

BY ALDS. COGGS, STAMPER II, HAMILTON, RAINEY, JOHNSON, SPIKER, DODD,  
BORKOWSKI, PEREZ, LEWIS

*Resolution expressing condolences to the family and friends of Ronald “Ron” Johnson who passed from this life on October 29, 2021.*

**WHEREAS,**

## **RONALD “RON” JOHNSON**

*passed from this life on October, 29, 2021 and a home going service was held on November 6, 2021 at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee’s Englemann Hall, 2033 E. Hartford Ave.; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Ronald “Ron” Johnson received his formal education at North Division High School and Custer High School in Milwaukee, attended Marquette University and received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Education at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Ron Johnson’s young adult years were heavily influenced by his membership in the Blackstone Rangers street gang and the Black Panther Party, and he often told the story of how he expected “the Black Panthers to give him a gun to go to war and instead they gave him a book,” and it was during this time that activism became core to his identity as he immersed himself in Black empowerment and the civil rights movement, and he also connected with the fundamental tenets of the Black Panther Party of community engagement and service; and*

**WHEREAS,** *In 1968, Ron channeled his commitment to empowerment and community through education and became a teacher at Harambee Community School, where his passion for advocating for youth was cultivated, and from approximately 1978-1982 he served as principal of Harambee, and he also directed Milwaukee Youth Opportunities Collaborative, a gang prevention and intervention organization, and founded the Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin’s Project Ujima, a program aimed at preventing youth violence; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Most recently, Ron served as Dane County’s first restorative court director for the Community Restorative Court, a national model program focused on second chances, serving 17- to 25-year-olds (who would typically be charged with misdemeanors) who work to take accountability for their actions and complete a process focused on restoration and repairing community harm, enabling them to leave the program with a clean record; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Ron founded Camp TJ Peace, an annual trip where African-American boys and their fathers, uncles, and men who serve as surrogates in those roles, went to the banks of the Mississippi River to camp, fish, experience nature, and tell stories around the campfire; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Ron Johnson was preceded in death by his son Jonathan Johnson, and leaves to cherish his memory, his children Oluremi (Sainabou) Furbler, Dar es Salam Johnson, Ronald (Amber) Johnson Jr., Dalia (Printence) McMurtrey, Djade Denson and Laila Johnson, seven grandchildren, and a host of other loving relatives and friends; now, therefore, be it*

**RESOLVED,** *That the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee herewith offers its sincere condolences to the family of Ronald “Ron” Johnson, and mourns the passing of this passionate and caring man; and, be it*

**FURTHER RESOLVED,** *That a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Ronald “Ron” Johnson.*

**Introduced by Common Council members Milele A. Coggs, Russell W. Stamper, II, Ashanti Hamilton, Khalif J. Rainey, Cavalier Johnson, Scott Spiker, Nikiya Dodd, Mark A. Borkowski, José G. Pérez and Chantia Lewis and approved by all members of the Milwaukee Common Council on November 23, 2021.**