

BY ALDS. JOHNSON, COGGS, HAMILTON, STAMPER, BORKOWSKI, WITKOWSKI, PÉREZ,  
LEWIS, RAINEY, DODD

*Resolution congratulating Ken Forney on his retirement from the City of Festivals Men's Chorus.*

**WHEREAS,**

## **KEN FORNEY**

*retired with pride and satisfaction as the founding artistic director of the City of Festivals Men's Chorus during December 2018 after more than eight years of dedicated service; and*

**WHEREAS,** *In the Fall of 2010, Ken Forney met with interested singers to organize a men's chorus for gay men and allies in Milwaukee and the surrounding areas -- the City of Festivals Men's Chorus; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Ken Forney was a calm guiding hand for the chorus during its founding and initial growth, instrumental in the organizational, as well as musical, development of the Chorus and influenced the determination of and the drafting of the vision and mission statements of the Chorus; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Ken became the Chorus' first staff member as Artistic Director, initially receiving only a "pass the hat" donation for gas money to and from his home in Madison as compensation, prior to there being a budget for staff; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Ken strove to educate both experienced and new singers to improve the overall quality of the Chorus while creating a welcoming space for all; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Ken created new themes and concerts from a limited, inherited library while bringing in noted LGBT pieces such as "Heartlands," "Naked Man" and the works of Gwyneth Walker, and led the Chorus to the international festival, Gay And Lesbian Alliance of Choruses (GALA), in Denver on two occasions; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Ken worked closely with other choral and LGBTQ organizations in the State of Wisconsin, and in the Midwest for collaboration, joint performances and outreach, and promoted LGBTQ visibility through Chorus participation in programs such as "It Gets Better," Pridefest, World AIDS Day, local sports teams' Pride Nights, and various other LGBTQ, ally and community events and vigils; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Ken Forney's passion, generosity, and spirit have shaped the City of Festivals Men's Chorus into a positive force for the performing arts and LGBTQ Community in Milwaukee; now, therefore, be it*

**RESOLVED,** *That the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee herewith congratulates Ken Forney on his retirement from the City of Festivals Men's Chorus, extends its appreciation on behalf of the community, and extends well wishes in his future endeavors and ventures; and, be it*

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

*Introduced by Common Council members Cavalier Johnson, Milele Coggs, Ashanti Hamilton, Russell W. Stamper, II, Mark A. Borkowski, José G. Pérez, Chantia Lewis, Khalif J. Rainey and Nikiya Dodd and approved by all members of the Milwaukee Common Council on December 18, 2019.*