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Councilmember Todd Introduces Legislation Establishing DC Office on Caribbean Affairs

Washington, DC – Today, Councilmember Brandon Todd (D-Ward 4) introduced legislation that would establish a District of Columbia Office on Caribbean Affairs. This office would join the ranks of other community affairs offices that represent distinct constituencies within the Executive Office of the Mayor. The office would monitor the delivery of services and make policy recommendations to the Mayor and Council regarding housing, health, education, employment, social services, public safety, business opportunities, and cultural heritage preservation as it relates to the District’s Caribbean community. The Mayor’s Advisory Commission on Caribbean Community Affairs was established in 2012, but there is no supporting office dedicated to the Caribbean community. While the advisory commission has done excellent work, especially advocating on issues important to the Caribbean community, a dedicated office would better serve this community through funding and capacity building.

“Caribbean immigrants, like all immigrants, face daunting challenges. From parents raising children in a new culture, to securing suitable employment and affordable housing, to an aging population – Caribbean immigrants deserve an advocate and voice in our government.” said Councilmember Todd. “Diversity is one of the District’s greatest strengths, and by creating this office, we will continue to support the vibrant growth of all of the District’s ethnic communities, including immigrants, who make up as much as 15% of the District’s population.”

The “Office on Caribbean Affairs Establishment Act of 2019” was co-introduced by Councilmembers Robert White, Jr., Mary Cheh, and Vincent Gray.

Councilmember Todd acknowledges and thanks the members of the Mayor’s Advisory Commission on Caribbean Community Affairs who have passionately advocated on behalf of establishing this office.###