

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

23-336

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

December 1, 2020

To recognize and honor Dr. Willie Hasson for his military service, his civic engagement and his support of increased cultural and historical awareness and commend him for his artistic and educational contributions to the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, Dr. Willie Hasson is a native of Chicago, Illinois;

WHEREAS, Dr. Willie Hasson is a graduate and noted alumnus of Roosevelt University where he received his B.A. in Economics, and he also holds a Doctorate Degree in Education from the University of Massachusetts Amherst;

WHEREAS, Dr. Willie Hasson served in the United States Army during the 1960's and was honorably discharged as a Private;

WHEREAS, from 1968 to 1979, Dr. Willie Hasson served as Founder and Director of the Black Musician's Conference at Amherst;

WHEREAS, during the 1980's and 1990's, Dr. Willie Hasson served as a journalist, working as a writer for *The Washington Informer* newspaper, as well as an international music journalist for *JazzTimes* and *American Visions* magazines;

WHEREAS, Dr. Willie Hasson has made significant contributions to the District of Columbia's artistic and civic community, serving as a Community Cultural staffer for the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, and a staffer for the Executive Office of Mayor Marion Barry's Office of Constituent Services;

WHEREAS, Dr. Willie Hasson has played a vital role in advocating for cultural and historical awareness across the city, serving as a developer for the DC Culture Heritage Tourism Trail, the Duke Ellington Cultural Heritage Tourism Trail, and the Georgia Avenue Cultural Heritage Trail;

WHEREAS, Dr. Willie Hasson has served as a member of the International Conference on Caribbean Carnivals, as well as serving as a former Board Member of the Washington Historical Society, and the DC Duke Ellington Society;

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WHEREAS, beginning in the 1990's, Dr. Willie Hasson has served as a Member of the Civil War Roundtable of the District of Columbia, and organization whose purpose is to stimulate and expand interest in the military, political, diplomatic, economic, and socio-cultural history of the United States and particularly the Civil War;

WHEREAS, Dr. Willie Hasson's contributions to the Civil War Roundtable of the District of Columbia have focused on all aspects of the Civil War and the effects that it had on slavery, Emancipation, President Lincoln, and the role that African Americans played in defining that war;

WHEREAS, Dr. Willie Hasson's contributions to the arts as a performer have included recording with Marion Brown (*Geechee Recollections*) and Archie Shepp (*There is a Trumpet in My Soul*), and accompanying them on tour in Japan;

WHEREAS, Dr. Willie Hasson served as the international tour road manager with music artists Jerry Gonzales and Con Junto Libre in South America and Africa, and with Max Roach for the Japanese and South Africa tours, and he has also produced music, art, theater, dance, and film for national and international artists;

WHEREAS, Dr. Willie Hasson has also been a staunch advocate for education, lecturing for the Ethnic Studies Association, St. Louis Community College, and numerous New England Colleges;

WHEREAS, Dr. Willie Hasson founded the DC Construction Site Visit Program that has served a significant numbers of DC Public Schools students in the last twenty years;

WHEREAS, Dr. Willie Hasson has also been extensively involved in political and civil engagement, serving as a former member of the DC Board of Parole, and participating in Mayoral and Councilmember Political campaigns in Detroit, Philadelphia, and Washington DC; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Willie Hasson has also served as the former Block Club President in the Brightwood neighborhood, the Co-Chair of the Ward 4 Public Safety Advisory Committee in Washington, D.C., and providing volunteer services throughout the District.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this resolution may be cited as the "Dr. Willie Hasson Ceremonial Recognition Resolution of 2020".

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Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and honors Dr. Willie Hasson for his invaluable contributions to Washington D.C.'s cultural and historical heritage, its educational institutions, and his service to the residents of the District of Columbia.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.