

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

23-278

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

March 17, 2020

To acknowledge the Earned Income Tax Credit as an effective anti-poverty tool, to celebrate the work of organizations such as the United Way of the National Capitol Area, and to declare January 31st in the District of Columbia as “Earned Income Tax Credit Day.”

WHEREAS, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is among the most effective anti-poverty programs in the nation;

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia’s EITC program is among the strongest state-level EITCs in the nation and helps to pay for childcare, housing, food, and transportation to help keep working families economically stable;

WHEREAS, EITC advocacy, outreach, and free tax assistance is supported by local, state, and national partners and their funding, including the United Way NCA, Citi Community Development, the DC Department of Insurance Securities, and Banking, Community Tax Aid, Capital Area Asset Builders, United Planning Organization, Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Washington, and numerous partners in the District of Columbia, Northern Virginia, and suburban Maryland;

WHEREAS, the United Way has found that 13% of residents in the greater Washington metropolitan region receive the EITC, including in the District alone approximately 14,000 residents. About half of the District’s EITC recipients are children, whom the EITC helps to lift out of poverty every year. As a result, these children are more likely to do better in school, attend college, and to be better earners as adults;

WHEREAS, the United Way has found that 20% of eligible workers do not claim the EITC, and the United Way of the National Capital Area’s (United Way NCA) regional EITC coalition has therefore expanded its capacity to serve diverse residents in the District through collaboration with public, private and nonprofit partners who target these hard-to-reach families;

WHEREAS, low-to-moderate income families, including seniors, persons with a disability, and those with limited English proficiency receive free tax help and are economically empowered through the efforts of trained, IRS-certified volunteers affiliated with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), the Tax Counseling for the Elderly programs, the United Way NCA’s tax resources, and MyFreeTaxes.com;

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WHEREAS, collectively, the United Way NCA coalition tax partners completed 16,073 returns through VITA in 2019, representing savings of an average of \$273 per family, and thereby returning \$1,103,715 to over 4,200 families through the Earned Income Tax Credit.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Earned Income Tax Credit Day Recognition Resolution of 2020”.

Sec. 2. The Council recognizes the Earned Income Tax Credit as a benefit to low- and moderate-income individuals and families and celebrates the many efforts of organizations such as the United Way of the National Capital Area to provide free and accessible tax outreach and advocacy on behalf of District residents.

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