



MEETING OF FEBRUARY 21, 2023

TO: Mayor Jordan and City Council

THRU:

FROM: Kit Williams, City Attorney

DATE:

SUBJECT:

RECOMMENDATION:

Council Members D'Andre Jones and Sonia Harvey are sponsoring a resolution to honor African American trailblazers of Fayetteville

BACKGROUND:

DISCUSSION:

BUDGET/STAFF IMPACT:

ATTACHMENTS: Agenda Request - Honor African American Trail Blazers



City of Fayetteville, Arkansas

113 West Mountain Street
Fayetteville, AR 72701
(479) 575-8323

Legislation Text

File #: 2023-421

A RESOLUTION TO HONOR AFRICAN AMERICAN TRAIL BLAZERS OF FAYETTEVILLE

WHEREAS, the City of Fayetteville Black Heritage Preservation Commission requests that the City of Fayetteville recognize and honor Jessie Bryant, Frank Johnson, Tony Johnson, and John L Colbert as governmental Trail Blazers in Fayetteville; and

WHEREAS, Jessie Bryant was elected and served honorably and efficiently as the first African American Washington County Quorum Court Justice of the Peace, and founded the Northwest Arkansas Free Health Clinic; and

WHEREAS, Chief of Police Frank Johnson served as the first African American Fayetteville Police Chief for the last two years of his twenty-five years of dedicated and honorable service in the Fayetteville Police Department; and

WHEREAS, Fire Chief Tony Johnson honorably served as the first African American Fayetteville Fire Chief for four years until retiring in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Dr. John L Colbert capped his lengthy, honorable, and effective service in the Fayetteville School District as a principal, assistant superintendent and associate superintendent by becoming the first African American Fayetteville School District Superintendent.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS:

Section 1: That the City Council of the City of Fayetteville, Arkansas hereby expresses its gratitude, commendation and thanks to Quorum Court Member Jessie Bryant, Chief of Police Frank Johnson, Fire Chief Tony Johnson, and School District Superintendent Dr. John L Colbert for all of their excellent and valuable service to Fayetteville and all of its citizens and for being role models, servant leaders and trail blazers in our journey toward equality, justice, and respect for the worth of all persons.

AGENDA REQUEST FORM

FOR: Council Meeting of February 21, 2023

FROM: Council Members Sonia Harvey and D'Andre Jones

ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION TITLE AND SUBJECT:

A RESOLUTION TO HONOR AFRICAN AMERICAN TRAIL BLAZERS
OF FAYETTEVILLE

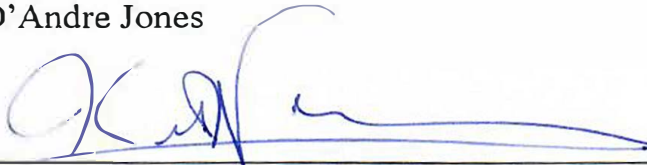
APPROVED FOR AGENDA:

Approved by email
City Council Member
Sonia Harvey

Feb 7, 2023
Date

Approved by email
City Council Member
D'Andre Jones

February 6, 2023
Date


City Attorney Kit Williams
Approved as to form

February 6, 2023
Date

Williams, Kit

From: D'Andre Jones <dre91732000@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2023 1:49 PM
To: Williams, Kit
Cc: Bostick, Britin; Harvey, Sonia; Paxton, Kara
Subject: Re: Resolution to honor trailblazers

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of Fayetteville. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks Kit Sounds good to me

On Mon, Feb 6, 2023 at 1:47 PM Williams, Kit <kwilliams@fayetteville-ar.gov> wrote:

D'Andre and Sonia,

Thanks you for your request for a City Council resolution to honor these four worthy persons. Attached is my draft Resolution for your review and consideration. Please let me know if any changes are needed. If not, please email back your approval so we can get this on the February 21st agenda.

Kit

From: D'Andre Jones <dre91732000@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 03, 2023 11:20 AM
To: Bostick, Britin <bbostick@fayetteville-ar.gov>; Paxton, Kara <kapaxton@fayetteville-ar.gov>; Williams, Kit <kwilliams@fayetteville-ar.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Resolution to honor trailblazers

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of Fayetteville. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

The City of Fayetteville's Black Heritage Preservation Commission is proud to recognize the following trailblazers who made history and contributed to our community's progress toward representation, inclusion, and diversity. The Commission is grateful for their contributions to our city and looks forward to honoring them in our work in the years to come as well as expanding this list to honor additional trailblazers in our community. Resolution to publicly recognize and honor the following first African Americans to serve in key leadership in the city of Fayetteville.

Tony Johnson

Tony Johnson was the first African American chief of the Fayetteville Fire Department. Johnson served the city for four years as chief before retiring in 2009, a period during which the city added three stations to its roster of fire stations.

Frank Johnson

Frank Johnson was the first African American chief of the Fayetteville Police Department. Johnson served 25 years with the department, serving as patrolman, sergeant, lieutenant, captain, and chief where he spent two years leading the department.

Jessie Bryant

Jessie Bryant, a lifelong resident of Fayetteville, was the first African American to be elected to the Washington County Quorum Court. Active in all facets of community service, Bryant also founded the Northwest Arkansas Free Health Center, known today as Welcome Health.

Dr. John Colbert

John Colbert, superintendent of the Fayetteville School District, is the first African American to serve Fayetteville Public Schools as a principal, assistant superintendent, associate superintendent, and superintendent. Colbert is the namesake of the new John L. Colbert Middle School, located on Ruppel Road and set to open August 2023.

Council members Jones and Harvey are co sponsors

--

--

Best Regards,

D'Andre L. Jones - MSW, MA

Fayetteville City Council

Ward 1 Position 2

“Everybody can be great ... because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Williams, Kit

From: Harvey, Sonia
Sent: Tuesday, February 07, 2023 8:59 AM
To: Williams, Kit; 'D'Andre Jones'
Cc: Paxton, Kara; Bostick, Britin
Subject: Re: Resolution to honor trailblazers

Looks great. I approve also. Thank you for preparing this for us.

Sonia Harvey
Fayetteville City Council Member
Ward 1, Position 1
(479) 409-5064

Report a concern with SeeClickFix:
<https://www.fayetteville-ar.gov/4233/Report-a-Concern-with-SeeClickFix>
Speak up on City projects:
<https://speakup.fayetteville-ar.gov/>
Voice your feedback to the entire Council and Mayor by emailing:
agendaitemcomment@fayetteville-ar.gov

From: Williams, Kit <kwilliams@fayetteville-ar.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 1:47:43 PM
To: 'D'Andre Jones' <dre91732000@gmail.com>; Harvey, Sonia <sonia.harvey@fayetteville-ar.gov>
Cc: Paxton, Kara <kapaxton@fayetteville-ar.gov>; Bostick, Britin <bbostick@fayetteville-ar.gov>
Subject: RE: Resolution to honor trailblazers

D'Andre and Sonia,

Thanks you for your request for a City Council resolution to honor these four worthy persons. Attached is my draft Resolution for your review and consideration. Please let me know if any changes are needed. If not, please email back your approval so we can get this on the February 21st agenda.
Kit

From: D'Andre Jones <dre91732000@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 03, 2023 11:20 AM
To: Bostick, Britin <bbostick@fayetteville-ar.gov>; Paxton, Kara <kapaxton@fayetteville-ar.gov>; Williams, Kit <kwilliams@fayetteville-ar.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Resolution to honor trailblazers

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of Fayetteville. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

The City of Fayetteville's Black Heritage Preservation Commission is proud to recognize the following trailblazers who made history and contributed to our community's progress toward representation, inclusion, and diversity. The Commission is grateful for their contributions to our city and looks forward to honoring them in our work in the years to come as well as