

BY ALDS. COGGS, HAMILTON, DAVIS, KOVAC, BAUMAN, BOHL, WADE, DONOVAN, PUENTE, MURPHY, DUDZIK, PEREZ, WITKOWSKI, ZIELINSKI

Resolution recognizing and congratulating Vel Phillips on the occasion of her 90th birthday.

WHEREAS,

VEL PHILLIPS

celebrated an extraordinary milestone, her 90th birthday, on February 18, 2014; and

WHEREAS, *Vel Phillips was born on February 18, 1924 on the south side of Milwaukee, attended Howard University for her undergraduate degree and then went to the University of Wisconsin Law School, from which she was the first African-American woman to graduate; and*

WHEREAS, *Vel Phillips became the first woman and the first African-American to be elected as a member of the Milwaukee Common Council in 1956 and served until 1971, and while she was on the Common Council, she was an advocate for the African-American community and women, instrumental in outlawing housing discrimination; and*

WHEREAS, *Continuing throughout her career to exhibit a fearless, pioneering spirit, Vel Phillips was also appointed as a judge in the 13th District's Children Court in 1971, becoming the first female judge in Milwaukee and the first African-American judge in Wisconsin, and was elected as Wisconsin's first non-white Secretary of State in 1978; and*

WHEREAS, *Vel Phillips has always been a leader in the African-American community and an advocate for women throughout Wisconsin, playing an active role in the NAACP and the civil rights movement, and she was also the highest-ranking woman to win a state office in Wisconsin in the 20th century and the first African-American to be elected as a member of a political party's national committee when she was elected to the Democratic National Committee*

WHEREAS, *Even today, Vel Phillips continues to work through her foundation to better her community, with a mission "to serve as an economic hand of justice that seeks to eliminate invisible barriers between disadvantaged people and their goals, clearing the path for educational, occupational, social and political parity;" now, therefore, be it*

RESOLVED, *That the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee herewith congratulates Vel Phillips on reaching her 90th birthday and extends for her its sincere wishes for continued health, success and happiness; and, be it*

FURTHER RESOLVED, *That a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to Vel Phillips in recognition of her 90th birthday.*

Introduced and approved by all members of the Milwaukee Common Council on February 11, 2014: Milele A. Coggs, Ashanti Hamilton, Joe Davis, Sr., Nik Kovac, Robert J. Bauman, Jim Bohl, Willie C. Wade, Robert G. Donovan, Robert W. Puente, Michael J. Murphy, Joe Dudzik, José G. Pérez, Terry L. Witkowski and Tony Zielinski.