



Legislation Text

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RESOLUTION NO. 220673

Recognizing the history of Womontown, an “intentional women’s community” established in the Longfellow neighborhood in the early 1990s.

WHEREAS, in the late 1980s and 1990s, women encountered significant obstacles to homeownership as a result of the ongoing gender pay gap, lack of representation in government leadership, and mistrust on the part of lending institutions; and

WHEREAS, these challenges were exacerbated for members of the lesbian community; and

WHEREAS, Drea Nedelsky and Mary Ann Hopper recognized these issues and set out to establish Womontown as a haven for queer women who craved the comforts of community and the financial security of homeownership; and

WHEREAS, the founders of Womontown launched a grassroots campaign to recruit lesbians to purchase homes or rent apartments in the neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, Womontown drew a wide variety of lesbian women from Kansas City, across the United States, and internationally; and

WHEREAS, the residents of Womontown created a life-changing community in which they assisted each other in renovating, maintaining, and enhancing their homes and engendered important and long-lasting social networks; and

WHEREAS, the residents of Womontown were successful in creating a neighborhood where they could be themselves without fear, where women could walk hand-in-hand without the judgements and criticisms normally encountered in the straight world, and where queer women could emerge from the shadow of oppression into a place of refuge and joy; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

That the City of Kansas City, Missouri recognized the importance of the establishment of Womontown and its enduring legacy in the Kansas City LGBTQ+ community; 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 representatives of Womontown with appreciation from the Mayor and Council for their enduring contributions to the Kansas City LGBTQ+ community.