


Councilmember Jim Graham

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

“ERIC JONATHAN SHEPTOCK DAY RESOLUTION OF 2014”

To recognize the contributions and advocacy of Eric Jonathan Sheptock.

WHEREAS, Eric Jonathan Sheptock was born in Atlantic City, New Jersey where at the age of 8 months he suffered a massive head injury -- and was not expected by doctors to develop normal cognitive functions, much less finish high school.

WHEREAS, The head injury left him an extreme stutterer often taking three minutes to utter one sentence, leaving Eric exhausted and causing him to walk away from many conversations. He's defeated the stuttering enough to speak at various high schools, colleges, universities and churches. He's also been featured on CNN, Al-Jazeera and other media.

WHEREAS, Eric spent five years in foster care. Then a Polish man and Italian woman took him in when he was five and a half years old. They moved to New Jersey and his parents raised a family of 37 children -- seven natural and 30 adopted.

WHEREAS, the Sheptocks moved to Florida in 1985. Eric graduated from Hollister Christian Academy in Hollister, Florida in 1987, and was a straight-A student.

WHEREAS, Eric began advocating for the homeless in June 2006 due to the coaching of the late Mary Ann Luby.

23 WHEREAS, ERIC began as a member of the Committee to Save Franklin Shelter and
24 was part of the successful effort to stop Mayor Anthony Williams from closing the Franklin
25 School Shelter.

26 WHEREAS, Fellow homeless advocate David Pirtle taught him to do e-mail in
27 November of that year -- a day that many in DC Government remember. Eric has gone on to
28 become a prolific user of e-mail and Facebook and often blogs.

29 WHEREAS, In 2011 Eric established the then-new advocacy group SHARC which
30 stands for "Shelter, Housing And Respectful Change". SHARC formed for the purpose of
31 informing poor and homeless people about budget cuts to social services which would negatively
32 impact them.

33 WHEREAS, with Eric as Chair, SHARC went on to lead the beginning of a robust public
34 conversation around the future of the 1,350-bed Federal City Shelter -- a conversation that
35 continues to this day and could end with up to one-sixth of Washington, DC's homeless
36 population obtaining housing and/or improved shelter.

37 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this
38 resolution may be cited as the "Eric Jonathan Sheptock Day Recognition Resolution of 2014".

39 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and honors Eric Sheptock for
40 his outstanding advocacy on behalf of the homeless residents in the District of Columbia; and
41 declares declares December 31, 2014 as "Eric Jonathan Sheptock Day" in the District of
42 Columbia.

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