

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

22-190

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

October 3, 2017

To recognize posthumously Ms. Theresa Jones for her contributions as a community leader and advocate, and her outstanding service to various organizations in the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS Theresa Jones was born in the District of Columbia in 1933;

WHEREAS, she attended District of Columbia public high schools and graduated from Dunbar Public High School in 1951;

WHEREAS, Theresa Jones attended Minor Teachers College and holds a Master's degree in Human Services from Lincoln University in Pennsylvania;

WHEREAS, while raising her family in public housing, she began organizing tenants and her efforts were so successful that she soon became a prime mover in her housing cooperative complex;

WHEREAS, from there, Theresa Jones became the tenant representative on the DC Rent Commission, and was soon hired by the Southeast Neighborhood House, where her formal community service experience began;

WHEREAS, Theresa Jones's employment history also included working at the Southeast Neighborhood House and as Executive Director of Chase Incorporated;

WHEREAS, Theresa Jones served as an Assistant Branch Chief for the United Planning Organization ("UPO");

WHEREAS, Theresa Jones received several long-service awards for her years at UPO, and, during that time, she tackled the likes of The East of the River Needs Assessment project, the Emergency Shelter Housing program, the Neighborhood Market Survey, and Crisis Intervention for utility payments;

WHEREAS, when she left UPO in 2004 Theresa Jones was the Public Policy Analyst;

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WHEREAS, some of her volunteer board service work is quite historic to Anacostia and to Washington, D.C. , including The Head Start Program, Home Rule, the DC Statehood Commission, and the Rent Control Commission, to name a few;

WHEREAS, Theresa Jones is perhaps most known for her work as Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner of Single Member District 8D07 and immediate past Chair of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 8D;

WHEREAS, Theresa Jones was one of the original board members of the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum, and the Anacostia Economic Development Corporation;

WHEREAS, over her 40 plus years of public service, Theresa Jones worked tirelessly for poor and disenfranchised communities located east of the Anacostia River, and much of that work was done on her own time and at her own expense;

WHEREAS, Theresa Jones often enlisted her children to help, and she worked holidays and weekends to get turkeys to needy families at Thanksgiving and Christmas;

WHEREAS, Theresa Howe Jones has raised 7 children who among them hold 7 high school diplomas (4 of them from District of Columbia public schools), 4 undergraduate degrees, and one post-graduate degree;

WHEREAS, after retiring in 2004, she remained active, including service on the Board of the Anacostia Economic Development as well as active engagement with the United Black Fund and Anacostia Community Museum;

WHEREAS, Theresa Jones stated that one of the proudest moments in her life was to witness an African-American elected and take the oath to become the 44th President of the United States of America;

WHEREAS, because of her tireless efforts across Ward 8 communities, Theresa Jones is known as an East of the River legend;

WHEREAS, Theresa Jones continues to serve as an example and as an inspiration to the next generation of District leaders; and

WHEREAS, Theresa Jones impacted the lives of hundreds of District residents through her many service over years.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Theresa Jones Recognition Resolution of 2017”.

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Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and celebrates the life and legacy of Theresa Jones.

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