

A RESOLUTION
NO. _____

A RESOLUTION COMMENDING JOHN RIVERS FOR HIS ARCHITECTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CITY OF COLUMBUS.

WHEREAS, John Rivers was born to Lula Frances Snyder and John R. Rivers on August 24 1942 in McClellanville, S.C.; and

WHEREAS, he was a member of the 1955 Cannon Street All Stars Baseball Team that was denied the opportunity to play in the Little League World Series because of segregation; and

WHEREAS, he graduated in 1965 from Hampton Institute with a degree in art, he went on to Columbia University graduate school of architecture from 1968 to 1969, and became a licensed architect in 1990; a profession that even today out of the over 100,000 architects nationally, only approximately 2,500 are African American; and

WHEREAS, in March of 1998 he was hired by Hecht Burdeshaw Johnson Kidd and Clark to be the onsite architect to supervise the construction of the Rivercenter for the Performing Arts and was eventually given a permanent position; and

WHEREAS, in 2004 Mr. Rivers established his own firm, John Rivers Associates Inc., (JIRA), for five years the only African American architect in Columbus and;

WHEREAS, significant projects completed by Mr. Rivers include: The River Center for the Performing Arts, St. James AME Church Renovation, Friendship Baptist Church Renovation, the Coffee Beanery, Liberty Theater Distinctive Sidewalk Paving, Allen Temple design drawing, and the design services for Enrichment Services; and

WHEREAS, he was the President of the West Georgia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, AIA, was a Leadership Columbus Graduate, received the MLK Breakfast Award of Appreciation from Alpha Psi Alpha Fraternity, a Ten Years in Business Award from Congressman Sanford Bishop and served as a board member of the Columbus Technical College Foundation; and

WHEREAS, in 2014 Mr. Rivers retired, and he and his wife of 60 years Mrs. Robenia Sumpter Rivers live in South America and have two children daughter Sophia Gail Rivers and son M. Von Nkosi and four grandchildren.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA HEREBY RESOLVES:

This Council wishes to commend Mr. John Rivers for opening avenues in the field of architecture for the minority community and celebrate his architectural fingerprint on the city of Columbus Georgia made through his numerous significant design projects.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the ___ day of _____, 2023 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

- Councilor Allen voting _____
- Councilor Barnes voting _____
- Councilor Begly voting _____
- Councilor Cogle voting _____
- Councilor Crabb voting _____
- Councilor Davis voting _____
- Councilor Garrett voting _____
- Councilor Huff voting _____
- Councilor Thomas voting _____
- Councilor Tucker voting _____

SANDRA T. DAVIS,
CLERK OF COUNCIL

B.H. "SKIP" HENDERSON,
MAYOR