

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

22-285

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

April 10, 2018

To recognize, honor, and express the District’s overwhelming gratitude to Alphonso Wilford Johns for his commitment to excellence as a public servant and for his numerous contributions to the government of the District of Columbia and her citizens.

WHEREAS, Alphonso Johns’ career in housing spans more than 21 years, beginning at the Redevelopment Land Agency (“RLA”) on June 15, 1968 as a Relocation Supervisor and retiring on November 3, 1989 as the Manager of the Division of Grants Management;

WHEREAS, after the civil rights riots of 1968, Mr. Johns worked as a Relocation Supervisor assigned to the H Street corridor where, with members of his team, he singularly represented what was then the government housing authority, the RLA;

WHEREAS, his greatest challenge was to win the confidence of the community and to provide leadership in developing affordable housing, and his participation in this effort blazed the trail for future housing programs;

WHEREAS, the federal government, in 1978, withheld \$26 million from the Department of Housing and Community Development’s (“DHCD”) budget and the release of funds was to be based on the successful relocation of 18 families during an 18-month period;

WHEREAS, Mr. Johns, as Task Force Coordinator, was assigned to this project and he and his team developed and implemented a relocation plan so successful that the federal government released \$6 million to DHCD after only 3 months, and the project was completed in 24 months, 6 months ahead of schedule;

WHEREAS, Alphonso Johns brought expertise and vigor to projects and assignments, galvanizing both organizations and individuals;

WHEREAS, he took a personal interest in youth and before working on housing issues he worked with children with special needs in the District’s residential homes for youth;

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WHEREAS, in a documentary interview about his life and the history of his neighborhood in Ward 2, he shared his journey, having lived more than 60 years on Swann Street, N.W., and said, “I am the last African American man here on Swann Street, all others have passed.”;

WHEREAS, he was a mentor for all the young men in the neighborhood and, as adults, these men credit Mr. Johns as the man who taught them how to treat themselves and others with dignity and respect; and

WHEREAS, Alphonso Johns’ legacy of exemplary public service inspired 3 generations and he has been recognized by officials of the District of Columbia, especially for his service and support for affordable housing for District of Columbia residents.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Alphonso Wilford Johns Recognition Resolution of 2018”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia honors Alphonso Johns for his commitment to excellence in public service. He served as a model of what a responsible and dedicated community and civic leader truly should be.

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