

Resolution Honoring Ralph Puglise

WHEREAS Ralph Randall Puglise, affectionately known as “*Motown Mario*,” was born on October 9, 1948, at Southwest Detroit Hospital. Raised on the west side of Detroit, Ralph’s roots in the city run deep. Even as a teenager at Redford High School—where he graduated in June 1966—his work ethic and entrepreneurial spirit were unmistakable. While still in school, he bought, refurbished, and sold cars to help support his family and pay for school events, relieving financial pressure from his parents. It was then that he discovered his passion for car sale; and

WHEREAS Although Ralph was awarded a full scholarship to Michigan State University, he followed his heart and chose a different path—pursuing a full-time career in automotive sales. His official journey began in April 1988, and over the years, he worked with some of the well-respected dealerships in the region, including Tamaroff Dodge, Bob Saks, Livonia Chrysler, and Merollis Chevrolet. Dedicated to providing transportation solutions to all customers—regardless of credit history—Ralph’s innovative thinking and strong relationships with banks, finance companies, and credit unions led to the creation of a groundbreaking pilot program. This program was specifically designed to help individuals with poor credit or bankruptcies secure auto loans and find reliable transportation. Thanks to his dedication, Ralph became a respected Special Finance Manager and Bankruptcy Specialist, changing the lives of many customers who had lost hope. In 2014, fulfilling a longtime goal, Ralph began working in his hometown at Jefferson Chevrolet in Detroit’s 7th Precinct. Starting as a used car salesman, he quickly earned the trust of the dealership’s ownership and was promoted to Special Finance Manager. There, he served countless customers—including many from the Detroit Police Department—with professionalism, empathy, and integrity; and

WHEREAS Even outside of his professional life, Ralph's love for Detroit shines through. A proud resident of the 7th Precinct, he is also an avid boater who lives on his boat six months of the year. Appropriately named “Ladylou” in honor of his beloved wife of 23 years, Lula Puglise, Ralph often gives boat tours along the Detroit River, showcasing the beauty and heritage of the city he loves; and

WHEREAS After more than 45 years of service in the automotive industry, Ralph officially retired from Jefferson Chevrolet in March 2022. However, retirement hasn’t slowed him down. He continues to assist customers from home, helping many Detroiters achieve their dream of car ownership through the very program he created—still active and effective at Jefferson Chevrolet. Ralph Puglise is more than a top salesman. He is a trailblazer, a mentor, and a true businessman in the community, whose contributions have left a lasting legacy in the City of Detroit. His story is one of vision, perseverance, and deep-rooted pride in the place he calls home.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

That the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners, speaking on behalf of the citizens of the great City of Detroit, recognizes and honors the lifelong contributions and commitment to excellence in public service of Mr. Ralph Puglise. His display of unwavering community spirit has improved the quality of life for the citizens of Detroit.

We thank and congratulate you.