

Formal Awards Ceremony Docket

For Official Presentation: Monday, 26 July 2021 Updated 7.26.2021: 16:20 hrs/feh

#	TITLE/RECIPIENT	TYPE	SUMMARY/NARRATIVE	MAIN PRESENTER
1	Dr. Thelma Bland Watson Executive Director, Senior Connections, the Capital Area Agency on Aging	RICHMOND CITY COUNCIL IN MEMORIAM RECOGNITION AWARD	To recognize, honor, and celebrate the life of the late Dr. Thelma Bland Watson for her dedication and service to championing the needs of seniors.	Robertson
2	Horace Alphonso "Bubba" Carter III Richmond Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Facilities	RICHMOND CITY COUNCIL IN MEMORIAM RECOGNITION AWARD	To recognize, honor, and celebrate the life of Horace Alphonso "Bubba" Carter III for more than half a century of extraordinary service, dedication, leadership, and commitment as a lifeguard and swimming instructor on behalf of Richmond's children, families, and our community.	Lambert

The following Richmond City Council Formal Awards were presented in the community at a different date.

3	Richmond and Virginia Anniversary of Hiring the First Career Firefighters of African American Descent <i>Presented Provided for presentation at a community event on July 11, 2021.</i>	RICHMOND CITY COUNCIL OFFICIAL RECOGNITION AWARD	To re-affirm the date of July 1 in perpetuity as the Richmond and Virginia anniversary of hiring the first career firefighters of African American descent; to recognize, honor, and celebrate these trailblazing firefighters; and, to herald this important chapter in the advancement of our city's progressive narrative arc on behalf of all its residents.	Newbille
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Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

RICHMOND IN MEMORIAM RECOGNITION

Dr. Thelma Bland Watson

Executive Director, Senior Connections, the Capital Area Agency on Aging

Richmond City Council, the governing legislative institution of Richmond, Virginia, in the United States of America, does hereby recognize, honor, and celebrate the life of the late Dr. Thelma Bland Watson for her dedicated service to championing the needs of seniors.

Providing assistance for her grandmother at age 9 started Dr. Thelma Bland Watson down a lifelong path focused on improving the care of seniors at the federal, state, and local levels. Her career began shortly after graduating from Virginia State University with a degree in sociology. She later earned a Master's degree in gerontology as well as a Doctorate in public policy and administration from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Dr. Watson served from 2002 until her passing as the Executive Director of Senior Connections, a 501C nonprofit organization based in Richmond that provides opportunities to improve the quality of life of seniors and their caregivers. During Dr. Watson's tenure, Senior Connections grew to serve 25,000 seniors per year via a spectrum of programs including home-delivered meals, health and wellness classes, money management, and counseling, among many others. To spotlight the financial needs of Senior Connections, Dr. Watson started the "Empty Plate Luncheon", an annual fundraiser that used empty plates to symbolize unmet demand for services.

Before her tenure at Senior Connections, Dr. Thelma Bland Watson served the senior population in a variety of policymaking roles at all levels of government, including the National Committee on Social Security and Aging; the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (where she was appointed and reappointed by both Democratic and Republican Virginia Governors); and the Crater District Area Agency on Aging and Crater Planning District in the Petersburg area. She also served on a variety of advisory boards and commissions related to aging, medical care, and quality of life improvement.

In recognition of her contributions and efforts to improve the lives of others, Dr. Watson received many honors and accolades over her career, including recognition in 2015 with a Humanitarian Award from the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities, and being named a 2019 Person of the Year Honoree by the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Now, Therefore, Richmond City Council does hereby officially recognize, honor, and celebrate the life and contributions of Dr. Thelma Bland Watson for her extraordinary service, dedication, leadership, and commitment on behalf of seniors, their families, and their caregivers; and wishes to bring her life and legacy to the attention of all Richmond residents.

In witness whereof, this pronouncement was prepared for Richmond City Council presentation on the fourteenth day of June, two thousand twenty-one, in the two hundred eighty-third year of the foundation of Richmond in 1737, in the two hundred forty-fourth year of the Commonwealth of Virginia and United States of America.

The Honorable Cynthia I. Newbille
Council President, Richmond City Council
Councilmember, Richmond East End 7th Voter District

The Honorable Ellen F. Robertson
Council Vice President, Richmond City Council
Councilmember, Richmond Gateway 6th Voter District

Richmond City Council - Richmond City Hall - 900 East Broad Street - Richmond, Virginia 23219 - U.S.A.



Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

RICHMOND IN MEMORIAM RECOGNITION

Horace Alphonso Carter III

Helped Richmonders Swim Safely for More Than Half a Century

Richmond City Council, the governing legislative institution of Richmond, Virginia, in the United States of America, does hereby recognize, honor, and celebrate the life of the late Horace Alphonso "Bubba" Carter III for more than 50 years of service to the Richmond community.

Growing up in the Navy Hill and Jackson Ward neighborhoods of Richmond, Mr. Carter attended Richmond Public Schools and graduated from Maggie L. Walker High School in 1958. Afterwards, he attended Virginia Commonwealth University, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Recreational Therapy.

Mr. Carter's lifelong love of swimming led to a career with the Richmond Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Facilities, where he was employed as a lifeguard at the swimming pool at Brook Field Park which, at that time, was the only city swimming pool open to Richmond's African American community. Mr. Carter later served as a lifeguard at the now-closed Calhoun Community Center swimming pool at Gilpin Court and the Swansboro Pool, as well as a seasonal lifeguard post-retirement.

A tireless advocate for swimming safety, Mr. Carter taught swimming lessons to Richmond's youth in a nurturing, safe environment. He undoubtedly inspired, motivated, and empowered countless young minds, hearts, bodies, and spirits as they learned how to safely navigate the water. In addition to personally serving as a swimming instructor, Mr. Carter also advocated for swimming instruction while serving in management positions over the years at multiple Richmond Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Facilities sites, including the Blackwell Pool and the swimming pools at the Battery Park and Calhoun Community Centers.

In addition to his tenure with the Richmond Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Facilities, Mr. Carter served as a recreational therapist at the Hunter Holmes McGuire Veterans Affairs Medical Center for 20 years.

Now, Therefore, Richmond City Council does hereby officially recognize, honor, and celebrate the life of Horace Alphonso "Bubba" Carter III for more than half a century of extraordinary service, dedication, leadership, and commitment on behalf of Richmond's children, families, and our community; and humbly and graciously thanks his family for sharing him with us for so long as he worked to make our city an even better and safer place to live, love, work, learn, play, visit, enjoy, and raise a family.

In witness whereof, this pronouncement was prepared for Richmond City Council presentation on the twenty-sixth day of July, two thousand twenty-one, in the two hundred eighty-third year of the foundation of Richmond in 1737, in the two hundred forty-fourth year of the Commonwealth of Virginia and United States of America.

The Honorable Cynthia I. Newbille
Council President, Richmond City Council
Councilmember, Richmond East End 7th Voter District

The Honorable Ellen F. Robertson
Council Vice President, Richmond City Council
Councilmember, Richmond Gateway 6th Voter District

The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert
Councilmember, Richmond City Council
Richmond Northside 3rd Voter District

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Richmond, Virginia

RICHMOND RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested in the United States of America, Commonwealth of Virginia, Virginia Code of Laws, and the Richmond City Charter, Richmond City Council, the governing legislative institution of Richmond, Virginia, in the United States of America, does hereby and officially recognize the:

Richmond and Virginia Anniversary of Hiring the First Career Firefighters of African American Descent

Richmond City Council, the governing legislative institution of Richmond, Virginia, in the United States of America, has established July 1 as the Richmond and Virginia Anniversary of Hiring the First Career Firefighters of African American Descent.

Blazing the way for racial integration of Richmond and all career fire departments in Virginia, on July 1, 1950, the Richmond Department of Fire and Emergency Services (then named the Richmond Fire Bureau) hired and trained 10 career Firefighters of African American descent, assigning them to Fire Engine Company # 9, then located at Fifth and Duval Streets in the city's Northside.

The distinguished roster of Richmond's and Virginia's first Firefighters of African American descent includes Charles L. Belle, William E. Brown, Douglas P. Evans, Harvey S. Hicks II, Warren W. Kersey, Farrar Lucas, Bernard C. Lewis, Arthur L. Page, Arthur C. St. John and Linwood M. Woodridge. Arthur C. St. John was recalled to military service in 1950 and Farrar Lucas resigned in 1951; their vacancies were filled by Frederick J. Robinson and Oscar L. Blake, respectively.

The pioneering efforts of these outstanding individuals are a tributes to their dedication, strength, and personal achievement, and mark the continued progress of Virginia, Richmond, and the Richmond Department of Fire and Emergency Services in leading the way for progress during a disgraceful time in our Nation's history when the practice of racial segregation denied many people of equal education, work opportunity, facilities, and accommodations.

Due to its historic significance, in 2010, Richmond City Council officially commemorated July 1 for the Richmond and Virginia Anniversary of Hiring the First Career Firefighters of African American Descent and Richmond forever venerates these intrepid souls and the significance of their achievement on behalf of our city, state, and nation.

In 2019, Richmond City Council further established the recognition of July 1 as the Richmond and Virginia Anniversary of Hiring the First Career Firefighters of African American Descent and set that date in permanence and perpetuity for that purpose.

Essential to the safety and security of Richmond residents and visitors is having dedicated career fire and emergency services, which includes firefighters, officers, staff, and support personnel, as provided by the Richmond Department of Fire and Emergency Services, who serve with honor and fortitude in delivery of their duty, which, due to the exceptional nature of their work, puts them in harm's way.

Now, Therefore, Richmond City Council again re-affirms the day of July 1 as the Richmond and Virginia Anniversary of Hiring the First Career Firefighters of African American Descent; acknowledges these trailblazing firefighters; and, heralds this important chapter in the advancement of our city's progressive narrative arc on behalf of all its residents.

In Witness Whereof, we have hereunto given under our hands for presentation on the eleventh day of July, two thousand twenty one, of the Common Era, in the two hundred eighty-third year of the foundation of Richmond in 1737, in the two hundred forty-fourth year of the Commonwealth of Virginia and United States of America.

The Honorable Cynthia I. Newbille
Council President, Richmond City Council
Councilmember, Richmond East End 7th Voter District

The Honorable Ellen F. Robertson
Council Vice President, Richmond City Council
Councilmember, Richmond Gateway 6th Voter District

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