

TESTIMONIAL RESOLUTION IN MEMORIAM – HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JUDGE DONNA ROBINSON MILHOUSE - SUNRISE: AUGUST 9, 1959 – SUNSET: June 23, 2025
SUBMITTED BY COUNCILMEMBER FRED DURHAL

WHEREAS Judge Donna Robinson Milhouse was born in Detroit and graduated from Immaculata High School. During her formative years, she spent summers participating in activities that broadened her horizons with opportunities made possible by her devoted parents, the late Barbara and the late Donald Robinson; **and**

WHEREAS Donna’s mother, a dedicated music schoolteacher, ensured that she and her brothers, Chris and Anthony, took full advantage of free summer programs. Their summers included golf lessons at Rackham Golf Course, bowling at a local alley on Eight Mile and Greenfield, swimming lessons at Henry Ford High School with instructor Ms. Peggy, and tennis on the courts of Vandenburg Elementary School—now home to the Jalen Rose Academy; **and**

WHEREAS Among these activities, tennis captured Donna’s heart and connected her to a vibrant and supportive tennis community. She participated in National Junior Tennis League (NJTL) events across Detroit, refining her game and learning valuable lessons in competition and discipline. Donna was mentored by esteemed coaches such as Allison Scruggs-Tookes—Wayne State University Athletic Hall of Famer and standout player at Michigan State—and Eddie and Inez Frazier, who nurtured young talent at courts including those at Northwestern High School; **and**

WHEREAS Donna’s talent on the court earned her a full scholarship to Eastern Michigan University after being noticed by Eastern Michigan University’s women’s tennis coach, Lucy Parker, during matches at the Dearborn Racket Club; **and**

WHEREAS Donna’s interest in the law was sparked in high school during her father’s appointment as Fire Marshal for the City of Detroit in 1974. His later promotion to Fire Chief was challenged by the union over qualifications, resulting in a high-profile lawsuit that highlighted issues of affirmative action and fairness—deeply influencing her future career path; **and**

WHEREAS Donna Robinson Milhouse earned her undergraduate degree from Eastern Michigan University in 1981 and her Juris Doctor from Wayne State University Law School in 1994. She began her legal career as an associate and later a partner at the law firm Hill Lewis, and went on to serve as assistant general counsel at AAA Michigan before ascending to the bench; **and**

WHEREAS For 25 years, Judge Milhouse served with honor and distinction on Detroit’s 36th District Court, presiding over civil, landlord-tenant, small claims, traffic, and criminal matters. Known for her fairness and compassion, she was a steady presence in the courtroom and a tireless advocate for justice. Outside the court, she gave generously of her time—speaking at schools, churches, and community events to inspire future generations; **and**

WHEREAS Judge Donna Robinson Milhouse was the beloved wife of Otis Milhouse and a devoted mother to their two adult children, Justin and Natalie. As the heart of her family, she modeled humility, service, and perseverance, encouraging those around her to give generously, lead with grace, and honor the dignity in others. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

RESOLVED That Honorable Councilmember Fred Durhal III and the Detroit City Council extend our heartfelt condolences to the family of ***Judge Donna Robinson Milhouse***. We honor her decades of distinguished service to the City of Detroit, her unshakable commitment to justice, and the profound impact of her leadership and compassion. Her legacy will continue to uplift and inspire the people of Detroit for generations to come.