

Testimonial Resolution

ALONZO WINFIELD BATES

October 6, 1939 – January 25, 2024
In Memoriam

WHEREAS Alonzo Winfield Bates was born on October 6, 1939, in Detroit, Michigan, to the union of Edward and Annie Lee Bates. He was the third child in this blessed family; and

WHEREAS Alonzo Winfield Bates graduated from Southeastern High School in 1958, and from Alabama State University in 1964, where he excelled as a four-year starting catcher on the baseball field and was affectionately known on campus as the "Big Catch." He was also an active member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., Beta Upsilon Chapter; and

WHEREAS Alonzo Winfield Bates was a true soldier on the battlefield for equality and inclusion. During the Jim Crow era, he worked alongside figures such as Rev. Jim Holly and Rev. Jesse Jackson, participating in protests for voter registration rights and the end of segregation in Montgomery, Alabama. In 1970, he served as the Executive Director of Civil Rights for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. By 1971, he was elected to the Detroit Board of Education, later serving as Chairman. He was instrumental in the establishment of Bates Academy, a school serving academically talented urban youth, and spearheaded the hiring of Black Detroiters at the new Chrysler Jefferson North Assembly Plant in 1991; and

WHEREAS Alonzo Winfield Bates was appointed by Mayor Young as the Executive Administrator and Director for the Detroit Recreation Department and was elected to the Detroit City Council in 2001, where he championed the inclusion of Black contractors and led a panel demanding the NFL include Black coaches; and

WHEREAS Alonzo Winfield Bates was a devoted husband to Yolanda Shannon and a dedicated father to three children: Kayana, Aisha, and Edward. He cherished spending quality time with his family and molding the next generation of community servants and advocates; and

WHEREAS It being the will of our Lord to call our beloved Alonzo Winfield Bates home after a remarkable life of service on January 25, 2024; **THEREFORE, BE IT**

RESOLVED That the Office of Councilman Scott Benson and the Detroit City Council honor the life and legacy of Alonzo Winfield Bates. His unparalleled service and dedication to improving the quality of life in our community set a standard for all. May God bless and comfort your family during this difficult time.

Mary Sheffield
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Jan Ito
COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM

Scott Benson
COUNCIL MEMBER

Clemon A. Young II
COUNCIL MEMBER

Latisha Johnson
COUNCIL MEMBER

Mary Waters
COUNCIL MEMBER

Dobla D'Agui-Ramos
COUNCIL MEMBER

Angel Whitzard Callery
COUNCIL MEMBER

Paul Durkin III
COUNCIL MEMBER

February 6, 2024
DATE

