

DETROIT CITY COUNCIL

Testimonial Resolution

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Tau Chapter

100th Anniversary

WHEREAS

On January 13, 1913, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated was founded on the campus of Howard University by twenty-two collegiate women. The founders: Osecola McCarthy Adams, Marguerite Young Alexander, Winona Cargile Alexander, Ethel Cuff Black, Bertha Pitts Campbell, Zephyr Chisolm Carter, Edna Brown Coleman, Jessie McGuire Dent, Frederica Chase Dodd, Myra Davis Hemmings, Olive C. Jones, Jimmie Bugg Middleton, Pauline Oberdorfer Minor, Vashti Turley Murphy, Naomi Sewell Richardson, Mamie Reddy Rose, Eliza Pearl Shippen, Florence Letcher Toms, Ethel Carr Watson, Wertie Blackwell Weaver, Madree Penn White and Edith Mott Young envisioned Delta Sigma Theta to become an organization dedicated to promoting academic excellence and providing assistance to those in need. For one hundred and six years, Delta Sigma Theta continues to flourish to uphold the legacy of its founders by providing dedicated service and a global voice and vision to the struggle of members of the African Diaspora. With more than 300,000 members in 940 undergraduate and alumnae chapters across the world, members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. have distinguished themselves globally as leaders, public servants and champions of human rights; and,

WHEREAS

On January 24, 1924, the vision and mission of Delta Sigma Theta led to the chartering of its nineteenth chapter, Tau Chapter on the campus of Wayne University, now Wayne State University. Upon its establishment, Tau Chapter became the first Black Greek letter organization on campus and the first Delta chapter in the city of Detroit. The original charter members are Mamie Green Alexander, Eolyn Klugh Guy, Hazel Shaw Maynard, Helene Tines, and Elizabeth Vinegar. At its inception, Tau Chapter was comprised of undergraduates as well as graduates from colleges and universities within the city limits of Detroit. On May 13, 1939, Tau Chapter was rechartered specifically to the campus of Wayne State University. The recharter members are Beryl Anderson, Gertrude Bailey, Lillian Brown, Jinnie Calfee, Kathleen Cootie, Marjorie Dunbar, Josephine Gaines, Edna Hardnett, Frances Horner, Clara Stanton Jones, Emmeta Verlie Morton, Eleanor Osborne, Esther Price, Beulah Robinson, Mamie Simms, Jerolean Sneed, Bernice Stewart, Christine Tandy, Charlotte Watt and Bernice White.; and,

WHEREAS

In its one-hundred-year history, the Tau Chapter has displayed a solid commitment to sisterhood, scholarship, service and social action via the Sorority's Five Point Thrust - Economic Development, Educational Development, International Awareness and Involvement, Physical and Mental Health and Political Awareness and Involvement. Tau Chapter is actively dedicated to upholding the founding principles of sisterhood, scholarship, service, and social action. Currently, Mighty Tau participates in and serves the community through mentorship programs, campus clean-ups, health seminars, financial literacy seminars, heart health awareness, Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, Alzheimer's awareness, HIV/AIDS awareness, voter registration, study tables, fitness classes, a variety of community service projects, and several other programs aimed toward uplifting our each other and our community.; and,

WHEREAS

The Tau Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated has maintained a continuous commitment to build on a legacy of excellence to the City, the Sorority and the global community. Annually, at its Charlayne Hunter-Gault Scholarship Ball, Tau Chapter provides scholarships to Wayne State University students. Charlayne Hunter-Gault, an award-winning journalist, author, and school desegregation pioneer, was initiated at Tau Chapter. Tau Chapter members have held leadership positions within the sorority on the local, statewide, regional and national levels and have gone on to make their indelible mark on society by becoming trailblazers in the fields of Academia, Law, Medicine, Politics and many others. NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED

That on this day, January 24, 2024, Council Member Coleman Alexander Young, II and the entire Detroit City Council do hereby acknowledge and congratulate the Tau Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. on 100 years of outstanding service on the campus of Wayne State University and in the metropolitan Detroit area. May you continue your dedication to improving the lives of Detroiters and the surrounding community through scholarship, service, sisterhood and social action.

Mary Sheffield
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM

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COUNCIL MEMBER

Colan A. Gray II
COUNCIL MEMBER

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COUNCIL MEMBER

January 27, 2024
DATE