

DETROIT CITY COUNCIL

Testimonial Resolution

BLAKE BAXTER

"Prince of Techno"

WHEREAS

Blake Baxter was born and raised on the west side of Detroit, where he was deeply influenced by the city's legendary musical lineage. Drawing inspiration from Motown, funk, soul, and underground sounds, he helped shape a new and mesmerizing genre that would reverberate around the world; and

WHEREAS

Blake Baxter launched his career in the early 1980s as a producer and disc jockey and quickly emerged as one of the pioneering figures in the development of techno. He captivated audiences as a resident DJ at iconic Detroit nightclubs such as The Shelter, Leland House, and City Club. His early releases on Kevin Saunderson's KMS Records, including the seminal track *When We Used to Play*, became classics. He later collaborated with techno legends Mike Banks and Jeff Mills of Underground Resistance, further cementing his status as a foundational architect of the genre; and

WHEREAS

Blake Baxter played a pivotal role in bringing the Detroit sound to Europe. In the 1990s, he established strong ties with Berlin's Tresor Records and toured extensively across the continent. Performing alongside artists like Jeff Mills, he helped ignite the global techno movement. Tracks such as *Brothers Gonna Work It Out*, *Funky World*, and *Sexuality* became underground anthems and expanded Detroit's influence on the international stage; and

WHEREAS

Blake Baxter is known for seamlessly blending techno, house, electro, and soul, pairing these sonic textures with a commanding vocal presence and powerful storytelling. His music often explores social commentary and political consciousness, embodying Afrofuturism, a cultural movement envisioning Black identity and liberation through science fiction, technology, and artistic innovation. His extensive discography spans notable labels such as Tresor, Logic, Disko B, Incognito, and his own imprints; and

WHEREAS


Blake Baxter has toured throughout North America, Europe, and Asia, performing at major festivals, nightclubs, and cultural institutions. His commitment to the craft and his unique voice in the electronic music world have earned him global respect and the moniker, "Prince of Techno"; and


WHEREAS


Blake Baxter is a living legend whose work continues to inspire artists and fans alike. Through his genre-defining sound, raw lyricism, and dedication to musical innovation, he has left an indelible mark on the global music landscape; **THEREFORE, BE IT**


RESOLVED


That the Office of Councilman Scott Benson and the Detroit City Council hereby celebrate **Blake Baxter** for over forty years of dedication to the Detroit techno scene. May God continue to bless your endeavors.



COUNCIL PRESIDENT



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