

Government of the District of Columbia
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**Resolution Calling for the Release of Nobel Laureate Liu Xiaobo from Prison
and the Designation of "Liu Xiaobo Plaza" along International Dr., NW**

WHEREAS, Liu Xiaobo, university professor, activist, and citizen of the People's Republic of China, has been a prominent and vocal proponent of an open and democratic China for more than two decades; and

WHEREAS, Article 35 of the Chinese constitution grants to citizens of that country the "freedom of speech, of the press, of assembly, of association, of procession and of demonstration"; and

WHEREAS, Liu was held in prison for nearly two years for his participation in the Tiananmen Square protests in June, 1989, and later served three years in a labor camp for speaking out against the official version of those events; and

WHEREAS, in December, 2008, Liu published Charter 08, a document signed by 300 Chinese intellectuals that endorses the principles of freedom, human rights, equality, republicanism, democracy, and constitutional rule and calls for significant political reform in China through adoption of a new constitution, a legislative democracy, an independent judiciary, and a guarantee of human rights, among other things;¹ and

WHEREAS, Liu was taken into custody shortly after the publication of Charter 08, convicted of "inciting subversion of state power," and sentenced to 11 years in prison, where he remains to this day; and

WHEREAS, in October, 2009, the US House of Representatives passed, by overwhelming majority (410-1-21), a resolution (H.Con.Res.151) expressing the sense of Congress that China should release Liu Xiaobo from custody; and

WHEREAS, the square of land on which the Embassy of the People's Republic of China sits at 3505 International Pl., NW, Square 2055, is entirely within the boundaries of ANC 3F and is owned and maintained by the federal government, including the system of roads within that square; and

WHEREAS, in October, 2009, US Senator Cruz introduced in the Senate a resolution (S.Res.482) calling for the area between the intersections of International Dr., NW & Van Ness

¹ The 19 recommendations in Charter 08 are: New Constitution; Separation of Powers; Legislative Democracy; Independent Judiciary; Public Control of Public Servants; Guarantee of Human Rights; Election of Public Officials; Rural-Urban Equality; Freedom to Form Groups; Freedom to Assemble; Freedom of Expression; Freedom of Religion; Civic Education; Protection of Private Property; Financial and Tax Reform; Social Security; Protection of the Environment; Federated Republic; and Truth in Reconciliation, as translated from the Chinese by Perry Link; ref: <http://www.charter08.eu/>

St., NW and International Dr., NW & International Pl., NW to be designated as "Liu Xiaobo Plaza"; and

WHEREAS, in December, 2010, the Nobel Committee awarded to Liu the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of "his long and non-violent struggle for fundamental human rights in China," placing him in the company of fellow Nobel Laureates Albert Schweitzer (1952), Martin Luther King Jr. (1964), Mother Theresa (1979), Elie Wiesel (1986), Aung San Suu Kyi (1991), and Nelson Mandela (1993); and

WHEREAS, in May, 2014, thirteen members of Congress, including Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton, sent a letter to Mayor Vincent Gray and the Council of the District of Columbia requesting that the portion of International Pl., NW that includes the Embassy of the People's Republic of China be renamed for Liu Xiaobo; and

WHEREAS, in June, 2014, the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations adopted an amendment to the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act of 2015, instructing the Secretary of State to rename the section of International Pl., NW that runs in front of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China as "Liu Xiaobo Plaza," and District of Columbia Council Chairman Phil Mendelson introduced a resolution expressing the support of the DC Council for renaming that portion of International Place NW for Liu Xiaobo;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

- a) that it is the sense of ANC 3F that Liu Xiaobo is a prisoner of conscience who should be released from prison immediately; and
- b) that ANC 3F supports officially naming the area of International Pl., NW that runs in front of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China as "Liu Xiaobo Plaza."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Commissioners Malachy Nugent and Adam Tope are authorized to speak on behalf of ANC 3F regarding this issue.

ANC 3F approved this resolution at its meeting on September 16, 2014, which was properly noticed and a quorum present, by a vote of two in favor, one opposed, and three abstaining from voting (2-1-3).



Adam Tope, Chair