

New Business

11/20/18.

**TESTIMONIAL
RESOLUTIONS
AND SPECIAL
PRIVILEGE**

Testimonial Resolution

146

In Memoriam









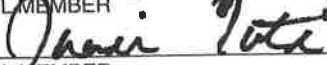
MRS. AVIS HOLMES

WHEREAS, We, the members of the **Detroit City Council**, solemnly pause today to recognize and bestow homage upon the late, **MRS. AVIS SARAH ERNESTINE HOLMES**, who made her heavenly transition on November 2, 2018. **AVIS HOLMES** was born on November 1, 1926 in Powhatan County, Virginia. She was the third of five children born to the late Voll Paul Green Sr., and Alice Virginia Dabney Greene. Her siblings include Holman, Voll Jr., Patty (who preceded her in death) and her baby brother, Reuben. **AVIS** accepted Christ at an early age and later became a dedicated member of Allen Temple AME Church. After her father's death, the family moved to Richmond, Virginia. **AVIS** attended Richmond Public Schools and graduated early at the age of sixteen. She met and married Andrew James Burnette. From this union three children were born: Andrea, Patty and Andrew Jr. In 1951, the family relocated to Detroit, Michigan, where **AVIS** worked several jobs. She was an amazing wife and mother. In spite of working full-time, she always cooked full course meals for breakfast and dinner for her family. **AVIS** was an excellent cook and her cakes, pies and rolls were legendary. Her doors were always open to visitors and once she accepted someone as a friend, they became part of the family. **AVIS** and Andrew divorced in 1961; and

WHEREAS, While campaigning for John F. Kennedy's presidential bid, **AVIS** met David S. Holmes Jr., who was a member of the Michigan House of Representatives. Later, David was elected as a State Senator. They were united in marriage in November 1962. **AVIS** and David embarked on many adventures together, including campaigning, attending political conventions and hosting an "Annual Friends of Holmes Scholarship Fund" for aspiring students. Their home on East Boston became the center of lavish parties, meetings and fundraisers for the Democratic Party's political elite, the Michigan Black Caucus (founded by Sen. Holmes), community groups and members. The couple were an integral part of the Civil Rights Movement and participated in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Detroit March in June 1963. With the help of her husband, **MRS. HOLMES** founded the Detroit Non-Profit Housing Corporation (DNPHC) in 1971, becoming its Executive Director. She also completed her B.A. in Political Science from Wayne State University in 1973. DNPHC specialized in providing safe and affordable housing for people with low and moderate incomes. **MRS. HOLMES** was passionately dedicated to securing HUD approved contracts for the citizens of Detroit. She was especially devoted to protecting senior citizen's legacy of home ownership in the North End community. DNPHC was like another child to her. For many years, **MRS. HOLMES** kept the agency afloat out of her own pocket; nurturing and fighting for its goals until the age of ninety-one. She never retired. During those decades of service, **MRS. HOLMES** trained and mentored dozens of people who continued her legacy in the housing industry; and

WHEREAS, Words alone cannot describe the life that **AVIS HOLMES** lived. She was intellectually brilliant, well-traveled, and could converse on a wide variety of subjects, especially politics and current events. In addition to being an incomparable mother to her own children, **MRS. HOLMES** mothered her grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren. She and her sister Patty, raised and took guardianship of her grandsons Malik and Jimmie and her great-granddaughter, Khadijah. Often mistaken as twins, **AVIS** and Patty were inseparable. As adults they lived together for forty-four years and every holiday was spent at the home they built together. There was always room at the table for family and friends on any occasion, whether a holiday or not. **MRS. AVIS HOLMES** was the matriarch and jewel of her family. She put her heart and soul into her family, the DNPHC agency and serving the people of the North End community and the City of Detroit. She is survived by her brother Reuben Greene (Lillian); her children Andrea, Patty (Lester), Andrew Jr., Marcia (Paul) and Patricia Ann; grandchildren Malik (Akilah), Jimmie (Tonya), Christopher (Raisa), Elizabeth, Alexis, Amari and Aman; great-grandchildren Khadijah, Sandra Ann, Gabriella, Moses, Emmah, Rosely, Zane and Kinsley, great-great-grandchildren Gianna and Elizah; and a host of cousins, nieces, nephews and friends. **MRS. AVIS HOLMES** has ensured that her impact would be forever embedded in the hearts of those she cherished for years to come. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, That the **Detroit City Council** and office of **Council President Brenda Jones**, hereby joins with family and friends to honor the life and legacy of **MRS. AVIS HOLMES** and thanks her for making a tremendous difference in countless lives.

	
COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM	COUNCIL PRESIDENT
	
COUNCIL MEMBER	COUNCIL MEMBER
	
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COUNCIL MEMBER	COUNCIL MEMBER
	
	COUNCIL MEMBER

November 17, 2018

DATE