

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare the sense of the Council that the Mayor, the D.C. Sports and Entertainment Commission, and Major League Baseball should invite an advocate of District voting rights, such as Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton, to throw out the first pitch at the Washington Nationals’ inaugural regular season game at Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium on April 14, 2005 and that Major League Baseball should require members of the Washington Nationals Baseball Team to wear a patch or insignia on their uniforms to bring to light the District’s lack of full voting rights in the United States Congress.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Sense of the Council Regarding the Washington Nationals First Pitch and Voting Rights Recognition Resolution of 2005”.

Sec. 2. The Council finds that:

(1) With the exception of the United States, every democracy in the world permits the residents of its capital full representation in the national legislature.

(2) District residents paid \$14.6 billion in federal taxes in 2003, more than the states of Alaska, Delaware, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

(3) Residents of the District of Columbia have participated in every armed conflict that the United States has engaged in since the War of 1812.

(4) The Washington Nationals' April 14, 2005 first regular season home game at Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium will receive international attention.

(5) A ceremonial first pitch delivered by someone who opposes District voting rights will undermine efforts to secure full District voting rights in the United States Congress.

(6) A ceremonial first pitch thrown by an advocate of District voting rights will bring attention to the District's lack of voting representation in Congress.

(7) Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton cannot vote in the full United States Congress and is a strong supporter of District voting rights.

(8) A patch or insignia worn on the uniforms of members of the Washington Nationals Baseball Team will bring to light the District's lack of full voting rights in the United States Congress.

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

(1) Inviting an advocate of District voting rights, such as Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton, to throw a ceremonial first pitch at the Washington Nationals' inaugural regular season game at Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium on April 14, 2005 will advance the cause of District voting rights.

(2) Major League Baseball should require members of the Washington Nationals Baseball Team to wear a patch or some other insignia on their uniforms to bring to light the District's lack of full voting rights in the United States Congress.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediate upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.