

DETROIT CITY COUNCIL

Testimonial Resolution

SANTONIO ECHOLS

Techno Pioneer, DJ, Producer, and Label Owner

WHEREAS

Santonio Echols was born and raised on the pulse of the iconic Detroit sound. Deeply influenced by the city's industrial soul and rich musical heritage, he emerged as a pioneer of the electronic music movement; **and**

WHEREAS

Santonio Echols is the co-founder of Reese & Santonio, a groundbreaking collaboration with Kevin Saunderson, one of the legendary Belleville Three. Their seminal track, The Sound, became a cornerstone of techno history solidifying Detroit's status as the birthplace of the genre and securing Santonio's place on the global stage; **and**

WHEREAS

Santonio Echols has spent more than four decades as a traveling DJ, sharing his talent with audiences across North America, Europe, Asia, and South America. His career has included residencies, festivals, nightclubs, and special events, always advancing the global reach of Detroit techno; **and**

WHEREAS

Santonio Echols successfully launched a solo career and founded his own record label, while also releasing music through renowned imprints such as King Street Sounds, Tresor Records, Serious Grooves, and D Records 313. He has consistently used his platform to uplift the next generation of musical artists, advocating for creativity, collaboration, and the preservation of Detroit's cultural legacy; **and**

WHEREAS

Santonio Echols is a firm believer in higher education. He studied music production and audio engineering to refine his natural talent, furthering his education at Wayne County Community College and Grand Valley State University; **and**

WHEREAS

Santonio Echols is a living legend whose influence continues to shape the evolution of electronic music. His collaborations, performances, and mentorship reflect a lifelong commitment to artistic innovation and community enrichment; **THEREFORE, BE IT**

RESOLVED

That the Office of Councilman Scott Benson and the Detroit City Council hereby celebrate **Santonio Echols** as a first-generation techno pioneer whose legacy has helped define Detroit's global musical identity. May God continue to bless your endeavors.


COUNCIL PRESIDENT



COUNCIL MEMBER


COUNCIL MEMBER


COUNCIL MEMBER


COUNCIL MEMBER


COUNCIL MEMBER


COUNCIL MEMBER


COUNCIL MEMBER

May 22, 2025

DATE