

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

Resolution honoring Clayborn Benson on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Wisconsin Black Historical Society/Museum.

WHEREAS,

CLAYBORN BENSON

is recognized as the founder of the Wisconsin Black Historical Society/Museum, the only institution in Wisconsin in the business of preserving African American History in the state and celebrated its 30th anniversary on September 22, 2018; and

WHEREAS, *Clayborn Benson produced the documentary called “Black Communities” which was a three-part documentary focusing on USA, Wisconsin and Milwaukee and was the inspiration for establishing the Wisconsin Black Historical Society/Museum in 1987; and*

WHEREAS, *Clayborn Benson decided to make the documentary after discovering the records and documents concerning the history and roots of African American people in Wisconsin were widely scattered and poorly preserved; and*

WHEREAS, *Clayborn Benson established the Wisconsin Black Historical Society/Museum in 1987 at 2620 W. Center St., a building constructed in 1898 as the Engine No. 2 Fire Station, later converted into the Center Street Library in 1928 which was later relocated in 1987; and*

WHEREAS, *Clayborn Benson and the Wisconsin Black Historical Society/Museum offers genealogy lessons for people looking to trace their family tree and discover more about their history and Mr. Benson said he hopes this sparks an interest in learning more about African-American history in Wisconsin; and*

WHEREAS, *The Wisconsin Black Historical Society/Museum is based on the premise that a people who know their history will grow to love and appreciate themselves more, and is striving to create a bright future out of a heart-breaking past, and its mission is to document and preserve the historical heritage of African descent in Wisconsin; and*

WHEREAS, *The Wisconsin Black Historical Society/Museum has developed programming and activities to directly educate the surrounding community including tutoring for children in K-12th grades, seasonal classes, educational movies series, financial workshops on investing and credit rebuilding; and*

WHEREAS, *Clayborn Benson has been sharing the history of Black people in Wisconsin for 30 years and the Wisconsin Black Historical Society/Museum has become a valuable asset to the community, region and state; and*

WHEREAS, *Clayborn Benson and the Wisconsin Black Historical Society/Museum continues to serve as a resource center for all people interested in Wisconsin’s rich African American heritage, the Museum’s purpose is to encourage and promote family community and cultural activities; now, therefore, be it*

RESOLVED, *that the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee herewith recognizes Clayborn Benson for his dedicated work at the Wisconsin Black Historical Society/Museum for the past 30 years; and, be it*

FURTHER RESOLVED, *That a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to the Clayborn Benson.*

Introduced by Common Council members Milele A. Coggs, Ashanti Hamilton, Russell W. Stamper, II, Mark A. Borkowski, Terry L. Witkowski, José G. Pérez, Chantia Lewis, Khalif J. Rainey, Cavalier Johnson and Nikiya Dodd and approved by all members of the Milwaukee Common Council on November 27, 2018.