

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

22-188

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

October 3, 2017

To honor the life, contributions, and career of Donnie Simpson in celebration of his 40 years of broadcasting in Washington, D.C.

WHEREAS, Donnie Simpson exhibits a love for music and radio that started as a child growing up in Detroit, where his mother owned Simpson Record Shop, a bustling Motor City Mom & Pop, started in 1966;

WHEREAS, Donnie Simpson decided to become a disc jockey after WJLB, a popular Detroit radio station, broadcast live one day from his mother's shop, and he was asked to read live commercial spots that day, by legendary disc jockey Al Perkins, who was greatly impressed by the then 15-year-old with the big voice;

WHEREAS, Donnie Simpson became a teen reporter for WJLB, and soon thereafter was given his own radio show at 15 years of age;

WHEREAS, Donnie Simpson, after 8 years on Detroit airwaves, joined WKYS-FM in Washington, D.C., and became the morning show host and program director, leading the station to such unprecedented ratings success that Billboard magazine selected him as the country's #1 Program Director of The Year, and Air Personality of The Year in 1983;

WHEREAS, Donnie Simpson, in 1993, took his talents to WPGC-FM in Washington, D.C., but not before embarking on a television career;

WHEREAS, Donnie Simpson in the early 1980s was the backup sports anchor for legendary sportscaster George Michael on WRC-TV, the NBC station in Washington, D.C.;

WHEREAS, Donnie Simpson later joined Black Entertainment Television ("BET") as host of the ultra-popular show *Video Soul*, paving his way into television history, being considered one of the nation's first video jockeys;

WHEREAS, Donnie Simpson remained at BET for 14 years, performing hundreds of memorable live interviews with many of the greatest recording artists of the era;

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WHEREAS, Donnie Simpson also appeared on the popular sitcoms, *Martin* and *The Jamie Foxx Show*, and moved from television to the silver screen by appearing in such classic films as *Krush Groove* and *The Five Heartbeats*;

WHEREAS, Donnie Simpson, as an active community volunteer, has served as Honorary Chairman of the National Black Family Reunion and has assisted in fundraising efforts for AIDS research and the United Negro College Fund;

WHEREAS, Donnie Simpson and his wife have established The Donnie & Pam Simpson Scholarship Fund to help minority college hopefuls in need of assistance in getting the opportunity they deserve;

WHEREAS, Donnie Simpson, in 2005, stayed on the air for 16 hours and raised over \$220,000 for the victims of Hurricane Katrina;

WHEREAS, Donnie Simpson, in January 2010, after 30 years on morning radio, took a 5½-year hiatus from the airwaves, but on August 17, 2015, he returned to host the afternoon drive at Majic 102.3, an Urban One, Inc. Radio One station in Washington, D.C., with his return becoming the No. 1 trending story on Facebook and Twitter during his first few days on air;

WHEREAS, Donnie Simpson was inducted into the R&B Music Hall of Fame on October 4, 2015, as the only non-musician to be inducted;

WHEREAS, Donnie Simpson's consistent No. 1 ratings success and reputation have earned him "Icon" status among his peers, The White House, and his millions of fans worldwide; and

WHEREAS, Donnie Simpson is a trailblazer and a true media legend.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Donnie Simpson Recognition Resolution of 2017".

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia salutes and thanks Donnie Simpson for his life and career as a media icon, and congratulates him on his 40 years of broadcasting in Washington, D.C.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.