

WASHINGTON, DC
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

Proclamation



PUSHY WOMEN DAY

NOVEMBER 5, 2021

WHEREAS, in Washington, DC, some are of the misguided belief that qualified, strong, powerful, and successful Black women advocating for black artists' equity and inclusion in arts spaces across all 8 wards are pushy; and

WHEREAS, such wrongheaded beliefs very nearly led to two of our most qualified strong, powerful, and successful Black women being denied not just seats on our D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities (DCCAH), but denied public hearings on my nominations of them as well; and

WHEREAS, former First Lady of the District Cora Masters Barry and Howard University Associate Professor of Communication, Culture and Media Studies, Dr. Natalie Hopkinson, are the aforementioned strong, powerful, successful, and immensely qualified Black women I nominated for reappointment to DCCAH; and

WHEREAS, by virtue of our being women, so many of us have been described derogatorily by men—and sometimes fellow women—as pushy, when little did they know that we wear that badge proudly and with honor; and

WHEREAS, when some in positions of power decided that being pushy was a disqualification for serving on DCCAH, Mrs. Barry, Dr. Hopkinson, and hundreds of their supporters gathered with organizers of the Don't Mute DC coalition to protest their attempted silencing; and

WHEREAS, thanks to the loud and vocal support for Mrs. Barry and Dr. Hopkinson's nominations, the attempt to silence these pushy, qualified, strong, powerful, and successful Black women failed spectacularly:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THE PUSHY MAYOR OF WASHINGTON, DC, do hereby proclaim Friday, November 5, 2021 as **PUSHY WOMEN DAY** and encourage all Washingtonians to pause and celebrate the pushy women in their lives.

