



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

KENYAN R. McDUFFIE
Councilmember, Ward 5
Chair Pro Tempore
Chair, Committee on Business and
Economic Development

Committee Member
Finance and Revenue
Labor and Workforce Development
Transportation and the Environment
Recreation and Youth Affairs

Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie Introduces Legislation to Create a Commission to Review Names of District Memorials and Places

*Legislation Creates a Commission to Review Controversial Monuments,
Markers, and Symbols, including Statues, Street Names, and School
Names in the District of Columbia*

For Immediate Release: Wednesday, April 3, 2019

Contact: Nolan Treadway, 202-445-0361, ntreadway@dccouncil.us

Washington, DC – Yesterday, Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie, Chair Pro Tempore and Chair of the Committee on Business and Economic Development introduced the **Advisory Commission on Monuments, Markers, and Symbols Establishment Act of 2019**. This legislation directs the mayor to establish an advisory commission to make recommendations regarding controversial monuments, markers, and symbols, such as statues, street names, and school names, that are seen as oppressive and inconsistent with District of Columbia values. After consulting experts and engaging the residents of the District of Columbia, the Commission will submit a report containing its recommendations to the Council and Mayor.

This legislation builds on Councilmember McDuffie’s recent call to change the name of his alma mater, Woodrow Wilson High School, and the community-led effort to rename what is now known as Lawrence E. Boone Elementary School (formerly Benjamin Orr Elementary) in Ward 8.

With introduction of this legislation, Councilmember McDuffie said:

“A symbol or monument can be benign to one person and be deeply offensive to another. The advisory commission established in this legislation will review our symbols and monuments in a thorough and thoughtful way, that will allow all District residents to enjoy our public spaces.”

###