

DETROIT CITY COUNCIL
Testimonial Resolution
VIRGIL C. SMITH, SR.

- WHEREAS;** The Honorable **Virgil Clark Smith, Sr.** born July 4, 1947, has dedicated his life to public service through distinguished careers in both legislative and judicial branches of Michigan’s government; and
- WHEREAS;** Judge Smith began his public service as a member of the Michigan House of Representatives, serving from 1977 to 1988, during which time he chaired the judiciary subcommittee on court reorganization in 1980 and 1981; and
- WHEREAS;** He was elected to the Michigan State Senate in a special election in 1988, where he served with distinction until 2000, including his historic appointment in 1995 as the first African American Democratic Floor Leader in the Michigan Senate; and
- WHEREAS;** Judge Smith brought his legislative expertise to the Wayne County Prosecutor’s Office in 2002, where he served as Division Chief of Legislation and Community Outreach, before being appointed to the 3rd Circuit Court by Governor Jennifer Granholm on May 19, 2004; and
- WHEREAS;** He served on the bench of the Wayne County 3rd Circuit Court with distinction from 2004 until his retirement on December 31, 2018, and was Chief Judge of the Court from January 1, 2009, to December 31, 2013; and
- WHEREAS;** Judge Smith holds a bachelor’s degree in political science from Michigan State University and a Juris Doctor degree from Wayne State University Law School, further reinforcing his strong foundation in legal and legislative disciplines; and
- WHEREAS;** Throughout his career, Judge Smith has demonstrated a commitment to justice, equity, and the effective governance of the people of Michigan, and has inspired many, including his own children, to pursue careers in public service; Judge Smith also served as a Member of Kappa Alpha Psi, Fraternity, Inc. and
- WHEREAS;** Even after his judicial retirement, Judge Smith continued to show his dedication to public service by seeking a seat on the Detroit City Council in 2021, advocating for collaboration and legislative effectiveness within local government; and
- WHEREAS;** That we recognize and honor the Honorable **Virgil C. Smith, Sr.** for his decades of dedicated public service, his trailblazing achievements in state governance, and his ongoing contributions to the civic life of Detroit and the State of Michigan; and **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**
- RESOLVED;** That Councilwoman Latisha Johnson and the Detroit City Council present this resolution to Judge Smith as a symbol of our deepest appreciation and respect for his enduring legacy.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM

COUNCIL MEMBER

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COUNCIL MEMBER

June 10, 2025

DATE