

Testimonial Resolution

Miriam Blanks-Smart, ES2

Executive Director for the City of Detroit Department of Appeals and Hearings (DAH)

WHEREAS Miriam comes from a seven-generation Detroit family and was born and raised on Helen Street at Charlevoix. Miriam is a proud K-12 product of Detroit Public Schools, graduating from Martin Luther King, Jr., High School. She earned her law degree at Wayne State University Law School after graduating from Western Michigan University; **and**

WHEREAS Miriam began her esteemed career in public service by working in Washington, D.C. as a Legislative Assistant to United States Congressman Sander Levin of Detroit. Miriam was the first female President of the NAACP of Southern Oakland County. Miriam is a Life Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., having served as President of both the Delta Chi Chapter and the Pi Tau Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Miriam also served as the President of the Pearls of Service Foundation, a 501c3 organization for minority women, girls, and families; **and**

WHEREAS For 12 years, Miriam practiced complex and civil litigation with Detroit-area law firms, including serving as a partner and obtaining the top "AV" rating for civil litigators in Michigan. Miriam was a founding member of the D. Augustus Straker Bar Association, Chairman of the Membership Services Committee of the State Bar of Michigan, and Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the Institute of Continuing Legal Education (ICLE); **and**

WHEREAS In 2001, Miriam began her 22-year City of Detroit career as a Supervising Corporation Counsel with the Law Department where she supervised two teams of civil litigators and ordinance prosecutors. Miriam was instrumental in the creation of the City's "Blight Court," the Department of Appeals and Hearings, where she has managed since it began in 2005. Miriam's many accomplishments at the DAH include the creation of an in-house collections program (Judgment Responsibility Program), the "Community Blight Court," mobile blight ticketing, remote hearings, web, kiosk, and phone payment options and filing services and blight revenue increasing by millions each fiscal year; **and**

WHEREAS Miriam has been married to attorney Richard L. Smart, III for 32 years and they have two daughters: Danielle Smart, Esq. of Michigan and Rachel Smart of Washington, D.C.; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**


RESOLVED That on this day, July 25, 2023, Council President Mary Sheffield and the entire Detroit City Council celebrate Miriam Blank Smart for her years of outstanding service to the City of Detroit. We wish you a well-deserved restful, prosperous, and blissful retirement.



COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM



COUNCIL MEMBER



COUNCIL MEMBER


COUNCIL MEMBER


COUNCIL PRESIDENT


COUNCIL MEMBER


COUNCIL MEMBER


COUNCIL MEMBER

July 25, 2023

DATE