

3-19-19

**TESTIMONIAL  
RESOLUTIONS  
AND SPECIAL  
PRIVILEGE**

66.

Testimonial Resolution
Kalimah Johnson, LMSW, ACSW, LCSW
Founder and Director of the SASHA Center

CLERK 2019 MAR 15 AM 11:00

WHEREAS

Kalimah Johnson is an innovative community activist and trailblazer in the anti-sexual violence movement. A native of Detroit, she obtained her Bachelor of Social Work in 1996 and a Master of Social Work from Wayne State University in 1997. In addition, she is a member of the Academy of Certified Social Workers, a licensed social worker in Michigan and Illinois and past Assistant Professor of Social Work at Marygrove College. Her teaching interests are sexual assault and the military, social work education/methods, men stopping violence against women, violence against women and children, multiculturalism, media images/hip hop and social practice/justice and community organizing and;

WHEREAS

Kalimah's experience as a survivor of sexual violence and an undergraduate internship that addressed sexual assault would define her career trajectory. After receiving her Master's, she worked with the Rape Counseling Center from 1996-2005, as a consultant for the Michigan Coalition against Domestic and Sexual Violence and as a sexual assault therapist for the Detroit Police Department's victim assistance program. While traveling across the country training directors of coalitions on how to address forms of domestic and sexual trauma, she noticed discrepancies regarding the treatment of women based on their background, socio-economic status and their race. Her work in this field would serve as the catalyst for the creation of an official nonprofit and;

WHEREAS

In 2010, Kalimah founded the SASHA Center (Sexual Assault Services for Holistic Healing Awareness) to address culturally specific holistic healing for survivors of sexual and domestic violence. Utilizing best practices to provide education, resources and support for survivors, SASHA Center accomplishes this goal through such programming as weekly community support groups, the annual Take Back the Night Detroit and SASHA M.E.N. (Male Engagement Now) a special eight month series designed to encourage dialogue among men related to sexual violence. Her unique expertise and emphasis of addressing trauma of the African American community has led to the creation of the SASHA Model: the Black Women's Triangulation of Rape. Outside of her work with SASHA Center, she is a lead consultant for the National Basketball Association, National Basketball Players Association, the Detroit Lions and Michigan Elite 25 Camp on matters related to player development and relationship safety and management. In addition, she has been prominently featured on the HBO documentary, I Am Evidence for her work with the Detroit Rape Kit Project and is the driving force behind the Mute R. Kelly campaign and;

WHEREAS

Kalimah is the recipient of numerous awards due to her advocacy including the Spirit of Detroit Award, Activist of the Year from the National Organization of Women, Advocate of the Year from the National Network to End Domestic Violence. In her spare time, she' was a Poet in Residence at the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, a member of the National Association of Social Workers, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and owns a natural hair care studio. NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED

That on this day, February 12, 2019, Council Member James Tate Jr. and the entire Detroit City Council do hereby acknowledge Kalimah Johnson for your work with the SASHA Center and for your contributions to improving the quality of life within the City of Detroit. Thank you for your continuous your commitment to eradicating rape culture in the City of Detroit.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM

COUNCIL MEMBER

COUNCIL MEMBER

COUNCIL MEMBER

COUNCIL MEMBER

COUNCIL MEMBER

COUNCIL MEMBER

COUNCIL MEMBER

February 12, 2019
DATE