A RESOLUTION

22-42

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

March 7, 2017

To declare the sense of the Council that the District of Columbia is committed to promoting the human rights and well-being of all its residents, workers, and visitors, and to call on the federal government to do the same.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Sense of the Council in Reaffirmation of the Human Rights of District of Columbia Residents and in Opposition to Bigotry and Violence Resolution of 2017”.

Sec. 2. The Council finds that:

(1) The current political climate has produced public displays of xenophobia, racism, Islamophobia, homophobia, transphobia, disparagement of people with disabilities, misogyny and violence against women, and other forms of hatred, bigotry, and violence that threaten the rights enshrined in District of Columbia law, the Constitution of the United States, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

(2) The District of Columbia has long sought to ensure the equal protection of human rights and well-being for all residents, workers, and visitors in our city.

(3) The District of Columbia welcomes and embraces refugees, immigrants, people of color, women, disabled individuals, people of all faiths or no faith at all, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people, and celebrates the diversity of human existence.

(4) All residents, workers, and visitors in the District of Columbia should be able to go about their daily lives without fear of harassment, discrimination, or violence.

Sec. 3. It is the sense of the Council that:

(1) We reaffirm the District of Columbia’s status as a guardian of human rights and our intention to provide equitable opportunities for people from all walks of life by promoting an inclusive and pluralistic community where everyone is treated with respect. We call on Congress and the President to do the same.

(2) We declare our continuing commitment to our country’s founding principles of freedom and equality, and our intention to defend the safety, dignity, and liberty of all our residents.
(3) We reject xenophobia, racism, Islamophobia, homophobia, transphobia, disparagement of people with disabilities, misogyny, and bigotry in any form.

(4) We will not cooperate with any effort to infringe upon basic human rights by forcing individuals to register with the government based on their national origin or religious identity.

(5) We remain committed to our status as a Sanctuary City, and will seek to strengthen those policies to ensure that the District government will not participate in any federal immigration-enforcement strategies that endanger the rights and well-being of our residents, workers, and visitors.

(6) We welcome refugees and those fleeing violence and persecution to the District of Columbia.

(7) We recognize everyone’s right to make their own reproductive health decisions.

(8) We continue to assert the right of District residents to exercise self-determination on public policy through their elected representatives and we continue to demand voting representation in Congress, budget and legislative autonomy, and statehood in order to better safeguard the human rights and well-being of District residents.

(9) We reaffirm the rights and non-discrimination protections enshrined in District of Columbia law, the Constitution of the United States, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and will stand against any effort to erode them through hatred, bigotry, or violence.

Sec. 4. The Council shall transmit copies of this resolution, upon its adoption, to the Mayor, the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the Senate, and the Delegate from the District of Columbia in the United States Congress.

Sec. 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.