

WHEREAS: "We knew that we could not allow Harvard to isolate or insulate us from the African American communities from which we had come. Some of us even felt a sense of guilt for being at a place like Harvard. The only way to alleviate that feeling was to remind ourselves that our true identity was not determined by a Harvard education and that our primary purpose for being there was to prepare ourselves to serve our brothers and sisters we had left behind. Yet, there were no formal institutional structures in place at Harvard to help us sustain this sense of black responsibility and accountability"; and

WHEREAS: There are wonderful groups like Black CAST, the Dennis Wiley Black Ensemble, and the Kuumba Singers, but what made the emergence of the Kuumba Singers so amazing is that this group represented our need to reclaim both our cultural *and* our spiritual roots (as if the two could ever really be separated); and

WHEREAS: Thirty-five long, jubilant years later we celebrate the Kuumba Singers and their visionary founders, Reverend Dr. Dennis Wiley and Reverend Fred Lucas; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council prepare a suitably engrossed copy to the Kuumba Singers, Reverend Dr. Dennis Wiley and Reverend Fred Lucas for presentation on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council April 25, 2005.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "D. Margaret Drury". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

fund request a



City of Cambridge

R-94.

IN CITY COUNCIL

April 25, 2005

COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
VICE MAYOR DECKER
COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR MAHER
COUNCILLOR MURPHY
COUNCILLOR SIMMONS
MAYOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: The City Council welcomes Reverend Dr. Dennis Wiley and Reverend Fred Lucas, the founders of Harvard's Kuumba Singers; and

WHEREAS: Reverend Dennis Wiley and Reverend Fred Lucas founded the Kuumba Singers in 1970; and

WHEREAS: Quoting from Reverend Dr. Wiley's recollection ... "In the late nineteen sixties, Harvard University was a strange land, indeed, for African and African American students. Not only did the curriculum offer little that dealt with the unique history and experience of black people, but the institution itself was culturally alien, and sometimes even hostile, to students of African descent. As the University struggled with the moral, social, and political obligations to accept more black students, the few who found themselves at Harvard struggled to make it a more user-friendly environment. This was not easy;" and

WHEREAS: "Harvard was not established to honor black people's cultural uniqueness, not even to acknowledge that there is such a thing. Therefore, in the days before there was an Afro-American Studies Department, or a W.E.B. DuBois Institute, or an Afro-American Cultural Center (by the way, what ever happened to it?), or the Kuumba Singers, black students on campus were left to create little pockets of social and cultural reinforcement whenever and wherever the opportunity presented itself. If this meant attending a crowded party in the cramped quarters of someone's room or suite, that is what we did. If it meant sitting and eating and laughing together at the "black table" during meal time, that is what we did. If it mean rooming together, studying together, protesting together, or just *being* together, that is what we did. In the wake of a growing nationwide movement affirming Black Power and Black Pride, we knew that we could not matriculate at Harvard and forget our past, nor could we pretend to be what we were not;" and

RESOLUTION #94

Welcome to Reverend Dr. Dennis
Wiley and the Reverend Fred
Lucas, the founders of Harvard's
Kuumba Singers.

**Councillor Reeves and entire
membership**

In City Council April 25, 2005

ORDER ADOPTED