

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

18-36

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

March 3, 2009

To support the bid of Metropolitan Washington Gaymes, Inc., to bring the 2014 Gay Games to the District of Columbia and to declare February 21, 2009, as “2014 Gay Games Support Day” in the District of Columbia..

WHEREAS, in 2004, sports teams and leaders in the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered (“GLBT”) community founded Metropolitan Washington Gaymes, Inc., to host a multi-sports program and cultural festivals that would highlight the District of Columbia and attract participants from around the world;

WHEREAS, since that time various GLBT sports teams have hosted national and international championship programs in the District of Columbia by attracting regional, national, and international GLBT sporting events to the metropolitan area;

WHEREAS, these GLBT sports teams attracted those sporting events by highlighting the diverse community, history, and resources of the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, The Federation of Gay Games hosts a quadrennial event which attracts more than 10,000 participants and tens of thousands of spectators for a week of athletic competitions in nearly 30 sports and a diverse cultural celebration;

WHEREAS, The Federation of Gay Games has welcomed bids to host the 2014 Gay Games;

WHEREAS, Metropolitan Washington Gaymes, Inc., and local GLBT athletic groups, along with the Greater Washington Sports Alliance and Destination DC, have assembled a bid to host the 2014 Gay Games in the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, these games will be called the “2014 Freedom Games,” will be international in scope, and will involve activities throughout the Washington metropolitan area;

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WHEREAS, the 2014 Freedom Games will attract more than 10,000 athletes and more than 50,000 spectators from around the world for a week of athletic competitions and cultural enrichment programs;

WHEREAS, the 2014 Freedom Games will benefit the District of Columbia by exposing thousands of visitors to local neighborhoods, businesses, and venues;

WHEREAS, the 2014 Freedom Games will place a high priority on being environmentally conscious by maximizing the use of Metro and mass transit and by reducing the carbon footprint of all activities to the lowest possible level;

WHEREAS, the 2014 Freedom Games will provide opportunities for participation of all residents of the District of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, The 2014 Freedom Games will utilize existing venues for events with a particular emphasis on local schools, universities, and recreational facilities.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "2014 Gay Games Support Day Declaration Resolution of 2009".

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia enthusiastically supports the efforts of Metropolitan Washington Gaymes, Inc., in its bid for the Gay Games, looks forward to welcoming participants from around the world to the District of Columbia for the 2014 Freedom Games; and declares February 21, 2009, as "2014 Gay Games Support Day" in the District of Columbia.

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