at Iona
35 where all older adults feel welcome and respected. During her tenure, Iona has joined the
36 LGBTQ Aging Services Network and offers regular LGBTQ Silver Circle support groups
37 to help seniors discuss and navigate difficult issues. And it is through the introduction of
38 this affirming programming and culturally-competent health services that Iona has
39 become a safe and supportive community space for all;

40 WHEREAS, in noting the great inequities and significant gaps in community-
41 based senior services across the District, Ms. White spearheaded the development of
42 Iona’s Washington Home Center to provide exceptional adult day health services in the
43 Congress Heights neighborhood of Ward 8. It was her passion and dedication to justice
44 that brought the multi-year Washington Home Center project to fruition in 2020, and will
45 result in expanded access to critical senior services for years to come;

46 WHEREAS, under Ms. White’s direction, Iona has long been a leader in
47 combatting senior food insecurity and senior hunger in the District. From responding to a
48 District-wide senior meals crisis in 2011 to mobilizing a food pantry and meal delivery
49 services during the coronavirus pandemic, Ms. White has prioritized food access
50 programming and high nutritional standards at Iona Senior Services;

51 WHEREAS, to accomplish Iona’s many food access, physical/mental wellness,
52 and social wellbeing programs, Ms. White has grown and fostered a strong staff and
53 dedicated network of more than 350 community volunteers—inspiring those around her to
54 match her in dedication and passion for Iona’s mission of service to older adults; and

55 WHEREAS, Sally White is leaving Iona Senior Services with an outstanding
56 reputation for being an incredibly kind, sincere, and thoughtful leader. Her work has
57 served as an inspiration to many and transformed Iona Senior Services into a model of
58 senior care. She is an exceptional talent and an exceptional person, and she will be
59 greatly missed.

60 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That
61 this resolution may be cited as the “Sally White Recognition Resolution of 2021.”

62 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes the many contributions
63 of Sally White to the senior community and expresses deep gratitude for her exemplary
64 service to Iona and to older adults across the District.

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