

DETROIT CITY COUNCIL

Testimonial Resolution

Geraldine Meeks Chatman

*The Honorable Coleman A. Young II, Detroit City Councilman At-Large
Honors the Decades of Excellent Service & Retirement of The Phenomenal
Geraldine Meeks Chatman*

from the City of Detroit Property Assessment Board of Review

- WHEREAS:** *Geraldine Meeks* was born in *Memphis, Tennessee* September 15, 1936, the first of seven children. Her parents, *Jewel and Clara Meeks*, would later move to Ferndale, Michigan in the mid-1940's because her father was employed at Uniroyal Tire Company in Detroit; **and**
- WHEREAS:** *Geraldine Meeks* was educated in the Detroit Public School system. She met *Lee Champ Nelson*, while attending Eastern High School, and married him in 1955. *Geraldine and Lee* had four beautiful children: *Dinah, Lee Champ Jr, Terrence and Lloyd*. While raising her family, she decided to further her education and with complete determination and willpower, she matriculated from *Wayne County Community College* and obtained an associate's degree; **and**
- WHEREAS:** *Geraldine Meeks Nelson* started working for the *Total Action Against Poverty (TAAP)* for the City of Detroit in 1965 as a part-time employee. By 1968, she had worked her way into a promotion and a full-time position. In 1983, she was temporarily laid off by the City of Detroit but was called upon shortly thereafter to work in the Finance Department. She eventually would run for **Chief Union Steward** of the **Purchasing Department**, serving for four years at *Local 2799*. By 1991, *Geraldine Meeks Nelson* was elected **President of Local 2799** where she remained until she retired; **and**
- WHEREAS:** *Geraldine Meeks Nelson* became very active in the Civil Rights movement in the 1960's. In 1968 she worked alongside *Dr. Martin Luther King* for the voter's registration drive. In 1970, under *Chairman Mary Lou Parks*, she was active in the *Michigan Democratic Party*, serving as Recording Secretary for the **Executive Board of the 13th Congressional District**; **and**
- WHEREAS:** *Geraldine Meeks Nelson* experienced entrepreneurship in the early 1980's as an owner and operator of a lounge in Detroit. She also has a patent for the wristband "*Tie One On For Jesus*"; **and**
- WHEREAS:** *Geraldine Meeks* met and married *Walter Chatman* in the mid 1980's. They enjoyed working alongside each other at their church, *Conventional Missionary Baptist Church*, teaching *Discipleship, Bible study*, and teaching *Sunday School*. *Geraldine Meeks Chatman* is an *Usher*, on the *Mission Ministry*, the *Pastor's Aide Ministry* and the *Board of Trustees*; **and**
- WHEREAS:** *Geraldine Chatman*, received numerous accolades and awards such as: Metropolitan Detroit Chapter of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists - *Gloria Cobbin Community Service Award*; Metropolitan Detroit *AFL-CIO Award of HONOR* upon her retirement, *U. S. Senate Certificate of Congressional Recognition*; City of Detroit *Spirit of Detroit Award* presented by the entire Detroit City Council; Michigan AFSCME-Council 25, *Statewide Women's Committee Award* and many more over the span of her career; **and**
- WHEREAS:** *Geraldine Chatman*, received numerous accolades and awards such as: Metropolitan Detroit Chapter of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists - *Gloria Cobbin Community Service Award*; Metropolitan Detroit *AFL-CIO Award of HONOR* upon her retirement, *U. S. Senate Certificate of Congressional Recognition*; City of Detroit *Spirit of Detroit Award* presented by the entire Detroit City Council; Michigan AFSCME-Council 25, *Statewide Women's Committee Award* and many more over the span of her career; **and**

Presented at the Formal Session of the Detroit City Council on Tuesday, November 26, 2024

Geraldine Meeks Chatman



WHEREAS: *Geraldine Chatman, retired from the City of Detroit after 39 years of service to The Citizens of Detroit. However, she was not finished yet. In 2009 Geraldine Chatman, was asked by City Council President Brenda Jones, to come out of retirement and accept an appointment to the Board of Review, where she has served to this day. Geraldine Chatman, also serves as Financial Secretary for City of Detroit Retirees Sub-Chapter 98. Further, Geraldine Chatman has been the Appointee of Councilman Coleman A. Young II for the past 2 years on the City of Detroit Property Assessment Board of Review; and*

WHEREAS: *Geraldine Chatman, further, is a world traveler and has been across the United States. She has travelled abroad to: Germany, Holland, Dubai, Roma, and the Africa, the mother-land, and many more. She has a great legacy as a Mother, Grandmother, Great-Grandmother, and even as Great-Great-Grandmother. Geraldine Chatman has witnessed 5 generations in her lifetime with much more love to share. May God continually bless the Name and Legacy of Geraldine Meeks Chatman; 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 and honors the years of excellent service in the well- deserved retirement of Geraldine Meeks Chatman. Your 60 years of service to The People of Detroit is a Legacy of Faith, Belief and Sheer will to Succeed. Thank you for your continued life of example for all to see YOU, a Great Detroiter! Thank YOU for being a Jewel in the Heart of the City of Detroit! We Thank YOU and eternally grateful for your dedicated service to The People of Detroit.*

Mary Sheffield
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