

Councilmember Phil Mendelson

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

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IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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To acknowledge March as the Brain Injury Awareness Month.

Whereas, of the 1.4 million individuals who receive emergency medical care for a traumatic brain injury (TBI) each year in the United States, 50,000 die, 235,000 are hospitalized, and 1.1 million are treated and released.

Whereas, among children under 15 years of age, traumatic brain injury results in an estimated 2,685 deaths, 37,000 hospitalizations and 435,000 emergency visits annually;

Whereas, the leading causes of traumatic brain injury are falls (28%), motor vehicle-traffic crashes (20%), struck by/against events (19%), and assaults (11%);

Whereas, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that at least 3.17 million Americans currently have a long-term or lifelong need for help to perform activities of daily living as a result of a TBI and the annual estimated cost to society for medical care and lost wages exceeds \$60 billion;

Whereas, the D.C. Department of Health has stated that District of Columbia residents experience traumatic brain injury at a higher rate than the national norm;

Whereas, the mission of the Brain Injury Association of D.C. is to provide help, hope, and healing by being the voice of brain injury;

Whereas, the Brain Injury Association of D.C. is part of an elite nationwide network of Chartered State Affiliates, through the Brain Injury Association of America, that provides on-going programs, services, education, and advocacy to individuals with brain injury, their family members and friends and the professionals who serve them;

Whereas, through the National Brain Injury Information Center (NBIIC), the Brain Injury Association of D.C. provides the residents of the District of Columbia with a toll-free telephone number that directly connects callers, regardless of where the call originates within the District, to local brain injury resources available in the District;

Whereas, the Brain Injury Association of D.C. participates in and makes available a voluntary national certification program, the Academy of Certified Brain Injury Specialists (ACBIS), which exists to improve the quality of care given to individuals with brain injury through education and training of those who work in brain injury; and

Whereas, the designation of a National Brain Injury Awareness Month will work toward enhancing public awareness of traumatic brain injury and increase the recognition of the life-altering impact traumatic brain injury can have both on Americans living with the resultant disability as well as on their families.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this resolution may be cited as the "March is Brain Injury Awareness Month Recognition Resolution of 2010."

Sec.2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and acknowledges March, 2010 as Brain Injury Awareness Month and the importance of raising public awareness of the need to reduce the incidence of traumatic brain injury, the need for improved acute care and rehabilitation, and the need for increased access to services for those with permanent traumatic brain injury related disabilities.

Sec.4. This Resolution shall take effect upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.