

**SENATE RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_**

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DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A SENATE RESOLUTION recognizing the distinguished career of Alpha Blackburn as a renowned Indianapolis artist dedicated to serving her community.

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**BREAUX**

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\_\_\_\_\_, read first time and referred to Committee on

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Introduced

First Regular Session 123rd General Assembly (2023)

## SENATE RESOLUTION \_\_\_\_\_

MADAM PRESIDENT:

I offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

1           A SENATE RESOLUTION recognizing the distinguished  
2 career of Alpha Blackburn as a renowned Indianapolis artist  
3 dedicated to serving her community.

4           *Whereas, A philanthropist, CEO, magazine editor,*  
5 *award-winning fashion designer, and former TV host, Alpha*  
6 *Blackburn's career is remarkable for her achievements as an*  
7 *interior/fashion designer and for her service to her home*  
8 *community of almost 60 years, Indianapolis, Indiana;*

9           *Whereas, After growing up in Lynchburg, Virginia, Alpha*  
10 *Blackburn attended Howard University, graduated cum laude,*  
11 *and earned a BA in design and an MFA in painting and art*  
12 *history;*

13           *Whereas, From 1972 to 1981, Alpha Blackburn hosted*  
14 *daily and weekly local television talk shows, and from 1980 to*  
15 *1990, served as fashion editor at Indianapolis Monthly;*

16           *Whereas, In 1987, Alpha Blackburn was appointed*  
17 *Commissioner at the Indiana Civil Rights Commission by*  
18 *Governor Orr and named Chair in 1990, a position she served*  
19 *through several administrations;*

2023

DR 3844/DI TB



1        *Whereas, After the passing of her late husband, Walter*  
2        *Blackburn, in 2000, Alpha Blackburn took over as President*  
3        *and CEO of Blackburn Architects, completing the National*  
4        *Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati and*  
5        *leading the development of a four-million-dollar public art*  
6        *program for the Indianapolis International Airport;*

7        *Whereas, Alpha Blackburn's commitment to Indianapolis is*  
8        *demonstrated by her position on more than 60 boards,*  
9        *commissions, and civic committees, including the Indianapolis*  
10       *Symphony Society, the Indianapolis Cultural Development*  
11       *Commission, the Indianapolis Museum of Art, and the Indiana*  
12       *Museum of African American History, among many more;*

13       *Whereas, Dedicated to assisting aspiring artists in*  
14       *overcoming financial and social barriers, Alpha Blackburn*  
15       *oversees the Walter & Alpha Blackburn Scholarship Fund to*  
16       *provide high school students wanting to study architecture or*  
17       *the arts four years of support in college;*

18       *Whereas, To provide opportunities for young Hoosiers,*  
19       *Alpha Blackburn established the Alpha Blackburn Scholarship*  
20       *for the Arts at Herron School of Art and Design at IUPUI and*  
21       *continues to provide mentorship as a member of the School's*  
22       *Advisory Board;*

23       *Whereas, Alpha Blackburn was honored with an IUPUI*  
24       *Chancellor's Medallion for her decades of service to the IUPUI*  
25       *campus and its students;*

26       *Whereas, Alpha Blackburn has been recognized with*  
27       *numerous awards and distinctions, including the IUPUI Spirit*  
28       *of Philanthropy Award, the Hope Award of the Multiple*  
29       *Sclerosis Society, the Trailblazer Award from Indiana Black*  
30       *Expo, the Spirit of Freedom Award from the Indiana Civil*  
31       *Rights Commission, induction into the Central Indiana*  
32       *Business Hall of Fame, selection as Outstanding Woman of the*  
33       *Year, and recognition as one of the Indiana Historical Society's*



1 *Living Legends; and*

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3 *Whereas, While her many designs throughout Central*  
4 *Indiana showcase Alpha Blackburn's talent and creativity, it is*  
5 *her civic service, contributions to charity, scholarships for*  
6 *student artists, and continued commitment to ensuring a diverse*  
7 *and vibrant culture in Indianapolis that define Alpha*  
8 *Blackburn's extraordinary contributions to a grateful city:*  
9 *Therefore,*

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*Be it resolved by the Senate of the*  
*General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

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SECTION 1. That the Indiana Senate recognizes Alpha  
Blackburn as a renowned Indianapolis artist dedicated to  
serving her community.

SECTION 2. The Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed  
to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Alpha Blackburn.

