

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To recognize and celebrate the life of Billy Lafayette Chandler, Sr. and his lifetime of work for his neighbors and all of the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, Billy “Bump” Lafayette Chandler, Sr. peacefully departed this life on January 1, 2022, at the age of 83;

WHEREAS, Mr. Chandler was born on August 27, 1938, and grew up in the District, graduating from Eastern High School in 1958, as a member of the class that integrated Eastern after the Supreme Court’s decision in *Bolling v. Sharpe*, and earning a football scholarship to St. Augustine College in Raleigh, North Carolina;

WHEREAS, when he returned to the District, Mr. Chandler settled in the 15th Street community and became known as the “neighborhood Dad,” sharing his joy-filled life with his neighbors and family;

WHEREAS, Mr. Chandler had a passion for wearing hats, was a supportive, caring, thoughtful, and funny man, loved sports and spending time with friends and family, and was one of the best hand dancers in the District;

WHEREAS, Mr. Chandler worked for Garfinkel department store, the D.C. Department of Recreation in D.C. Public Schools, and eventually at the Visitor Service Center, now called

32 Voices for a Second Chance, providing services to residents of the D.C. jail, as an inmate and re-
33 entry services coordinator;

34 WHEREAS, Mr. Chandler was the rock of the Center, there on day one when it opened
35 in 1969, guiding new volunteers with patience and understanding, often credited as the reason so
36 many continued to volunteer for so long and a main reason for the longevity of the organization;

37 WHEREAS, Mr. Chandler had endless knowledge of the jail and handled thousands of
38 requests from residents of the jail—seemingly small gestures that meant the world to those in the
39 jail—everything from getting new eyeglasses to locating birth certificates and other important
40 paperwork necessary for release, earning respect and admiration from the residents of the jail and
41 the staff of the Department of Corrections;

42 WHEREAS, for his work with the Center, as well as his other civic leadership, Mr.
43 Chandler received the NBC 4 Washington-area Linowes Leadership Award, given to recognize
44 unsung heroes in the community;

45 WHEREAS, on February 28, 2001, Mr. Chandler married Cathy Herlene Somers, with
46 whom he would spend the rest of his life, dancing, cruising, and traveling, Mr. Chandler always
47 ensuring that his family was well taken care of;

48 WHEREAS, Mr. Chandler is survived by his devoted wife Cathy Somers-Chandler, 5
49 children, 7 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, 1 sister, and a host of nieces and nephews;

50 WHEREAS, the District runs because of residents like Mr. Chandler, who take it upon
51 themselves to ensure that their communities and those who have nowhere else to turn have the
52 love and support they need;

53 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
54 resolution may be cited as the “Billy Lafayette Chandler, Sr. Memorial Recognition Resolution
55 of 2022”.

56 Sec. 2. The Council celebrates the life of Billy Lafayette Chandler, Sr. and the great
57 many services he provided to the District and its residents and sends its condolences and best
58 wishes to his family.

59 Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect upon the first date of publication in the District of
60 Columbia Register.