

RESOLUTION

In Memoriam

Dr. William F. Pickard

A Man of Entrepreneurial Greatness for All Time

*Honored In Memoriam for 83 Years of a Life of Greatness
Celebrating Entrepreneurial Success & Philanthropic Generosity*

Sunrise: Tuesday, January 28, 1941 thru Wednesday, June 12, 2024: Sunset

WHEREAS: *Dr. William F. Pickard, The Entrepreneur Extraordinaire, was the only child born to the union of Willie H. Pickard and Victoria Woodyard Pickard on January 28, 1941, in LaGrange, Georgia. Dr. William F. Pickard, caught his first glimpse of the automotive world in the 1950s when his parents moved the family to Flint, Michigan, a city built on the car industry; and*

WHEREAS: *Dr. William F. Pickard's, 50-year entrepreneurial career success began as the first African American McDonald's franchisee in Detroit, Michigan. Dr. William F. Pickard is Founder and Executive Chairman of GAA Manufacturing and Supply Chain Management (GAA) and GAA New Ventures. Under his leadership, the business became the first minority-owned group of plastic parts suppliers to serve the top three U.S. automakers. Since 1989, GAA has generated over \$5 billion dollars in sales with eight plants in the U.S. and Canada, supplying Boeing, Mercedes Benz, Ford, General Motors, Chrysler, Delphi, Johnson Controls, Starbucks, The Home Depot, Merck & Co. Pharmaceuticals, the U.S. Marine Corps and the City of Detroit. Dr. William F. Pickard is Co-Managing Partner at MGM Grand Detroit Casino, and co-owner of four Black-owned newspapers which evolved into Real Times Media, a media marketing company; and*

WHEREAS: *Dr. William F. Pickard, has served on business and non-profit boards including Asset Acceptance Capital Corporation, Michigan National and LaSalle Banks, Business Leaders for Michigan, National Urban League, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Black Chamber of Commerce, National Park Foundation and is a lifetime member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated and Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, The Boulé; and*

WHEREAS: *Dr. William F. Pickard's, honors include Morehouse College 34th Candle in the Dark Award for Entrepreneurship and Philanthropy, The 2019 Michigan Lifetime Humanitarian Award and 2019 Michiganiaan of the Year for business success, civic leadership and philanthropy. Dr. William F. Pickard was appointed the first Chairman of the African Development Foundation in 1982, by President Ronald Reagan, and under President George H.W. Bush, he was appointed to The National Advisory Committee on Trade Policy Negotiations (1990) and the Federal Home Loan Bank Board - Indianapolis Bank of Indiana (1991). Black Enterprise Magazine honored Dr. William F. Pickard as one of "The 50 Most Influential Black Entrepreneurs During the Last 50 years" In February 2021, he was appointed by the Commonwealth of the Bahamas as the first-ever Honorary Consul for the State of Michigan; and*

WHEREAS: *Dr. William F. Pickard, pursued education to fulfill his standards and his life success and; attained an Associate's Degree from Mott Community College, a Bachelor's Degree from Western Michigan University, a Master's Degree from the University of Michigan, and a Doctorate of Philosophy in Education, from The Ohio State University; along with Honorary Doctorates in Philosophy from Clark Atlanta University (CAU) and Florida A&M University (FAMU); and*

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WHEREAS: Dr. William F. Pickard's philanthropic endeavors supported education for others at the Wayne County Community College District, Spelman College, Morehouse College, Clark Atlanta University, Fort Valley State University, The Ohio State University, Florida A&M University, Wayne State University's School of Social Work and other HBCUs; and

WHEREAS: The William F. Pickard Living Center at Grand Valley State University is named in honor of Dr. William F. Pickard. He donated to Western Michigan University to build the Hall-Archer-Pickard East and West Living Centers. The Pickard-Dortch Living Center at Clark Atlanta University is named in honor of Dr. William F. Pickard and Thomas W. Dortch, Jr.; his friend for over 40 years. Dr. William F. Pickard partnered with his friend of 50 years, His Excellency Governor General Cornelius A. Smith to launch the Smith-Pickard Friendship and Alliance Scholarship at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) funding scholarships for students from the United States and the Bahamas, studying Agriculture. His philanthropy extends to arts and culture at the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C.; Detroit's iconic Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History; the infamous Detroit Motown Historical Museum; and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra (DSO); and

WHEREAS: Dr. William F. Pickard, a proven business mogul, was creating a new generation of entrepreneurs of excellence with his latest book, Surviving the Shift - 7 Proven Millionaire Moves: Vision/Attitude, Opportunity, Relationships, Talent/Skillset, Financial, Failure and Faith- for Embracing Change and Building Wealth. Dr. William F. Pickard wanted everyone to become successful entrepreneurs and walk in the footsteps and lifestyle of a true Business Mogul, as he was; and

WHEREAS: Dr. William F. Pickard is survived by his devoted daughter, Mary Pickard, his lifelong friend and confidant, Vivian Pickard, and a multitude of cherished cousins, dedicated friends and loyal employees; ALL of whom will miss him dearly. NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: The Honorable Coleman A. Young II, Council Member At-Large #1, along with the entire Honorable Detroit City Council, celebrates the brilliance, success, educational attainment, entrepreneurial success and philanthropic generosity of This Great Man, Thee Dr. William F. Pickard!

Mam Stagg
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

[Signature]
COUNCIL MEMBER

Deborah Johnson
COUNCIL MEMBER

[Signature]
COUNCIL MEMBER

COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM
Coleman A. Young II
COUNCIL MEMBER

May Clarke
COUNCIL MEMBER

Azela Whitfield Calloway
COUNCIL MEMBER

June 28, 2024
DATE

