

DETROIT CITY COUNCIL

Testimonial Resolution

DE'SEAN JONES

World-Renowned Detroit composer, saxophonist, educator

WHEREAS

De'Sean Jones was born and raised in the City of Detroit. At the age of twelve, he received his first saxophone after being introduced to the music of Miles Davis and Charlie Parker; and

WHEREAS

De'Sean Jones began his musical career as a teenager. During his early years, he toured with Marcus Belgrave, the Clark Sisters and collaborated with J. Drew Sheard II. He also performed regularly at Bert's, joined 313 The Live Experience, and became a staple performer at the legendary Baker's Keyboard Lounge; and

WHEREAS

De'Sean Jones had the unique opportunity to study with the Detroit Symphony's Civic Jazz Orchestra. He continued his education at Michigan State University and later at Oberlin Conservatory, where he refined techniques that allowed him to blend jazz, classical, soul, and Detroit techno into his signature sound. After graduating, he joined Underground Resistance in 2006. By 2007, he debuted with Galaxy 2 Galaxy at the Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland. He toured internationally with G2G, Timeline, and legendary artists such as Mike Banks, Jon Dixon, and DJ Mark Flash, cementing his place in the worlds of both electronic and jazz music. His performance and recording credits include work with icons such as Stevie Wonder, Diana Ross, Common, Pharrell, Big Sean, Fantasia, and Kierra Sheard. He also appeared on the *50 Years of Hip-Hop* tour with Doug E. Fresh and on NBC's *Live from Michigan Central Station*; and

WHEREAS

De'Sean Jones is not only a performer but a gifted teacher and mentor. As his artistry developed, so did his passion for education, leading him to facilitate workshops and lectures across Africa, Asia, the United Kingdom, Australia, South America, and at prestigious institutions including the University of Michigan, Northwestern University, and Oberlin Conservatory. He has remained deeply committed to uplifting youth in his hometown through programs in Detroit Public Schools, the Michigan State University Community Music School, and the Oakland Youth Musicians Program; and

WHEREAS

De'Sean Jones has earned three Grammy nominations, three Stellar Awards, and two NAACP Image Awards. In 2022, he was honored as a Kresge Arts Fellow by the Kresge Foundation. His talent also extends to film scoring, with credits that include *Marvel's Luke Cage*, *CIVIL: Ben Crump*, and *Big Sean: Live at the DIA*; **THEREFORE, BE IT**

RESOLVED

That the Office of Councilman Scott Benson and the Detroit City Council hereby congratulate **De'Sean Jones**, Detroit's own musical prodigy for his artistic excellence, global impact, and unwavering dedication to uplifting the next generation. May God continue to bless your endeavors.


COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM


COUNCIL MEMBER


COUNCIL MEMBER


COUNCIL MEMBER


COUNCIL PRESIDENT


COUNCIL MEMBER


COUNCIL MEMBER


COUNCIL MEMBER


COUNCIL MEMBER

May 22, 2025

DATE