



Legislation Text

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RESOLUTION NO. 230206

Sponsor: Councilmember Melissa Robinson

RESOLUTION - Recognizing filmmaker, writer, producer and director Morgan Cooper for his achievements in the arts; creating the internationally recognized television series “Bel-Air;” showcasing the talents of local Kansas City artists, musicians, filmmakers, designers, and craftspeople; and helping to inspire the next generation of storytellers.

WHEREAS, Morgan Cooper, while working as a commercial cinematographer in Kansas City, Missouri conceived of the idea for a dramatic reimagining of the "Fresh Prince of Bel-Air " while driving down 71 Highway, and brought that vision to life by writing, directing, and shooting a short film called “Bel-Air” that featured a cast and crew of more than 100 Kansas City-area residents; and

WHEREAS, Morgan Cooper’s short film, “Bel-Air,” was released on social media on March 10, 2019, went viral, caught the attention of Will Smith in less than 24 hours, and inspired an hour-long dramatic series called “Bel-Air” that stayed true to Morgan’s vision. “Bel-Air” started airing on the Peacock streaming platform on February 13, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Morgan Cooper made certain that Kansas City was well represented on season one of “Bel -Air” by featuring on the show the work of many visual artists, musicians, clothing and jewelry designers, stylists, and other creatives who call Kansas City home, a practice he has continued during the production of season two of “Bel-Air;” and

WHEREAS, Morgan Cooper remains committed to his hometown of Kansas City and to working with Kansas City artists and others in the film and television industry, has publicly announced his intention to produce future film and television projects on location in Kansas City, and seeks opportunities to inspire area youth who wish to pursue careers in film, television, music, and the arts; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

That the Mayor and Council hereby recognize Morgan Cooper for his dedication to Kansas City; for providing opportunities for many of Kansas City’s artists and film professionals and for his ongoing interest in the success of Kansas City’s youth and creative community and hereby declare March 2, 2023, to be Morgan Cooper Day in the City of Kansas City, Missouri; 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 Morgan Cooper for his outstanding achievement in the arts and his commitment to Kansas City talent.