

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

22-228

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

November 7, 2017

To recognize and celebrate Myrna Sislen, a local small business owner, for her significant donation to the Jefferson Middle School Academy Music Department in memory of Lindy Mendelsohn Sislen, Ms. Sislen's mother and an alumna of the school.

WHEREAS, each spring, members of the National Association of Music Merchants ("NAMM") gather in the District of Columbia to advocate on Capitol Hill for the right of every child to have access to a music education;

WHEREAS, NAMM's multi-day advocacy effort included a "Fly-In Day of Service," where NAMM members volunteered to sort and inventory 130 band instruments at Jefferson Middle School Academy, a District of Columbia Public Schools school located in the Southwest Waterfront neighborhood of Ward 6;

WHEREAS, NAMM member volunteers determined that, of the 130 instruments inspected on the Fly-In Day of Service, 100 of Jefferson Academy's instruments were damaged and in desperate need of repair;

WHEREAS, of the 100 NAMM members asked to volunteer additional time and resources to repair the instruments, District resident Myrna Sislen was the only NAMM member to undertake the costly and extensive restoration effort—at her own expense;

WHEREAS, Ms. Sislen's instrument expertise derives from her ownership of the District's only full-service music store, Middle C Music, located in the Tenleytown community, which recently celebrated 15 years of service;

WHEREAS, Ms. Sislen volunteered to repair and maintain the instruments in loving memory of her mother, Lindy Mendelsohn Sislen, who graduated from Jefferson Academy, formerly Jefferson Junior High School, in 1938, and Eastern High School in 1942;

WHEREAS, Ms. Sislen's grandmother, Ray Burke Mendelsohn, owned and operated Ray's Toyland mere blocks away from Jefferson Academy on 4th Street, S.W., from 1931 to 1953; and

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WHEREAS, to date, Ms. Sislen has personally transported and repaired 38 band instruments and counting, including flutes, clarinets, trumpets, trombones, alto saxophones, bass clarinets, euphoniums, and tubas.

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

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia honors Myrna Sislen and thanks her for her generous and extensive donation of repair and refurbishment services to the Jefferson Middle School Academy Music Department.

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