

1920 ★ 2020  
Celebrating 100 Years of Co-ops in DC



DC Cooperative  
Housing Coalition  
**News**

July – December | 2020

*Serving the District's cooperative housing community for 36 years*

## Annual Meeting -- **ZOOM edition!**



*Annual Meeting Zoom Screenshot*

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's annual meeting was a virtual Zoom meeting. Consistent with the need to protect everyone's health, 59 people participated in the Coalition's first virtual annual meeting with 34 cooperatives representing 3,767 units.

The program focused on energy efficiency and DC's benchmarking requirements. Julian Belilty, CEO & Co-founder of Honeydew Energy Advisors, and Patrick Hoffman, Principal of Asset Solutions, were our guest speakers. Mr. Belilty discussed upcoming DC building efficiency requirements, utility audits, and the benefits of solar energy. Mr. Hoffman talked about Energy Star benchmarking.

The annual meeting followed the program with reports from Russ Rader (The Westmoreland), President; Art Leabman (1870 Wyoming Avenue), Secretary; Ray Olson (River Park) Treasurer; Steve McKeivitt (Beverly Court), author of

the forthcoming book on the history of co-ops in DC; and Mike O'Dell (Harbour Square), 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Member representatives elected Board of directors. Directors elected officers following the annual meeting (see page 4 for the complete list).

Before adjourning, Board members bade farewell to Mike O'Dell who had announced his retirement from the Board in March of this year after 30 years of service. Mike thanked everyone for their many kind words and expressed his enjoyment for having been able to work with so many wonderful people and to have served the Coalition and the District's cooperative housing community.

**Co-op History Book  
to be Released  
February 2021!**

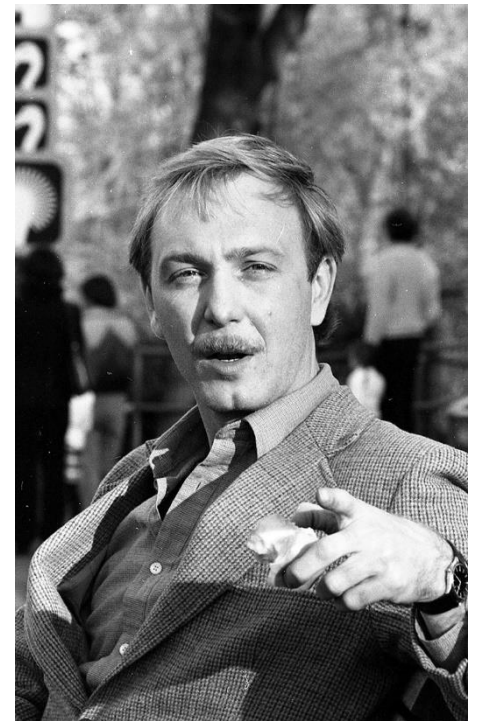
**See page 5 for details!**

## Council issues Resolution in Honor of 100 Years of Co-ops in DC

In October, the DC City Council issued a resolution in recognition of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of co-ops in DC and October as Cooperative Month. A copy of that Resolution appears on the last page of this newsletter. This Resolution is in addition to the Mayor's Proclamation issued in January (page 8 of this issue).

- Appreciation -

## Bob Uth, Director of 100- years of Co-ops video



It was with great sadness when the Coalition learned that Bob Uth, 70, died on July 20 from complications from a heart attack. Bob, a documentary producer and author, directed and filmed the Coalition's well-received celebratory video, ***The Good Life, 100 Years of Housing Cooperatives in Washington, DC, 1920 – 2020***. Bob was about to begin making five new videos for the Coalition, 1 to 2 minute each, covering different aspects of co-op living using hours of video not used in ***The Good Life*** video. (cont'd page 2)

**Appreciation** (cont'd from page 1)

Bob graduated from the University of Cincinnati in the field of World Literature. Bob and his wife, Simonida, lived in Washington, DC for 40 years and had just celebrated their 37<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. In addition to his wife, Bob is survived by his two sons, Joshua and Nicholas.

In 1981 he founded National Productions, and later New Voyage Communications, multi-media and documentary production companies in Washington, DC. He wrote, directed and produced numerous acclaimed PBS documentary films, among them the groundbreaking documentary, ***Tesla: Master of Lightning*** about the Serbian electrical genius and inventor, Nikola Tesla; a National Emmy award-winning documentary, ***Korean War Stories***; and National Emmy nominations for ***The March of the Bonus Army, Hallowed Grounds***, and ***WWII Memorial: A Testament to Freedom***. Bob wrote or co-wrote (among other books), ***Tesla: Master of Lightning***, and a dramatic screenplay on Tesla. In addition to his Emmys, he received many awards including recognition by the National Association of Science Writers, and the "Chris Award" for outstanding educational programs and won first prize in the Casa de las Ciencias International Competition for Scientific Diffusion Videos.

Bob also produced hundreds of programs for corporate and non-profit organizations worldwide including ***Living Double Lives***, a look at the nuclear age, and ***The Spirit of Cooperation***, about the cooperative movement in America.

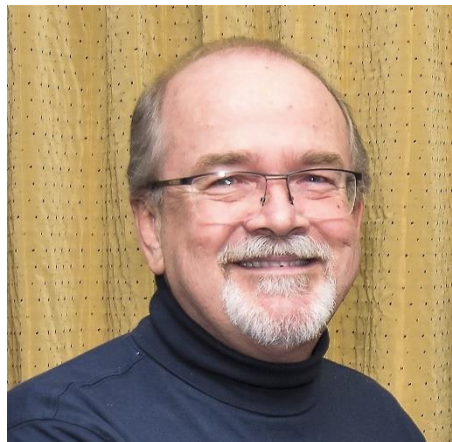
Bob worked with several renowned actors including Stacy Keach and Elisabeth Noone in ***Tesla: Master of Lightning***, Gary Sinise in ***The March of the Bonus Army***, Walter Cronkite, Buzz Aldrin, and James Baker III in ***Korean War Stories***, and Ron David, Mathews Elias, Jamie Guellal, and Mike Heid in ***Hallowed Grounds***.

Bob loved Washington, DC. He was active in his neighborhood and his local Advisory Neighborhood Commission.

The Coalition is honored to be among the many who worked with Bob. The Coalition is indebted to him for having created such a wonderful video for us to commemorate 100 years of housing cooperatives in DC and to remember him by. Bob was warm, engaging, and loved his craft. Bob enjoyed sharing his passion with those of us who worked with him during the filming of ***The Good Life***; we were fortunate to have had that personal experience. The Coalition Board extends its deepest sympathies to Bob's wife..

The family plans a celebration of Bob's life in the future. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to: [DAV \(Disabled American Veterans\)](#) or [Shriners Hospitals for Children](#), Cincinnati, OH.

### ***Thanks, Best Wishes, and Good Bye***



Mike O'Dell, Harbour Square

After serving 30 years on the Coalition Board as a Director, Vice President, President, and Executive Director, I decided it was time for me to enjoy a full retirement by stepping off the Board.

It has been an honor to have represented the interests and helped promote DC's market-rate housing

cooperatives in general, and my co-op, Harbour Square, in particular. As the Coalition's president at the time, I was pleased to have transformed the Coalition from an informal, loosely-tied group of concerned co-ops (officially started in 1984) to an incorporated nonprofit, IRS Code Section 501(c)(6) organization. The official date is May 14, 1993.

Over the years we worked with the DC City Council on several pieces of legislation. We met with councilmembers to introduce them to the Coalition to make sure they had a better understanding of co-ops and to work with them during the early legislative process to ensure co-op concerns were addressed. Our most important achievement was passage of the Cooperative Housing Procedure Act of 1988 (D.C. Law 7-205), that provided a uniform procedure and an equitable formula to assess real property owned by cooperatives. Over the years, the Coalition has been successful for the most part but we did, however, have a significant defeat on the transfer tax legislation in 2010. It still stings!

Over the years, the Coalition has grown from a small group of approximately 30 member co-ops to 70 member co-ops strong. We have maintained connections with our members in many different ways including the approximately 100 newsletters I've written over the years, this one being my last.

In 2009, I initiated a simple, but effective, email survey format to help our members save time and money by sharing one another's experiences. These 166 member-requested surveys covered topics from accountant recommendations to window replacement. I am indebted to Coalition Board member Jan Sten (3020 Tilden Street) for stepping forward to take over the surveys.

Promoting DC's co-ops is part of the Coalition's mission. To expose the cooperative housing community to a broader audience, I established a  
(cont'd page 3)

## Thanks (cont'd from page 2)

relationship with the Smithsonian Associates to conduct tours of co-ops in 1995 and 2004 (and most recently in 2020, but sadly, it was canceled because of COVID-19).

To serve as a resource for our members, and to have a presence with the general public, I am pleased to have been part of a small group many years ago that established our first website. Its original simple format has since improved in both content and appearance. Most important, no member dues are used to maintain the site. Maintenance and periodic design updates are funded through the annual fees paid by the wonderful service providers which have listings on the site.

But I am only one of 13 Board members. Together, we accomplished many things to assist our members and to promote housing cooperatives. In recent years, we wrote and published *Co-ops 101*, a well-received booklet with photos of many of our members explaining what a co-op is (and isn't).

During the last 2 years, I chaired the Coalition's efforts to commemorate this year's 100 years of co-ops in DC. However, COVID-19 forced us to cancel all of our planned events. Fortunately, we completed the 15-minute "mini-history" video, *The Good Life, 100 Years of Housing Cooperatives in Washington, DC, 1920 – 2020*, in 2019. It made its debut at our October 2019 annual meeting. The video was directed and filmed by Bob Uth (Sadly, Bob died this past July. Please read our tribute to him on the front page) and co-produced by Katie Wilson of the Cathedral Avenue Cooperative and me. The video is available for viewing on YouTube (nearly 1,800 views at the time of writing this in November): (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W1wcBu3F8vY&t=24s>) The video is also available on DVD.

In February, 2021, the Coalition will publish a wonderful book, researched and authored by fellow Coalition Board member, Steve McKeivitt (Beverly Court), documenting 100 years of co-ops in DC. While Steve will be the first to say he and I didn't always agree on everything, the result of our discussions have resulted in a book everyone can be proud of. Learn more about the book on page 5.

I am fortunate that my Board at Harbour Square has chosen a great and talented person to replace me: Karen Jones. Karen will be a wonderful asset to the Coalition and our DC cooperative housing community. Harbour Square has the significant distinction of being among the original founders of the Coalition and the only co-op to have had a seat on the Coalition board since its inception in 1984, first by Dr. Mary Beth Minden, then myself, and now Karen.

I wish our 70 member co-ops the very best and I thank my fellow Board members, past and present, and our esteemed legal counsel, Joe Douglass, of Whiteford, Taylor & Preston. I have been very fortunate to have worked with many talented and committed people.

It has been my honor to have served on the Coalition Board. Finishing my years of service by chairing our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration was a labor of love, but working and becoming friends with so many interesting and committed people during my 30 years with the Coalition has been the best reward. Thank you, best wishes, and goodbye. It's been a wonderful experience.

--Mike

## Recent Surveys

The results from the following Coalition member-requested surveys were shared with member co-ops' presidents, managers, and their representatives to the Coalition. How widely the results are distributed to

others is a co-op's responsibility. These surveys were conducted June through December.

- Committee Guidelines (June)
- Virtual Meetings (August)
- Pest Control (September)
- Interviews (September)
- Solar Power (September)
- Refinancing Mortgages (September)
- Covid-19 Cleaning (December)
- Hot water heaters (December)

## Alert: Coalition Transition Period

Mike O'Dell isn't the only person leaving the Coalition this year-- Jim Smith, the Coalition's Administrative Assistant for the past 12 years, has passed the books on to Blake Jones. The Coalition thanked Jim for his service maintaining the financial accounts, providing monthly reports to the Board, issuing checks, getting out postal mailings, and keeping a good relationship with our web sponsors. Perhaps most important, was his work during the annual membership renewals. While Jim will be missed, the Coalition welcomes his replacement, Blake Jones

With the retirement of Mike O'Dell and Jim Smith from the Board and staff of DC/CHC, the organization will be undergoing a transition period. We are working hard to make it as smooth as possible. Bear with us! We are taking the opportunity to review all the ways we have informed and supported our members over the years, and most importantly, how we can do that even better in the future. If you have suggestions, please let us know! We look forward to a productive (and hopefully less stressful) year ahead. In the meantime, the email address for the Coalition remains [CooperativesDC@aol.com](mailto:CooperativesDC@aol.com) and our new administrative assistant, N. Blake Jones, can be reached at 404-210-0799 and [DCCoopCoalition@gmail.com](mailto:DCCoopCoalition@gmail.com).

## Board of Directors

### President

Russ Rader  
Westmoreland, 60 units

### Vice President

Katie Wilson  
Cathedral Avenue, 145 units

### Secretary

Art Leabman  
1870 Wyoming Avenue, 28 units

### Treasurer

Ray Olson  
River Park, 518 units

### Directors

Matt Buzby  
Broadmoor, 194 units

Fred Dyda  
Tilden Gardens, 170 units

Loretta Glaze Elliott  
Shoreham West, 60 units

Andy Litsky  
Tiber Island, 389 units

Stephen McKeivitt  
Beverly Court, 39 units

Karen Jones  
Harbour Square, 447 units

Janet Sten  
3020 Tilden Street, 21 units

## Contact us

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N. Blake Jones  
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[DCCoopCoalition@gmail.com](mailto:DCCoopCoalition@gmail.com)



## About DC/CHC, the Coalition

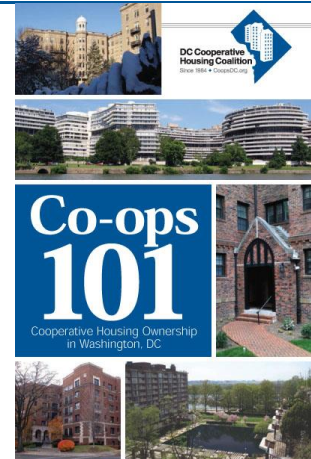
Established in 1984, the DC Cooperative Housing Coalition exists to advance the common interests of cooperative housing associations in the District of Columbia and to promote cooperative housing as a desirable form of home ownership. It is therefore both an advocacy organization that articulates the interests of members before government officials and regulatory agencies and a service organization that provides information and education to members.

Membership is open to all District housing cooperatives, regardless of size. A volunteer board of directors, elected by member co-ops, governs the Coalition. Activities are financed through annual dues, \$1.50 per unit per year (12.5 cents per month)

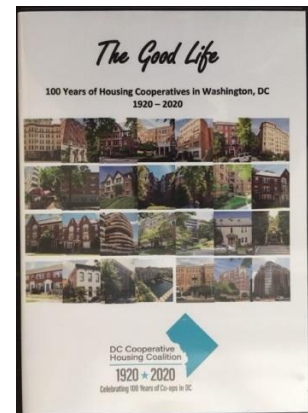
The Coalition grew out of an ad-hoc group of District cooperatives that formed in response to a judicial ruling that had cast a cloud over many cooperatives by banning proportionate voting. By marshaling the forces of more than 3,000 housing cooperative units, the ad-hoc group persuaded the District's City Council to resolve the matter.

Recognizing the importance to the cooperative housing community of speaking in a single voice and maintaining the ability to respond quickly and knowledgeably to matters affecting cooperative housing, the ad-hoc group decided to form a permanent organization.

The Coalition was established in 1984 and was incorporated as DC/CHC, Inc., a nonprofit, IRS Code Section 501(c)(6) organization in the District of Columbia, May 14, 1993.



**Co-ops 101 FREE DOWNLOAD:**  
<http://coopsdc.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Co-ops101-PDF.pdf>



**The Good Life, 100 Years of Cooperatives in Washington, DC, 1920 – 2020**

15 minutes. DVD or video:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W1wcBu3F8vY&t=24s>

## FREE Member Profile Page

No co-op website? No problem: Get your co-op's free webpage. See what you are missing at <https://coopsdc.org/members/>

Click on photos for members names listed in bold to see their details.

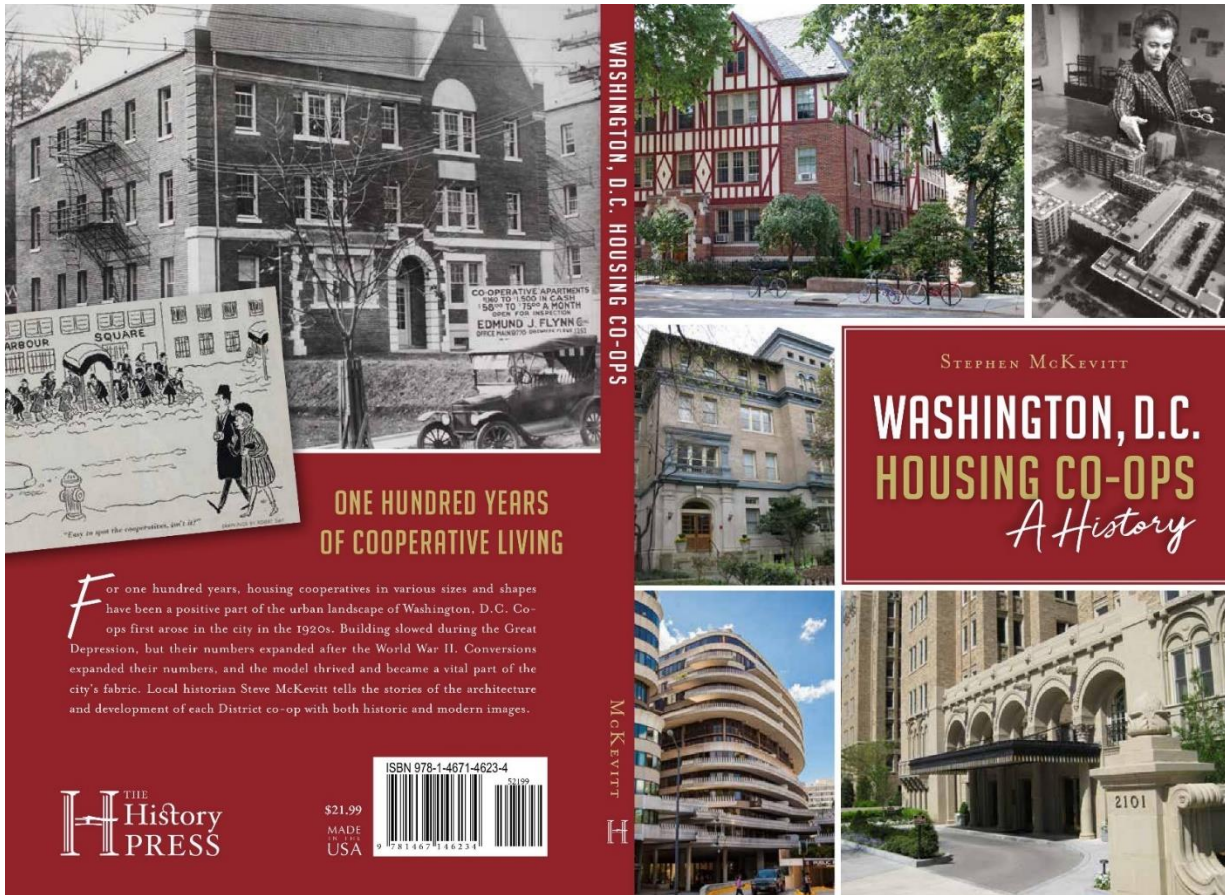
## The place to find a service provider:

<https://coopsdc.org/service-providers/>

Support those who support the Coalition and the District's market-rate cooperative housing community.

## Coming February 1, 2021!

First the video, now the book! The book you will want to have!



The Coalition is pleased to announce the release of the book that documents the history of housing co-ops in DC. Starting in 2012, the Coalition has enthusiastically supported Steve McKeivitt, a Coalition Board member and a Beverly Court Cooperative co-owner, in his research and writing of this very important book. The book contains many historic photos and images of famous architects, developers, promoters, and buildings (even a humorous cartoon about co-op owners!).

The book, with nearly 200 pages, expands on the information covered in the Coalition's 15-minute video. The book contains photos of each of the Coalition's 70 member co-ops in addition to sections with the dates co-ops were constructed and, if originally a rental building, the date they converted to cooperative. With few exceptions, each co-op listing includes the names of the building's architect and developer.

The Coalition congratulates Steve in completing this fine book. The Coalition is proud to have played a part in capturing and preserving DC's co-op history!

Check with your local, small neighborhood bookstore to see if they will carry it or PRE-ORDER your copy from Amazon:

[https://www.amazon.com/Washington-D-C-Housing-Co-ops-History/dp/1467146234/ref=sr\\_1\\_2?dchild=1&keywords=stephen+mckevitt&qid=1606148196&s=books&sr=1-2](https://www.amazon.com/Washington-D-C-Housing-Co-ops-History/dp/1467146234/ref=sr_1_2?dchild=1&keywords=stephen+mckevitt&qid=1606148196&s=books&sr=1-2)

**Thank you to our generous supporters for making the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Co-ops in DC possible!**

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**~~~~~ Bronze ~~~~~**



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ROOST DC





*Congratulations  
Housing Cooperatives of Washington, DC  
100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

January 2020

**WHEREAS**, the DC Cooperative Housing Coalition (DCCHC) is celebrating 100 years of housing cooperatives in Washington, DC; and

**WHEREAS**, DCCHC has been representing and promoting co-ops since 1984 and will celebrate the 100 year anniversary with planned activities throughout 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, DCCHC exists to advance the common interests of cooperative housing associations throughout the Washington region and promote cooperative housing as a desirable form of home ownership; and

**WHEREAS**, DCCHC advocates for the civic interests of and provides educational information to its members; and

**WHEREAS**, the Coalition's most important accomplishment is helping to pass the Cooperative Housing Procedure Act which allows a fair and equitable assessment of real property owned by cooperatives; and

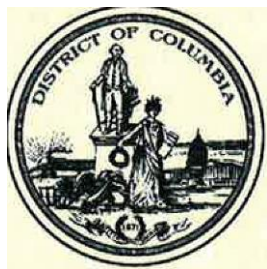
**WHEREAS**, housing cooperatives are owned and controlled by residents and afford individuals and families an opportunity at home ownership and a stake in the economic future of their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the benefits of cooperative housing include collective input, a sense of community and worry-free living:

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, THE MAYOR OF WASHINGTON, DC**, do hereby congratulate Housing Cooperatives for their tremendous contributions to our world-class and culturally diverse city. On behalf of the 702,000 residents of Washington, DC, I wish Housing Cooperatives

**HAPPY 100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

*Muriel Bowser*  
Muriel Bowser  
Mayor, Washington, DC





## DC COUNCIL RECOGNIZES HOUSING COOPERATIVES



**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**Councilmember Anita Bonds, Chairperson**  
**Councilmember Charles Allen**

### **A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION** **COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**To celebrate and honor the 100th Anniversary of Housing Cooperatives in the District of Columbia.**

WHEREAS, October 2020 is National Co-op Month;

WHEREAS, 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of housing cooperatives in Washington, D.C.;

WHEREAS, housing cooperatives are member-owned entities that afford individuals a real stake in home ownership and in the economic future of their communities;

WHEREAS, there are more than 100 housing cooperatives with thousands of units in the District varying widely in location, size, and architectural style, including high-rise buildings, garden style buildings, and detached houses;

WHEREAS, Washington, DC is second only to New York City in the number of cooperative housing units;

WHEREAS, co-ops have a rich history in the city and many buildings are of historical and architectural significance;

WHEREAS, co-ops play an important role in the District's housing continuum, and contribute to housing affordability;

WHEREAS, co-ops are democratically operated by member-owners who have a voice and vote in the operations of the cooperative;

WHEREAS, co-ops encourage community participation, civic pride, leadership and a sense of shared purpose among neighbors; and

WHEREAS, new and existing co-ops will play an important role in the city's housing stock for at least the next 100 years.

**RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "DC Housing Cooperatives 100th Anniversary Ceremonial Recognition Resolution of 2020"**

The Council recognizes and honors the successes of cooperative housing in Washington, D.C. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.