1	CITY OF HYATTSVILLE, MARYLAND
2 3	RESOLUTION 2021-05
4 5	A Resolution establishing David C. Driskell Community Park.
6 7 8 9 10	WHEREAS , the City of Hyattsville acquired title to some of the tracts of land that now contribute to the make-up of William Pinkney Magruder Park (hereinafter the "Park") from its namesake in April of 1927 when William and Dorothy Magruder deeded the property to the City; and
11 12 13 14 15	WHEREAS, the deed provided that the land be held "as a public recreation park and playground, to be known as WILLIAM PINKNEY MAGRUDER PARK, for the Caucasian inhabitants only of the said town of Hyattsville"; and
16 17 18 19	WHEREAS , on June 13, 1944, Magruder Park expanded when Hillary and Annie Willis conveyed additional land to the City, the deed of which was intended to serve as an "Addition to Magruder Park" for the "use of members of the Caucasian race only"; and
20 21 22 23 24	WHEREAS , in August of 1946, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission conveyed land to the City which it had acquired from the Magruder Estate on December 31, 1940, the deed of which did not contain any provision relating to how its addition to the Park was to be named or who may enjoy it; and
25	WHEREAS, the three conveyances of land comprise the Park; and
26 27 28 29 30 31 32	WHEREAS , upon learning of the racial provisions contained in the Magruder and Willis deeds, the City Council directed staff and the City Attorney to investigate the feasibility and legal requirements for changing the park's name and to devise a plan to address the community implications associated with the property's history and the City's relationship with the donors and/or their estates; and
33 34 35	WHEREAS , the City received over 800-citizen responses to its request for submissions of proposed new names for the Park;
36 37 38 39	WHEREAS , a joint committee, comprising of members of the Race and Equity Task Force and the Health, Wellness and Recreation Advisory Committee, convened to review and discuss the proposed names and to submit a short list to the City Council, along with a clear justification for each name it recommended; and
40 41 42 43 44 45	WHEREAS , in narrowing the list of contenders, the joint committee wase guided by the principles that the Park's new name (1) should be welcoming, relatable, and inclusive, and resonate with the diverse cultural make-up of the City's population; and (2) should withstand the test of time and not become passé or controversial in the near future; and

1 WHEREAS, two-hundred thirty-five (235) suggestions, more than one quarter of the total 2 submissions, recommended that the Park be renamed David C. Driskell Community Park and a 3 public hearing was held on April 5, 2021, at which the majority of participants expressed support 4 for renaming the park David C. Driskell Community Park; and 5 6 WHEREAS, Mr. Driskell, a long-time resident of the City of Hyattsville and 7 Distinguished University Professor at the University of Maryland, transformed the field of African 8 American art through his scholarship, innovation, and humanity and played a critical role in 9 bringing awareness to the art of African Americans at a time when these artists and their works 10 were overlooked; and 11 12 WHEREAS, Mr. Driskell was trained as a painter and art historian who worked primarily 13 in collage and mixed media, and printmaking; he was a naturalist and colorist, and a lot of his art 14 focused on trees, nature, and landscapes; and 15 16 WHEREAS, Mr. Driskell passed away from complications related to Covid-19 on April 17 1, 2021; and 18 19 WHEREAS, it is the sense of the City Council that the residents of the City of Hyattsville 20 overwhelmingly support renaming the Park "David C. Driskell Community Park," to honor and 21 commemorate a member of the community who was dedicated to telling the story of the African 22 American experience through art; and 23 24 **WHEREAS**, the joint committee also recommended that the Park secondarily be named 25 "Community Park" to indicate that everyone is welcome. 26 27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that "William Pinkney Magruder Park" shall 28 be renamed "David C. Driskell Community Park"; and 29 30 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City shall strike any reference of "William Pinkney Magruder Park" from the City Charter, City Code, and any City regulation, policy, or 31 other document, signage or the like, and replace the same with "David C. Driskell Community 32 33 Park"; and 34 35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall become effective upon 36 recordation of the necessary quit claim deed removing the restrictive covenants. 37 38 **INTRODUCED** by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Hyattsville, Maryland, at a 39 regular meeting on June 7, 2021, at which meeting copies were available to the public for 40 inspection. 41 42 **ADOPTED** by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Hyattsville, Maryland, at a 43 regular meeting on June 7, 2021, at which meeting copies were made available to the public for 44 inspection. City of Hyattsville, Maryland **APPROVED:**

Date

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Kevin Ward Mayor

ATTEST/WITNESS:

City of Hyattsville, Maryland

Date

Laura Reams City Clerk