

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6010

A RESOLUTION congratulating and commending The Research on Black Wichita Project: 1945-1958.

WHEREAS, Wichita, like most of this society, was a predominantly racially segregated environment for well over half of the twentieth century; and

WHEREAS, The Research on Black Wichita Project: 1945 — 1958 will provide a descriptive and critical analysis of importance to the Wichita Black community on the five topics: education, sociocultural activity, business and economic development, political activity, and religious institutions and spiritual foundations; and

WHEREAS, The Research on Black Wichita Project: 1945 — 1958 was conceived and originally implemented in 2003 with the assistance of a publication advisory committee (PAC) comprised of community leaders, volunteers, educators and retired or working professionals from the Wichita Black community; and

WHEREAS, The Research on Black Wichita Project: 1945 — 1958 proceeds under the eminently capable direction of Galyn A. Vesey, PhD, a native and lifelong resident of Wichita following his retirement from teaching at Alabama A & M University in 2004 and his applied research at Cornell University in 1998; and

WHEREAS, In addition to individual interviews, the Project will use formal documents, published reports and books, newspapers, media aids, anecdotal information, photographs and interviews with Wichita's Black pioneers in telling their own stories to fill the void in information and understanding of the history of Black Wichita; and

WHEREAS, We believe that the story of the Wichita Monrovia, a highly successful all-Black professional baseball team named for the capital city of Monrovia, Liberia on the continent of Western Africa, the First Kansas Colored Infantry and other important self-initiated and strength perspectives such as these could have useful educational, sociocultural, economic, political and spiritual implications for this investigation; and

WHEREAS, Under the supervision of Wichita social scientist Galyn A. Vesey, an adjunct instructor at Bethel, students at Bethel College will contribute to the Research on Black Wichita project, by collecting data through document searches and other research methods; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Galyn A. Vesey hopes to bring recognition to the many unsung heroes and heroines of Black Wichita history; and

WHEREAS, The results of this project will include a manuscript and are aimed at the general public as well as high school youth and should go a long way in filling the void in information and understanding of the history of Black Wichita; and

WHEREAS, The Research on Black Wichita Project: 1945-1958 is a living project that explores the climate of Black Wichita during the 1940's and 1950's with a goal of bringing to life the areas in the city where most Black businesses and organizations thrived: Now, Therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas: That we congratulate and commend Dr. Galyn A. Vesey and all the people involved in the Research on Black Wichita: 1945—1958 Project Kansas for their outstanding work in making this important event happen and for gaining national recognition for the State of Kansas.

House Resolution No. 6010 was sponsored by Representative Melody McCray-Miller.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the HOUSE, and was adopted by that body

Speaker of the House.

Chief Clerk of the House.