

New BUSINESS

9-17-19.

**TESTIMONIAL  
RESOLUTIONS  
AND SPECIAL  
PRIVILEGE**

Testimonial Resolution

45

Verdine Day

Retired Detroit Firefighter

CITY CLERK 2019 SEP 14 10:41 AM

WHEREAS the members of the Detroit City Council are delighted to honor an outstanding woman that has made a great impact in the Detroit Fire Department and her community for thirty-three and a half years; and

WHEREAS during her tenure, Verdine served in many capacities; from being an aide to the Department Chief, Deputy Chief and Administrative Assistants to rising through the ranks to become the first black female Fire Engine Operator and on to Senior Fire Engine Operator. Through her esteemed work ethic and heroism, she also earned two citations for the rescue of civilians; and

WHEREAS Verdine served as an elected union official with the Detroit Fire Fighters Association for fourteen years as an 8th Battalion Director, Secretary, Vice President and currently holds the position of Treasurer. During those terms she chaired the Political Action Committee, the Joint Health and Safety Committee, Public Relations, Human Relations and Grievance committees. Her dedication to fair and just treatment was also instrumental in adopting a pregnancy policy for women of the department; and

WHEREAS for nineteen years, Verdine orchestrated the "Engine 40 Back to School Backpack Project", securing thousands of backpacks loaded with school supplies for our youth and she led the "Fill the Boot Campaign" for fourteen years, which raised money for children from the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Through her desire to serve, Verdine also coordinated with Gleaners to provide breakfast for children in the summer, served as camp coach at Burn Camps and lent herself to the Junior Fire Cadet Program; and

WHEREAS for her tireless commitment and outstanding service, Verdine was appointed by the Commissioner to the PTSD Team and named the 2019 'Woman of the Year' for Women in Blue; and

WHEREAS in her spare time, Verdine enjoys traveling, riding motorcycles and has played softball since 1968, earning her a spot in the Michigan USSSA Hall of Fame; THEREFORE, LET IT BE

RESOLVED That Councilwoman Janee' L. Ayers and the entire Detroit City Council express our sincere appreciation and joins in the retirement celebration of Verdine Day, truly one of Detroit's finest treasures.

Brenda Jones
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Mary Sheffield
COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM

Dave DeLeon
COUNCIL MEMBER

Janice L. Ayers
COUNCIL MEMBER

[Signature]
COUNCIL MEMBER

[Signature]
COUNCIL MEMBER

Andi J. Spring
COUNCIL MEMBER

Raquel Castañeda-López
COUNCIL MEMBER

James Tate
COUNCIL MEMBER

SEPTEMBER 14, 2019

DATE

# Testimonial Resolution

46

CITY CLERK 2019 SEP 12 AM 11:22

## INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF METROPOLITAN DETROIT

### The Institute CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

- WHEREAS:** The International Institute Of Metropolitan Detroit (herein referred to as “The Institute”) will mark **100 Years** of bridging differences, fulfilling dreams and building better tomorrows for nearly three million refugees immigrants, refugees and asylees; five generations who, in turn, have enriched us all with their priceless contributions from two hundred different languages and cultures around the world; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The Institute, originally founded in 1919 as part of the YMCA’s nationwide settlement house initiative, is now an independent 501.c3 charitable organization. It is part of the U.S. Committee for Immigrant Refugees’ network, accredited by the U.S. Department of Justice, Board of Immigrant Appeals, credentialed by the Council on Accreditation of Service for Families and Children, Inc. The Institute is recognized as a historic organization by the Michigan Historical Society and the State of Michigan Historical Commission; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The Institute maintains its commitment to the guiding principles of our four original pillars, as relevant today as **100 years** ago: cultivating ethnic identity and leadership; supporting inclusion; teaching democracy and self-reliance; and, advocating for diversity as essential to the unity and vitality of our American culture; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The Institute has recognized and upheld the inclusion of all nationalities, ages, genders, and races since 1919 by building a governing board, staff, and programs relevant to and representative of the home cultures and heritage languages of its diverse client base and its surrounding community, as well in advance of the dictates of legislation, policy, or present-day social norms; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The Institute continues, in this its Centennial year, to prepare potential new Americans for successful, productive participation in the broader community through ESL/Citizenship classes, legal services, employment skills training, and economic empowerment opportunities offered on-site at its 70 year-old headquarters in Detroit’s Cultural center, in the City’s Warrendale and Corktown districts, and at satellite locations in Canton, Troy, Pontiac, Auburn Hills, and Hamtramck’s Banglatown; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The Institute promotes the value of diversity for all members of the community. It offers foreign language classes, children’s programs, traveling exhibits, guest presentations and cultural arts and artifacts displays at local libraries, in K-12 classrooms and community centers. Over the past **100 years**, these community-based events and special programs have impacted thousands of members of the community. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**
- RESOLVED:** The Detroit City Council and the Office Council Member Raquel Castañeda-López congratulates The International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit, its leadership, staff and volunteers on **100 years** of service to five generations of Michiganders. We commend them on their unwavering commitment to equity, inclusion and the value of diversity. **Looking forward to 100 years more!**

*Brenda Jones*  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

*Marye Ineffuel*  
COUNCIL RESIDENT PROGRAM

*Dave Deland*  
COUNCIL MEMBER

*Jaymie D. Lynn*  
COUNCIL MEMBER

*[Signature]*  
COUNCIL MEMBER

*[Signature]*  
COUNCIL MEMBER

*[Signature]*  
COUNCIL MEMBER

*Raquel Castañeda-López*  
COUNCIL MEMBER

*James Ford*  
COUNCIL MEMBER

September 12, 2019  
DATE

*Testimonial Resolution In Memoriam Mr. Arthur Simons February 19, 1929 - September 4, 2019*

*Submitted by Councilmember Gabe Leland*

**WHEREAS** Arthur Simons was born in Jemison, Alabama as the youngest of 11 children. His family relocated to Detroit, Michigan when he was 15 years old; **and**

**WHEREAS** Mr. Simons graduated from Detroit Northern High School and earned a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree from the Detroit Institute of Technology. His commitment to country and community began in earnest with two years spent in the United States Army. In 1966, Arthur joined the Barton McFarlane Neighborhood Association and in 1968 he became the Association’s first African-American President; **and**

**WHEREAS** Mr. Simons brought together his business background as a direct distributor for National Safety Associates and sales manager for the Stroh Brewery Company with his many years of leadership with the Barton McFarlane Neighborhood Association, in addressing zoning, master plan, economic development, housing, and public policy issues across the 139 square miles of the city of Detroit— from expansion of City Airport on the city’s northeast side to southwest Detroit’s Public Safety Mall; from the new Super Kmart store in northwest Detroit to the far east side’s controversial Graimark project; from the Eight Mile Gateway Mall project to the siting of temporary and permanent casinos in downtown Detroit; **and**

**WHEREAS** Mr. Simons concern for the impact of proposed projects on neighborhood residents is best evidenced by his statements at Commission meetings, such as “How to get truck parking enforced?” in considering amendments to the Zoning Ordinance for processing blight violations; in asking “What is the impact of reducing or increasing commercial?” in a McDougall Hunt master plan amendment; and requesting to “Limit the hours to reduce the impact on the neighborhood” in the case of the Home Depot Seven Mile/Meyers project; **and**

**WHEREAS** Mr. Simons supported Commission initiatives in establishing a partnership with Wayne State University for evaluation of the Community Development Block Grant and Neighborhood Opportunity Fund programs; undertaking a comprehensive revision of the Zoning Ordinance; creating a Youth Matrix to evaluate the impact of development projects on children; and starting the D.O.C.T.O.R. program to help build capacity of community-based organizations; **and**

**WHEREAS** Arthur leaves to cherish his memory, his loving and devoted wife of 65 years, Amanda; two children Sabrina and Gregory, a granddaughter Loren, and a host of family, friends and his Barton McFarlane Family.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

**RESOLVED** That Councilman Gabe Leland and Members of Detroit City Council hereby join family and friends in celebrating the life and legacy of **MR. ARTHUR SIMONS**. May the memories of his love, faith, and hard work be cherished always and continue to fill the hearts of his many love ones. In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps. Proverbs 16:9 (NIV)

09.14.19 - tcb