

*BY ALDS. COGGS, HAMILTON, JOHNSON, STAMPER, BORKOWSKI, SPIKER, PEREZ, LEWIS, RAINEY, DODD*

*Resolution expressing condolences to the family and friends of John H. Givens III, who passed from this life on December 30, 2019.*

**WHEREAS,**

## **JOHN H. GIVENS III**

*passed from this life on December 30, 2019, at the age of 83 and services were held for family and friends on January 8, 2020 at St. Mark AME Church, 1616 W. Atkinson Ave.; and*

***WHEREAS,** John H. Givens III was the third child born to Drucilla and John Henry Givens II in Milwaukee on February 8, 1936, attended Milwaukee Public Schools and graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee before joining the Armed Service and spending two years as an official U.S. Army News Correspondent in France, and while there he was the only American on an all French basketball team; and*

***WHEREAS,** John H. Givens III returned to Milwaukee in the summer of 1961, attended college and worked at American Motors Body Plant in the Labor Relations Department, and in 1962 he became an advisor to the NAACP Youth Council, leading demonstrations against discrimination in employment, a rampant condition in Milwaukee at that time; and*

***WHEREAS,** In 1963 John cofounded the Milwaukee Chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) and became its first Chairman (CORE would lead some of the most militant demonstrations in Milwaukee's history), and under his leadership, CORE attacked discrimination in Housing, Employment, and Education; and*

***WHEREAS,** John led sit-in demonstrations in the County Court House on the day of the famed March on Washington (8/28/1963), the group also held sit-ins at City Hall, Marcus Big Boy, SDC offices and organized numerous marches, and John kept getting arrested for Disorderly Conduct while participating in peaceful sit-in demonstrations, and on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 1965 he won a major civil rights case (STATE OF WI v. GIVENS) that gives individuals the right to protest peacefully without being arrested and charged with disorderly conduct; and*

***WHEREAS,** In February 1968, John was hired by then Mayor Henry W. Maier (thus becoming the first Black in the history of Milwaukee to hold such a post), in 1969 was appointed Associate Director of Model Cities and then Director again becoming the first Black to head a City agency, and one of John's proudest accomplishments was being nominated by Mayor Maier and the US Conference of Mayors to the Sixth Session for Urban Executives, at the Alfred P. Sloan School of Management at MIT (where he was elected Co-Chair of the session); and*

***WHEREAS,** In 1979 John H. Givens III joined state government and was appointed Director of Milwaukee Metropolitan Area Job Service and was later tabbed by Governor Lee Dreyfus to re-organize the Council on Criminal Justice, and he retired in 1999 as the Deputy Director of the Department of Human Resources for Milwaukee County under County Executive Tom Ament's administration; and*

***WHEREAS,** John H. Givens III is survived by daughters Roxanne Smith and Richelle Baylor (Keith), is the proud grandfather to Wesley and Winston Baylor, and is mourned by a host of other loving relatives and friends; now, therefore, be it*

***RESOLVED,** That the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee herewith expresses its condolences to the family and friends of John H. Givens III, and mourns with deep sorrow the passing of this fine, upstanding man; and, be it*

***FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to the family of John H. Givens III.*

*Introduced by Common Council members Milele A. Coggs, Ashanti Hamilton, Cavalier Johnson, Russell W. Stamper, II, Mark A. Borkowski, Scott Spiker, José G. Pérez, Chantia Lewis, Khalif J. Rainey and Nikiya Dodd and approved by all members of the Milwaukee Common Council on January 21, 2020.*