

Resolution honoring Retired Police Chief Stanley Knox

Whereas, Police Chief Stanley became a hero to many in 1991 when he took leadership of the Detroit Police Department and began to steer it through unprecedented turbulent times while rebuilding the integrity and professionalism of the police force; and

Whereas, A U.S. Army veteran, he drew on the training, skills, and leadership gained in the military to pursue a career in law enforcement. After becoming a Detroit police officer in 1966, his assignments included the Seventh Precinct, the Tenth Precinct and the Traffic Section. Over the years, his performance and high standards as a police officer earned the respect of the community and his fellow officers, and he steadily rose through the ranks to become a Precinct Commander; and

Whereas, The positive impact and excellence Commander Knox achieved as a precinct leader and law enforcement professional drew attention when Mayor Coleman A. Young sought a new police chief in February 1991. At the time, Detroit had endured months of controversy and embarrassment during the federal corruption trial and conviction of Chief William Hart. Mayor Young knew Commander Knox had the high integrity, dedicated professionalism, and strong support in the community and within the Department to navigate past the scandal and into a new and better era; and

Whereas, Police Chief Stanley Knox successfully faced and conquered the tough challenges to stabilize the Department, improve community trust, and rebuild the Department. Then, with the Mayor and other leaders, Chief Knox kept the community and the Department calm and together after officers fatally beat Malice Green and two were convicted of his murder. Chief Knox remained highly respected and trusted by the community he served, the men and women he served with, and the Department he led until his retirement in 1994. Chief Knox, who recently passed away at age 85, will forever remain a notable figure in Detroit history for his role and actions in pivotal events. Therefore, be it

Resolved, The Board of Police Commissioners recognizes the significant contributions throughout the distinguished 28-year career of retired Police Chief Stanley Knox and the lasting benefit his actions had on the community and Police Department. The Board awards this resolution posthumously as the Detroit community mourns his passing, and extends sincerest condolences to his wife Dorothy, a retired Deputy Chief, and to his family and friends.