

BY ALDS. MURPHY, BAUMAN, COGGS, PEREZ, BORKOWSKI

Resolution expressing condolences to the family and friends of Roberta Boorse, who passed from this life on January 2, 2016.

WHEREAS,

ROBERTA BOORSE

passed from this life on January 2, 2016 at the age of 84, and services were held at Schmidt & Bartelt Funeral Home, 10280 N. Port Washington Rd., on January 6, 2016; and

WHEREAS, *Having studied at the Stone-Camryn School of Ballet in Chicago, Roberta Boorse was a talented artist and a dedicated entrepreneur whose life's work enriched Milwaukee's cultural heritage and left a lasting legacy in the Milwaukee Ballet, which now features 20 professional dancers, 20 additional dancers in its second company, 1,000 students at its dance school and a national reputation for introducing new works; and*

WHEREAS, *At the age of 20, Roberta Boorse opened her first business venture, the Academy of Dance Arts in West Allis, and in spite of the common sentiment that Milwaukee could not support a ballet in addition to its existing symphony and opera, she persisted in her goal of launching the Milwaukee Ballet in 1969, sometimes using her own money to make payroll in those early years; and*

WHEREAS, *In an effort to generate interest in the Milwaukee Ballet, Roberta Boorse went to New York to persuade the American Ballet Theatre to let its stars perform with her new dance company, and on April 24, 1970, the Milwaukee Ballet held its inaugural performance with guest performer Ted Kivitt, the American Ballet Theatre's principal dancer; and*

WHEREAS, *In 1955, Roberta Boorse married her husband Don, a pilot, race car driver, yachtsman and entrepreneur, and the couple raised four children, and yet in spite of her high profile, her children say she eschewed the limelight and preferred to express herself through dance, not public speaking or interviews; and*

WHEREAS, *Roberta Boorse leaves to cherish her memory her children Donna Karp, Dawn Ford, Daniel Boorse and Mary Belvin, nine grandchildren, loving friends and family and a grateful community; now, therefore, be it*

RESOLVED, *That the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee herewith expresses its condolences to the family and friends of Roberta Boorse, recognizes her lasting legacy and mourns with deep sorrow the passing of this upstanding woman; and, be it*

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

Introduced by Common Council members Michael J. Murphy, Robert J. Bauman, Milele A. Coggs, José G. Pérez and Mark A. Borkowski and approved by all members of the Milwaukee Common Council on January 19, 2016.