

BY ALDS COGGS, STAMPER, CHAMBERS, PRATT, TAYLOR, WESTMORELAND, MOORE, JACKSON, SPIKER, BAUMAN, ZAMARRIPA, PEREZ, BURGELIS, BROWER, DIMITRIJEVIC

Resolution recognizing Reuben Harpole as a Historian Whose Work Ensures Our Stories Are Never Forgotten.

WHEREAS,

REUBEN HARPOLE

was honored as the a Historian Whose Work Ensures Our Stories Are Never Forgotten during the Common Council meeting on Feb. 10, 2026 at City Hall; and

WHEREAS, *Reuben Harpole, born in 1934 and raised in the Lindsay Heights and Harambee neighborhoods in Milwaukee, graduated from North Division High School and earned bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 1978, where he remained for thirty one years in pursuit of equal opportunities as a senior outreach specialist at the University Center for Urban Community Development; and*

WHEREAS, *Reuben Harpole has lived an honorable life of public service in the community of Milwaukee where he has worked as a program officer for the Helen Baden Foundation (now Bader Philanthropies, Inc.), helped develop more than 25 community centers and programs across Milwaukee Public Schools and higher education institutions, and founded the Reuben K. Harpole Jr. Education Scholarship at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee for young African American men aspiring to teach, among many other grassroots efforts; and*

WHEREAS, *Reuben Harpole has worked to preserve history while simultaneously pursuing educational and equal rights with the implementation of the Rites of Passage program, influenced by his Ghana heritage, in Milwaukee Public Schools, supporting the development of the Black Holocaust Museum, and being a pillar of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Center for Urban Community Development, and Harambee Community Development Corporation; and*

WHEREAS, *Reuben Harpole is a beloved community leader and continues to be commemorated for his civic work alongside his late wife, Mildred, including receiving the Frank P. Zeilder Public Service Award, and the first Distinguished Educator of the Year award from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Alumni Association; now, therefore, be it*

RESOLVED, *That the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee herewith congratulates Reuben Harpole for his decades of community involvement and the lasting legacy has left on Milwaukee, and commends him for his outstanding service; and, be it*

FURTHER RESOLVED, *That a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to Reuben Harpole.*

Introduced by Common Council Members Milele A. Coggs, Russell W. Stamper, II, Mark Chambers, Jr., Andrea M. Pratt, Larresa Taylor, Lamont Westmoreland, Sharlen P. Moore, DiAndre Jackson, Scott Spiker, Robert Bauman, JoCasta Zamarripa, José G. Pérez, Peter Burgelis, Alex Brower, Marina Dimitrijevic, and approved by all members of the Milwaukee Common Council on February 10, 2026.