

City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia Office of the Chief Clerk Room 402, City Hall Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 250792)

RESOLUTION

Recognizing Steve Jamison, owner of Blue Sole Shoes, an exceptional minority small business owner, for his creativity, resilience, and uniquely Philadelphian response to adversity.

WHEREAS, Steve Jamison, a proud native of Nicetown and longtime resident of East Oak Lane, has been a fixture in Philadelphia's small business community since opening Blue Sole Shoes at 1805 Chestnut Street in 2007; and

WHEREAS, Inspired by the joy he felt as a child receiving his first pair of designer shoes, Jamison has spent nearly two decades helping Philadelphians, including many notable celebrities like Steve Harvey, Alice Cooper, and Bernard Hopkins, feel and look their best; and

WHEREAS, In August, when a brick was thrown through the front window of his store, Jamison responded not with anger, but with a remarkable act of ingenuity, turning the shattered glass into a display piece by embedding a leather boot into the cracked window, creating a work of public art that has delighted passersby and sparked conversation throughout the City; and

WHEREAS, Jamison's creative gesture not only drew attention to his store but lifted the spirits of the community, demonstrating how personal resilience and artistic expression can be tools for healing, visibility, and joy; and

WHEREAS, This is not the first time Jamison has shown grace under pressure; following the civil unrest in 2020, Blue Sole Shoes was vandalized, but Jamison was met with community support, including neighbors and strangers alike who helped him protect his store and recognized its importance as a Black-owned business in Center City; and

WHEREAS, Small businesses serve not only as engines of economic growth, but also as pillars of community creativity, as exemplified by Jamison's response to this situation; and

WHEREAS, Owners of small businesses in Philadelphia have consistently proven that embedding in the community and striving to connect with passersby can help to turn a potential setback into an opportunity to show resilience; and

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WHEREAS, Jamison’s response of turning broken glass into a moment of connection, curiosity, and joy for his community; and doing so not as a performance, but as a reflection of who he truly is, a man grounded in gratitude, shaped by his roots, and guided by a deep belief in lifting others up, even in the face of adversity; and

WHEREAS, Jamison’s continued dedication to his business, his customers, and his city, coupled with his unshakable “hardcore Philly” spirit, exemplifies the strength, creativity, and perseverance that defines Philadelphia at its best; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Hereby recognizes and honors Steve Jamison for his inspiring creativity, community spirit, and unwavering commitment to his business and his hometown.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That an Engrossed copy of this Resolution be presented to Steve Jamison to represent the impact he has made in his community.

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CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the eighteenth day of September, 2025.

Kenyatta Johnson
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Elizabeth McCollum
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Bass

Sponsored by: Council President Johnson, Councilmembers Ahmad, Brooks, Gauthier, Gilmore Richardson, Harrity, Jones, Landau, Lozada, O'Neill, O'Rourke, Phillips, Squilla, Thomas and Young