

Vincent C. Gray  
Councilmember Vincent C. Gray

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A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To recognize Zahir Muhammad, the 2018 winner of the District of Columbia Scholastic Cup Chess Tournament.

WHEREAS, Zahir Muhammad is a Ward 7 resident and a junior at DeMatha Catholic High School where he takes honors classes, studies both Mandarin Chinese and Spanish, and considers math and chemistry among his favorite subjects;

WHEREAS, Zahir Muhammad is a captain of his chess team and a nationally ranked chess player who has been playing since the age of three;

WHEREAS, Zahir Muhammad was first taught to play chess by his father and went on to be trained by many chess instructors, including Ted Fagen, Vaughn Bennett, Shaka Greene, National Master Gregory Achonolu, Quito Swan, National Master David Bennett, and Robin Ramson;

WHEREAS, Zahir Muhammad was a top-10 finisher at the K-12 National Championships in 2017 and the Varsity Maryland Chess Roland Park November Scholastic winner in 2017, and he has achieved many other chess accomplishments;

WHEREAS, Zahir Muhammad is the 2018 winner of the District of Columbia Scholastic Cup Chess Tournament, a three-round tournament amongst competitors from area high schools;

WHEREAS, Zahir Muhammad represented the District of Columbia at the annual Denker High School Tournament of Champions, a six-round national tournament of players from 50 states, Guam, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and District of Columbia, held in Madison, Wisconsin, where he defeated higher rated chess players, raising his rating from 1778 to 1804 and becoming a Class B player, two ranks away from national master;

David C. Stewart

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WHEREAS, Zahir Muhammad is active in other activities such as playing AAU basketball, running track and serving as a member of the Marion Barry Youth Leadership Institute and the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Washington;

WHEREAS, Zahir Muhammad has set personal goals that he is working hard to soon achieve, including reaching a 2000 chess rating by the end of the year, becoming a national master and an international master, getting a scholarship to attend college and majoring in chemical engineering; and

WHEREAS, Zahir Muhammad hopes to start his own chess team and seeks to be an example to help bring other black and brown children closer to the game of chess and the learning experience that chess affords.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Zahir Muhammad Recognition Resolution of 2018”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and congratulates Zahir Muhammad for winning the District of Columbia Scholastic Cup Chess Tournament, representing the District of Columbia at the Denker High School Tournament of Champions and for his exceptional achievements as a chess player, student and citizen.

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