



Chairman Phil Mendelson



Councilmember Elissa Silverman



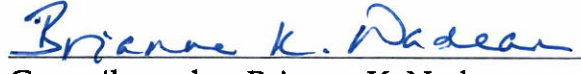
Councilmember Anita Bonds



Councilmember David Grosso



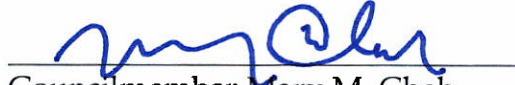
Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.



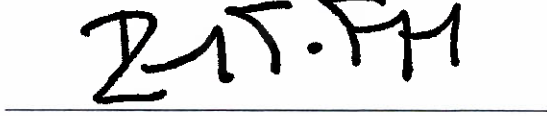
Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau



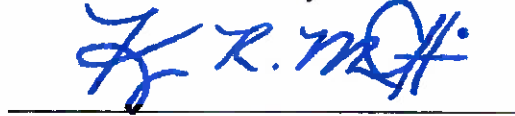
Councilmember Jack Evans



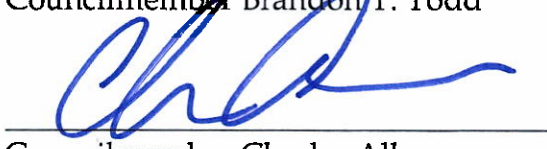
Councilmember Mary M. Cheh



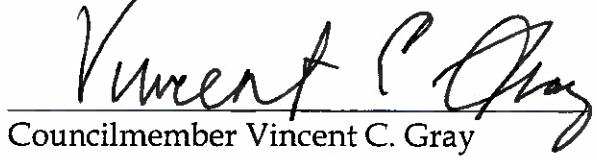
Councilmember Brandon T. Todd



Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie



Councilmember Charles Allen



Councilmember Vincent C. Gray



Councilmember Trayon White, Sr.

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To recognize and honor Mikayla Sharrieff, India Skinner, and Bria Snell for their outstanding achievements in the prestigious 2018 NASA Goddard Optimus Prime Spinoff Promotion & Research Challenge (OPSPARC), their academic accomplishments at Benjamin Banneker Academic High School, and their poise and resilience in the face of adversity.

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WHEREAS, Mikayla, India, and Bria are currently juniors at Benjamin Banneker Academic High School and interns at the Inclusive Innovation Incubator (In3) in Washington, D.C., which was founded to increase diversity in technology and entrepreneurship;

WHEREAS, Mikayla, India, and Bria have been In3 interns for the past year and, as part of a community service project through In3’s educational program, formed the 2018 NASA Goddard OPSPARC competition group known as Team S3;

WHEREAS, the NASA Goddard OPSPARC competition challenges students to be creative in identifying NASA-developed technology in their everyday world and develop new ways of applying the technology to solve current, real-life problems;

WHEREAS, S3 conducted research and devised a water filtration system that can be used to detect impurities in water fountains, filter water in a continuous cycle, and detect pH imbalances to ensure clean drinking water in public school systems and to address urban lead-related water issues;

WHEREAS, S3 was selected as one of eight national high school-level finalists in their OPSPARC competition pool, making them the only team on the East Coast, only all-female team, and only all African-American team to be selected as finalists;

WHEREAS, despite disconcerting and slanderous efforts by anonymous members of the public to sabotage public support for S3 because of their race, S3 was named a second-place winner in the 2018 OPSPARC competition and will be recognized by NASA for their excellent submission on June 14, 2018;

WHEREAS, in addition to being a member of S3, Bria Snell maintains a 3.9 GPA and is a student-athlete on the varsity cheerleading and varsity track teams;

WHEREAS, in addition to being a member of S3, India Skinner is a Principal’s Scholar in the top 10% of her class, a student-athlete on the varsity cheerleading and varsity track teams, a participant in the Marion Barry Youth Leadership Institute, and a member of the National Academic, Math and Spanish Honor Societies;

WHEREAS, in addition to being a member of S3, Mikayla Sharrieff is a member of the National Honor Society, the secretary of the Student Government Association, a member of the International Club, the captain of the varsity cheerleading team, an Ambassador for the National Society of High School Scholars, and a past participant in the Marion Barry Youth Leadership Institute;

85 IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF
86 COLUMBIA, that this resolution may be cited as the "S3 Recognition Resolution of 2018".
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88 Sec. 2. The Council recognizes Team S3 members Mikayla Sharrieff, India
89 Skinner and Bria Snell, as well as their In3 coaches, Marissa Jennings, Travis Bolden and
90 In3 CEO Aaron Saunders, for their ongoing commitments to academic excellence and
91 STEM exploration, their outstanding national performance in the 2018 NASA Goddard
92 OPSPARC competition, and their notable professionalism while pursuing more
93 diversity in the STEM field.
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95 Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of
96 publication in the District of Columbia Register.