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4 Councilmember David Grosso  
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6 Councilmember Yvette Alexander  
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13 Councilmember Vincent Orange  
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16 Councilmember Anita Bonds  
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19 A PROPOSED RESOLUTION  
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27 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
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31 To declare the sense of the Council in support of developing a 'Statehood or Else' multi-media  
32 campaign with the express goals of producing a petition supporting District of Columbia  
33 statehood, collecting one million signatures for the petition, and delivering the one  
34 million signatures strong petition to the White House, to all 535 members of Congress,  
35 as well as leadership at both the 2016 Republican National Convention and the 2016  
36 Democratic National Convention.  
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38 RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this  
resolution may be cited as the "Sense of the Council in Support of a 'Statehood or Else'  
Signature Campaign of 2015".

Sec. 2. The Council finds that:

(1) Without statehood, the District of Columbia will continue to be denied  
democratic equality, and its citizens will continue to suffer taxation without  
representation;

(2) Statehood is the most appropriate mechanism to grant the United  
States citizens who reside in the District of Columbia the full rights and privileges of  
American citizenship, which include not only equal representation in the United States  
House of Representatives and the United States Senate but also full control over local  
affairs and budget autonomy;

1           (3) The District of Columbia, with 658,893 residents, has a larger  
2   population than both Vermont and Wyoming;

3           (4) The District of Columbia's gross domestic product ("GDP") is larger  
4   than that of New Mexico, Hawaii, West Virginia, New Hampshire, Idaho, Delaware,  
5   North Dakota, Alaska, Maine, South Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, Rhode Island and  
6   Vermont;

7           (5) District of Columbia residents pay \$1.6 billion a year in federal taxes,  
8   more per person than the residents of any other state in the United States;

9           (6) District of Columbia's local economy is one of the strongest in the  
10   nation at \$12.5 billion, larger than the budgets of 12 states;

11          (7) The Mayor should form a "Statehood or Else" Working Group within 30 days  
12   of the adoption of this resolution, or as soon as feasible, to explore creating a "Statehood or Else"  
13   multi-media campaign, and that along with the Mayor, the group should include members of the  
14   Council, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, Senators Paul Strauss and Michael D. Brown,  
15   Representative Franklin Garcia and other individuals from public and government spheres that the  
16   Mayor considers necessary or appropriate;

17          (8) The goal of the 'Statehood or Else' multi-media campaign is to produce a petition  
18   supporting District of Columbia statehood, collecting over one million signatures for the petition,  
19   and delivering those signatures to the White House and to all 535 members of Congress, as well as  
20   leadership at both the 2016 Republican National Convention and the 2016 Democratic National  
21   Convention;

22          (9) The 2016 Republican National Convention will convene in Cleveland,  
23   Ohio on July 18-21, 2016 and the 2016 Democratic National Convention will convene  
24   in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on July 25-28, 2016;

1           (10) Copies of the petitions supporting District of Columbia statehood  
2   should be delivered to the White House, to all 535 members of Congress, and to  
3   leadership at both the 2016 Republican National Convention and the 2016 Democratic  
4   National Convention to demonstrate the importance of statehood in the District of  
5   Columbia before each party chooses their nominees for President of the United States  
6   and Vice President of the United States in the 2016 national election;

7           (11) President Barack Obama, on July 21, 2014 at a town hall meeting on  
8   the My Brother's Keeper Initiative at Walker Jones Education Campus in Washington,  
9   D.C., publicly endorsed statehood for the District of Columbia;

10          (12) District of Columbia Emancipation Day is the District of Columbia's  
11   only legal public holiday and commemorates the signing of the District of Columbia  
12   Compensated Emancipation Act" on April 16, 1862 which ended slavery in  
13   Washington, DC, and freed 3,100 individuals;

14          (13) District of Columbia Emancipation Day is recognized annually on  
15   April 16<sup>th</sup>, and reminds us to reaffirm our commitment to forge a more just and united  
16   country that truly reflects the ideals of its founders and instills in its people a broad  
17   sense of duty to be responsible and conscientious stewards of freedom and democracy;

18          (14) In 2016, the entire nation will receive a three day tax-filing extension  
19   to Monday, April 18 because District of Columbia Emancipation Day falls on a  
20   Saturday, which means the District will officially celebrate the holiday on Friday, April  
21   15 — also known as Tax Day. Maine and Massachusetts will get an additional day on  
22   top of the three-day extension, until Tuesday, April 19, to file their taxes due to Patriots'  
23   Day — a holiday commemorating the battles of Lexington and Concord in 1775 — on

1 Monday, April 18. This nationally recognized tax-filing extension is an opportunity to  
2 educate the nation on the importance of Emancipation Day;

3 (15) President Barack Obama's last day as president will be January 20,  
4 2017, and he should serve as the keynote speaker for the Emancipation Day Prayer  
5 Breakfast on Saturday, April 16, 2016, the final Emancipation Day celebration prior to  
6 his departure from office.

7 Sec. 3. It is the sense of the Council that the District should further its efforts of  
8 achieving statehood with the creation of a "Statehood or Else" multi-media campaign that  
9 produces a petition supporting District of Columbia statehood, collecting one million signatures  
10 for the petition, and delivering the one million signatures to the White House, to all 535  
11 members of Congress, and leadership at both the 2016 Republican National Convention and the  
12 2016 Democratic National Convention.

13 Sec. 4. The Secretary of the Council shall transmit copies of this resolution, upon  
14 its adoption, to the Mayor.

15 Sec. 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately.