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2 Councilmember Charles Allen
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_____ Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie

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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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14 To recognize and honor the seventy-fifth birthday of Nasar Abadey, jazz musician and
15 Professor of Jazz Percussion, Jazz History, and Jazz Combo at Johns Hopkins University.

16 WHEREAS, Nasar Abadey, born in to a musical family in Buffalo, NY, realized his
17 passion for music at age four and began playing the drums at five years old;

18 WHEREAS, Nasar Abadey began playing percussion professionally in high school, where
19 he would play at nightclubs four nights per week.

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21 WHEREAS, Nasar Abadey played for acclaimed music groups, including the O’Jays and
22 the Manhattans;

23 WHEREAS, Nasar Abadey settled in Washington, D.C. in 1977 and has called the
24 Washington, D.C. area home ever since;

25 WHEREAS, Nasar Abadey’s musical career has spanned six decades, where he has worked
26 as a solo musician and as a member of a group.

27 WHEREAS, Nasar performed with world-renowned musicians Ella Fitzgerald, Dizzy
28 Gillespie, and Pharoah Sanders. Nasar also helped found Buffalo-based ensemble Birthright.
29 Nasar’s longevity in the music industry is a testament to his talent;

30 WHEREAS, Nasar Abadey founded SUPERNOVA in 1976, a group that incorporates
31 many music genres into their compositions, including Bebop, Afro-Cuban, Afro-Brazilian, and
32 African rhythms. Nasar was influential in composing the music SUPERNOVA played on its first
33 album release in 2000;

34 WHEREAS, Nasar used SUPERNOVA as the basis to form three other ensembles:
35 SUPERNOVA Chamber Orchestra, 16-piece band The Washington Renaissance Orchestra; and
36 The Renaissance Trio;

37 WHEREAS, since 2006, Nasar Abadey has been a Professor of Jazz Percussion, Jazz
38 History/Analysis, Jazz Combo, and Musicology at Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins
39 University;

40 WHEREAS, Nasar Abadey remained committed to teaching and bringing music to those
41 who typically do not have access to the arts. Nasar has used awards from the National Endowment
42 for the Arts and other organizations to produce concerts at Attica New York State Prison and
43 Lorton Virginia State Prison;

44 WHEREAS, Nasar Abadey’s service to the public has been critical to increasing music
45 literacy throughout the District and beyond. Nasar taught music appreciation classes to young
46 students in the District, and he served as a musical ambassador for the American Music Abroad
47 program, a program sponsored by the Department of State and funded by the U.S. government;

48 WHEREAS, Nasar Abadey has received numerous awards for his work, including a
49 Lifetime Achievement Award from the D.C. Jazz Festival and the John Coltrane Black Classical
50 Music Living Legends in Music and Culture Award; and

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52 WHEREAS, Nasar Abadey has been, and remains, a central force in the development and
53 innovation of jazz music in the District.

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55 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this
56 resolution may be cited as the “Nasar Abadey 75th Birthday Recognition Resolution of 2022”.

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58 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and honors Nasar Abadey and
59 his contributions to the jazz community in the District and beyond.

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61 Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.