

RESOLUTION DEDICATING THE BENNY N. NAPOLEON INTELLIGENCE AND TRAINING CENTER

By Detroit City Council President Brenda Jones

WHEREAS, Benny N. Napoleon, born on September 10, 1955 in Detroit Michigan, one of seven children of his mother, Betty and his father, Rev. Harry Napoleon. A lifelong Detroiter, Napoleon graduated from Cass Technical High School, serving as the starting shooting guard of a great basketball team. He earned a Bachelor's degree from University of Detroit Mercy and Juris Doctorate from the Detroit College of Law; and

WHEREAS, Benny Napoleon entered public service in 1975 as a trainee with the Detroit Police Department and entered the city's police academy the same year. Always a high achiever, Napoleon rose through the ranks of the department, he was promoted to sergeant in 1983, lieutenant in 1985, inspector in 1987, commander in 1993, deputy chief in 1994 and assistant chief in 1995; and

WHEREAS, Benny Napoleon was appointed Chief of Police for the Detroit Police Department by the Honorable Mayor Dennis W. Archer in 1998. With the police department, he served in the capacities of patrol, investigative, undercover and administrative positions. He retired in from the Detroit Police Department in 2001, after 26 years of service; and

WHEREAS, In 2004, Benny Napoleon was named Assistant Wayne County Executive. In June 2009, Napoleon was appointed to fill a vacancy as Wayne County Sheriff and won the election in a "landslide" victory. Benny Napoleon was re-elected to four-year terms in subsequent years; and

WHEREAS, Benny Napoleon was also a giant in the community, serving as a life member of the NAACP, an attorney with a private legal practice and a 33rd Degree Mason, Prince Hall Affiliate. An academic at heart, Benny Napoleon thoroughly enjoyed serving as an adjunct professor of Criminal Justice at the University of Phoenix (Detroit Campus) for several years; and

WHEREAS, His community service included spending time as a baseball coach for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Michigan; a basketball coach for the Detroit Police Athletic League; a student mentor for the Detroit Public Schools; and chairing the Michigan Civil Rights Commission. Napoleon has been honored with a wide array of professional and community service awards, which are too numerous to list. He is was the proud parent of one daughter, who is completing her Master of Arts program at the University of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, Unfortunately, Benny Napoleon a well-known and well-loved Wayne County sheriff, lost his battle to COVID-19 on December 17, 2020. He will forever be remembered for his generosity, integrity and faithfulness as a public servant for over 45 years; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, That the elected leaders of the City of Detroit unanimously on this date, April 28, 2021, hereby chooses to honor the memory of Benny N. Napoleon, by dedicating the name of the Detroit Police Department's training facility at 1200 Oakman Avenue as, the "Benny N. Napoleon Intelligence and Training Center."