

BY ALDS. COGGS, TAYLOR, PRATT, CHAMBERS, BROSTOFF, BAUMAN, WESTMORELAND, ZAMARRIPA, PEREZ, SPIKER, STAMPER

Resolution expressing condolences to the family and friends of Bessie Gray.

WHEREAS,

BESSIE M. GRAY

departed from this life and entered into his eternal rest on April 29, 2024 at the age of 90 and services were held in her memory on Wednesday, May 15 at Ebenezer COGIC, 3132 N. MLK. Drive; and

***WHEREAS,** Bessie M. Gray was born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas and moved to Milwaukee shortly after graduating from high school, where she met and married her husband in 1953 and went on to earn her bachelor's degree in early childhood education from the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, and her master's degree in educational administrative leadership from Marquette University; and*

***WHEREAS,** As a State certified child care trainer for many years, she started hundreds of teachers on their way to successful child care careers, and she founded Gray's Child Development Center, Inc., a nonprofit organization which has provided many services to children and their families, in addition to starting a choice school, Bessie M. Gray Preparatory Academy, that provided quality education for scholars from K-4 through 6th grade; and*

***WHEREAS,** Outside of her passion for education, Bessie M. Gray was very active in her community including volunteering at a nursing home ministry, the Salvation Army, Nonprofit Center of Milwaukee, and many others; and*

***WHEREAS,** Bessie M. Gray also enjoyed spending quality time with her loving family including her husband of 55 years prior to his passing, her nine children, 27 grandchildren and 32 great grandchildren and six great great grandchildren, all of whom will cherish her memory; now, therefore, be it*

***RESOLVED,** That the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee herewith offers its sincere condolences to the family and friends of Bessie M. Gray, who will be remembered fondly for her hard work, dedication, and love of her family and friends; and, be it*

***FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a suitably engrossed copy of the resolution be presented to the family of Bessie M. Gray.*

Introduced by Common Council members Milele A. Coggs, Larresa Taylor, Andrea M. Pratt, Mark Chambers, Jr., Jonathan Brostoff, Robert Bauman, Lamont Westmoreland, JoCasta Zamarripa, José G. Pérez, Scott Spiker, and Russell W. Stamper, II, and approved by all members of the Milwaukee Common Council on May 21, 2024.