

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

25-144

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

November 7, 2023

To posthumously recognize and honor Reverend Doctor Sandra Butler-Truesdale for her significant contributions to our local jazz community and her outstanding years of public service in the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, Dr. Butler-Truesdale was born in Washington, DC on November 15th, 1939, and devoted her life to preserving, protecting and promoting the artistic legacies of the District's professional musicians;

WHEREAS, Dr. Butler-Truesdale was the founder and chair of DC Legendary Musicians, Inc., an organization that preserves, protects, and promotes the artistic legacy, contributions, and well-being of the District's jazz scene;

WHEREAS, Dr. Butler-Truesdale, was a lifelong advocate, jazz historian, and servant leader who dedicated herself to the betterment of the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, throughout her illustrious life, Dr. Butler-Truesdale demonstrated an unwavering commitment to public service, serving as Chair of the DC Democrat Party, Chair of the Ward 4 Democrats, Commissioner of ANC 4C07, Ward 4 Representative to the DC Board of Education, Chair of the Citizens Advisory Council, Chair of the Communications Workers of America's Affordable Housing Committee, and Associate Pastor of Metropolitan AME Church;

WHEREAS, Sandra Butler-Truesdale most recently called Southwest and Ward 6 her home, becoming an active voice to support her neighborhood and extend arts and music throughout the Southwest community, especially with collaboration on regular cultural and musical gatherings, such as Westminster Presbyterian Church's well known Friday Night Jazz series that features legendary District artists and musicians;

WHEREAS, Dr. Butler-Truesdale also served as a prolific author, sharing her profound knowledge and insights in local publications, enlightening readers about the rich history of the Black community in the District;

WHEREAS, Dr. Butler-Truesdale's remarkable leadership was instrumental in the redevelopment and restoration of the Campbell Heights Senior Citizens Apartments, as well as the restoration of the historic Paul Laurence Dunbar Apartments at 15th & U St., NW;

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WHEREAS, Dr. Butler-Truesdale played an integral role in the rejuvenation of the historic Howard Theatre, a monumental cultural institution that had been dormant for 2 decades;

WHEREAS, her impact stretched beyond the realm of politics, as Dr. Butler-Truesdale exhibited a deep commitment to empowering the community by nurturing young artists, supporting local music, and mentoring future leaders;

WHEREAS, her dedication as a DC music historian, along with her work alongside iconic musicians such as Ray Charles and James Brown, earned her recognition and respect in the world of music;

WHEREAS, her powerful voice echoed across the District through WPFW Radio (89.3 FM), where she served as a programmer, writer, and producer, notably on shows like "Don't Forget the Blues" and "Jazz Stories," forging connections with countless listeners;

WHEREAS, in one of her last interviews before her passing, Dr. Butler-Truesdale expressed that she would miss engaging with people, underscoring her deep love for connecting with others; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Butler-Truesdale's legacy as an advocate, historian, musician, community organizer, and mentor serves as an enduring testament to the possibilities of a life lived with passion, purpose, and unwavering commitment to the betterment of people and communities.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Reverend Doctor Sandra Butler-Truesdale Ceremonial Recognition Resolution of 2023".

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and honors the life and legacy of Reverend Doctor Sandra Butler-Truesdale as a Washingtonian, a historian, an advocate, a musician, and a community builder.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.