

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

23-175

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

October 8, 2019

To recognize and celebrate, Thelma D. Harper Jones, an award-winning community activist, breast cancer survivor, advocate, community breast care navigator, and founder of the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund.

WHEREAS, Ms. Thelma D. Harper Jones was born and raised in Snow Hill, North Carolina as a sharecropper's daughter;

WHEREAS, Ms. Jones is a graduate of Durham College in Durham, North Carolina with an Associate Degree in Applied Science;

WHEREAS, Ms. Jones is a graduate of Georgetown University Nonprofit Management Executive Certificate program, George Washington University DC Neighborhood College and Leadership Greater Washington;

WHEREAS, Ms. Jones was one of the principal founders of the World Bank's institutional outreach program where she served as a community outreach coordinator;

WHEREAS, Ms. Jones has served on the board of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly from 1982 to 2017 where she has held several leadership positions including contributing writer for The Southwester, and currently serves as chair of the Youth Activities Task Force, chair of the History Task Force Subcommittee on Black History and co-chair of the Emergency Preparedness Task Force;

WHEREAS, Ms. Jones is a long-time member of St. Augustine's Episcopal Church where she serves as a lay reader, Altar Guild member, and executive committee member of the Thurgood Marshall Feast Day;

WHEREAS, Ms. Jones retired from the World Bank Group in 2005 after a career lasting more than 33 years;

WHEREAS, Ms. Jones was diagnosed in 2007 with a rare and aggressive form of breast cancer (HER2+) and underwent an aggressive treatment regimen including chemotherapy, a lumpectomy surgery and radiation;

**ENROLLED ORIGINAL**

WHEREAS, Ms. Jones is a trained volunteer ambassador for the Smith Center for Healing and the Arts and seasoned volunteer and speaker both locally and nationally with the American Cancer Society and the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network;

WHEREAS, Ms. Jones lobbied both national and local public officials for funding of tobacco control and increased funding for cancer research as the DC State Lead Ambassador for American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network;

WHEREAS, in April 2010, Ms. Jones founded the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund Support Group, the signature program of the Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund in Southwest DC;

WHEREAS, Ms. Jones's support group focuses primarily on African Americans and the historically less served communities contributing significantly to provide a safe and secure place for emotional support for breast cancer survivors and caretakers to discuss and share their journeys as well as gain access to knowledge and information and a broader network;

WHEREAS, Ms. Jones was recognized in September of 2016 by the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network with the 2016 State Lead Ambassador of the Year Award;

WHEREAS, Ms. Jones has been recognized for her long-time civic activism through numerous awards and recognitions including the Mayor's Award for Community Service in the Category of Lifetime Achievement, the White House Champion of Change Award, Ford Motor Company Freedom's Sisters Award, 2018 Washington National League Bat Girl Award, 2019 Michael and Mauritia Patcha Spirit of Community Award, and the 2019 Inaugural DC Hospital Association Health Heroes Award;

WHEREAS, Ms. Jones received the 2019 Inaugural Durham College Alumni Honors Award for her dedication and leadership effort in preserving and perpetuating the Durham College legacy;

WHEREAS, Ms. Jones, in her quest to help reduce the incidents and mortality rates of breast cancer in the District of Columbia and elsewhere, has passionately carried the message of early detection saves lives to the media, including social media and websites, international organizations, public and private sector, nonprofit organizations, faith and community-based organizations, community and recreational centers, public housings, and public and private high schools, colleges and universities;

**ENROLLED ORIGINAL**

WHEREAS, Ms. Jones has one son, Jamal, one grandson Seneca, and Ozzie her twelve-year old Shih Tzu.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Thelma D. Jones Ceremonial Resolution of 2019.”

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia honors Thelma D. Jones for her commitment to youth, breast cancer advocacy, and community activism.

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