



City of Cambridge

R-9.

IN CITY COUNCIL

February 26, 2001

MAYOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR BORN
COUNCILLOR BRAUDE
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR DECKER
VICE MAYOR MAHER
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: For nearly half a century, Dr. Dorothy Irene Height has given leadership to the struggle for equality and human rights for all people. Her life exemplifies her passionate commitment for a just society and her vision of a better world; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Height was born in Richmond, Virginia, March 24, 1912, and educated in the public schools in Rankin, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Height established herself early in life as a dedicated student with exceptional oratorical skills; and

WHEREAS: With a \$1,000 scholarship for winning a national oratorical contest and a record of scholastic excellence, she enrolled in New York University and earned the bachelor and master's degrees in four years, and has received over twenty-four honorary degrees from various institutions worldwide; and

WHEREAS: Employed in many capacities by both government and social service associations, she is known primarily by her leadership role with the YWCA, and the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW); and

WHEREAS: While working as a caseworker for the New York Welfare Department, she was the first Black named to deal with the Harlem riots of 1935 and became one of the young leaders of the National Youth Movement of the New Deal era; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Height's career as a civil rights advocate began to unfold as she worked to prevent lynching, desegregate the armed forces, reform the criminal justice system and fought for free access to public accommodations; and

WHEREAS: On November 7, 1937, Dr. Height answered the call of Mary McLeod Bethune, President of the National Council of Negro Women, to join the quest for women's rights, full and equal employment, pay equity and educational advancement; and

- WHEREAS: Dr. Height was elected national president of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority in 1947 and carried the sorority to a new level of organizational development throughout her term, which ended in 1956; and
- WHEREAS: Dr. Height quickly rose through the ranks of the YWCA, where she held several leadership positions and assumed responsibility for developing leadership training activities for volunteers and staff as well as programs to promote interracial and ecumenical education; and
- WHEREAS: In 1956 she inaugurated and became Director of the Center for Racial Justice, a position she held until 1977 when she retired from the National YWCA of the USA; and
- WHEREAS: From the Presidency of Delta Sigma Theta, Dr. Height assumed the presidency of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) in 1957 until February 2, 1998 when she became Chair and President Emerita; and
- WHEREAS: As the fourth elected President of the NCNW, Dr. Height led a crusade for justice for Black women and worked to strengthen the Black family; and
- WHEREAS: In the 1960's Height placed the organization on an action course of issue-oriented politics, sponsoring "Wednesdays in Mississippi" when interracial groups of women would help out at Freedom Schools; voter education drives in the North and voter registration drives in the South, and establishing communication between black and white women; and
- WHEREAS: As a promoter of positive black family life, Dr. Height conceived of and organized the Black Family Reunion Celebration in 1986 to reinforce the historic strengths and traditional values for the African American family. Now in its eleventh year in nine cities, the Black Family Reunion Celebration has made a difference in the lives of those fourteen million who have participated; and
- WHEREAS: Under the leadership of Dr. Height, NCNW achieved tax exempt status; developed several model national and community based programs ranging from teenage parenting to eradicating hunger in rural areas; and established the Bethune Museum and Archives for Black Women, the first institution devoted to black women's history; and
- WHEREAS: Dr. Height is known for her extensive international and developmental education, leading major leadership training assignments in Asia, Africa Europe and South Africa; and
- WHEREAS: Dr. Height served as a delegate to the UNESCO Conference on Women's rights held in Kingston, Jamaica, in 1974; and in 1975 participated in the Tribunal at the International Women's Year Conference of the United Nations at Mexico City; and
- WHEREAS: Dr. Height's distinguished service and contribution to making the world more just and humane have earned her over fifty awards and honors from local, state, and national organizations and the federal government; and

WHEREAS: Working closely with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Roy Wilkins, Whitney Young, A. Phillip Randolph and others, Dr. Height participated in virtually all major civil and human rights events in the 1960's; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Height received the Spingarn Medal from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) IN July 1993, was inducted into the "National Women's Hall of Fame" in October 1993, and was presented the Presidential Medal of Freedom Award in August 1994 by President Bill Clinton; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Height worked with the United States Conference of Mayors for nearly 15 years to recognize exemplary volunteer efforts undertaken by cities; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That as a result of her extraordinary leadership in advancing women's rights, here dedication to the liberation of Black America and her selfless determination, Dr. Height has carried out the dream of her friend and mentor, Mary McLeod Bethune, to leave on one behind; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City of Cambridge does hereby proclaim February 28, 2001 as

DR. DOROTHY IRENE HEIGHT DAY

In the City of Cambridge; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the U.S. Conference of Mayors on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council February 26, 2001.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-



D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

2/13/01
3:28 pm
E-9

February 13, 2001

MAYOR GALLUCICO

The Clerk is hereby requested to prepare a suitable order proclaiming February 28, 2001 as "Dr. Dorothy Irene Height Day".

2001 FEB 13 P 3:28
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

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Resolution #9

Declaring Wednesday, February 28th
as "Dr. Dorothy Irene Height Day" in
the City of Cambridge.

Mayor Galluccio

In City Council February 26, 2001

ORDER ADOPTED