

BY ALDS. COGGS, MURPHY, HAMILTON, DAVIS, BOHL, BAUMAN, WADE, PEREZ, STAMPER, BORKOWSKI

*Resolution expressing condolences to the family and friends of Martha Toran.*

**WHEREAS,**

**MARTHA TORAN**

*passed from this life on January 16, 2016 at the age of 84, and funeral services were held on January 26, 2016 at Greater Galilee Baptist Church, 2432 N. Teutonia Ave. in Milwaukee; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Martha Toran was born in Arkansas and moved to Milwaukee at a young age, graduated from North Division High School, and married James Toran in Milwaukee in 1950; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Martha and her husband opened Toran's Tropical Hut at N. 5th and W. Locust Streets, and the club became a popular destination, drawing in customers from all sectors, including players from the Green Bay Packers and the Milwaukee Bucks, as Martha's warm and welcoming personality made all feel welcome at Toran's; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Martha closed the business after her husband's passing in 1986 and soon began living the second phase of her life as a civil rights leader, community organizer and political activist; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Martha Toran wanted to see life and systems improve in Milwaukee, and she served many organizations and boards, including the NAACP, City of Milwaukee Ethics Board, Riverwest Development Corp., Transit Now, Legal Action of Wisconsin and the Minority Chamber of Commerce, she served as a Community Brainstorming board member and she was chairwoman of the Central City Transit Task Force; and*

**WHEREAS,** *As a Democratic leader in Milwaukee, Martha visited the White House under President Bill Clinton and President Barack Obama and was a delegate at national Democratic conventions, and witnessed history in 2008 as she was in Denver and attended Barack Obama's convention acceptance speech at Mile High Stadium; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Martha Toran leaves to cherish her memory her beloved children Sandra Toran-Butler and James Toran, Jr., loving grandchildren Robert Toran-Butler, Kim Bradley and Dawn Toran Simmons, John Brown and Sharon Fields, as well as a host of other loving family and friends; now, therefore, be it*

**RESOLVED,** *That the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee herewith expresses its condolences to the family and friends of Martha Toran and mourns with deep sorrow the passing of this fine leader and woman; and, be it*

**FURTHER RESOLVED,** *That a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Martha Toran.*

**Introduced by Common Council members Milele A. Coggs, Michael J. Murphy, Ashanti Hamilton, Joe Davis, Sr., Robert J. Bauman, Jim Bohl, Willie C. Wade, Russell W. Stamper, II, José G. Pérez and Mark A. Borkowski and approved by all members of the Milwaukee Common Council on February 9, 2016.**