



Legislation Text

File #: TMP-6143

250929

RESOLUTION NO. TMP-6143

Recognizing the Dunbar Neighborhood on its 110th anniversary for its Historic and Cultural Legacy.

WHEREAS, the Dunbar Neighborhood, established in 1915 and located in Kansas City's eastern urban core, stands as one of the city's oldest historically African American communities—rooted in cultural pride, resilience, and environmental beauty; and

WHEREAS, named in honor of poet Paul Laurence Dunbar, the neighborhood became home to families during the Great Migration who brought traditions of self-sufficiency and community, earning the area the nickname "Garden of Eden" for its gardens, orchards, and shared harvests; and

WHEREAS, Liberty Park, opened in 1922 as one of the few African American amusement parks during segregation, hosted early Emancipation Day and Juneteenth celebrations and drew thousands for concerts and community gatherings; and

WHEREAS, churches and schools such as Gilbert Memorial AME Church, Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church, and Dunbar School served as cornerstones of civic and spiritual life; and

WHEREAS, the neighborhood fostered generations of leaders and artists including Councilman Alvin Brooks, Senator Yvonne Starks Wilson, Dr. Samuel U. Rodgers, Dr. Middleton Lambright, musician Arthur Marshall, Bloodstone's Charles McCormick, actor Don Cheadle, and civic leader Mamie Hughes; and

WHEREAS, Dunbar's history also includes entrepreneurs like Sarah Rector, whose success exemplified Black prosperity and community pride during segregation; and

WHEREAS, situated within the Blue River Watershed, Dunbar's natural landscapes have long supported recreation, sustenance, and a deep ecological connection among residents; NOW, THEREFORE,

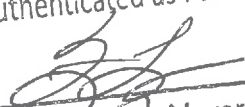
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

That the Mayor and Council hereby recognize the Dunbar Neighborhood on its 110th anniversary as a historic African American community of cultural, civic, and environmental significance, honoring generations of leadership and resilience; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be spread upon the Minutes of the Council in testimony thereof and that a copy hereof be presented to the Heart of the City Neighborhood Association with the appreciation and respect of the Mayor and Council.



Authenticated as Passed


Quinten Lucas, Mayor


Marilyn Sanders, City Clerk

OCT 23 2025

Date Passed