

RESOLUTION NO.: R-2014-116

*Marking the passing and recognizing the many contributions of the nationally recognized entrepreneur, philanthropist and business icon Herman J. Russell*

ORIGINAL  
STAMPED IN RED

WHEREAS, Mr. Herman J. Russell was the founder and former chief executive officer of H. J. Russell and Company and a nationally recognized entrepreneur and philanthropist amassing one of the nation's most profitable minority-owned business empires, turning a small plaster company into a construction and real estate conglomerate; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Russell's construction empire grew and diversified throughout the 1960's and 1970's paralleling the changing racial status quo of African-Americans and his track record of successful joint partnerships on large scale projects with white-owned construction companies bolstered his business reputation across public and private sectors; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Russell demonstrated exemplary business, civic, and community leadership throughout his prosperous and lengthy career helping thousands of black businesses prosper and opening doors to minority businesses across America and, in the early 1960's, became the first black member and later the second black president of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Russell's outstanding business and civic contributions as a trailblazer architect of 21st century Atlanta have been widely praised by dozens of organizations including, in 1991, when he received the Horatio Alger Award recognizing dedicated community leaders who demonstrate individual initiative and commitment to excellence; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Russell died at 83 years-old on Saturday, November 15, 2014 and is survived by his wife Sylvia, sons Michael and Jerome Russell and daughter Donata Russell Major as well as two stepsons, two daughters in-law and eight grandchildren including grandson Benjamin Russell, a student at the University of South Carolina and member of the Gamecock Football team; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED on this 18th day of November, 2014 that the Mayor and Columbia City Council do hereby mark the passing of Mr. Herman J. Russell in mourning with his family and recognize his many contributions as a nationally recognized entrepreneur, philanthropist and business icon.

Requested by:

Mayor Benjamin \_\_\_\_\_

  
Mayor

Approved by:

  
City Manager

Approved as to form:

  
City Attorney

ATTEST:

  
City Clerk

Introduced: 11/18/2014  
Final Reading: 11/18/2014