

City of Philadelphia



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

(Resolution No. 260147)

RESOLUTION

Recognizing and celebrating Dr. Carol Simmons, Nyoca Carr, Estelle Vaughn, Pela McFee, Carolyn Booker, Winnie Harris, and the Black women who devote their lives to nourishing their neighbors and communities across Philadelphia, on the occasion of Black History Month.

WHEREAS, Philadelphia's community gardens are a staple of the neighborhoods they enrich and of the nutrition in those neighborhoods. Reclaiming unused land, community gardeners bring in their neighbors to help support the land, teach young people how to care for and nurture the land, and create healthy fresh food for their community from the land; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Carol Simmons, the Executive Director of the Black Farmers, celebrated her 80th birthday on February 20, 2026, has been a visionary leader, educator, and organizer whose life's work has transformed abandoned and overlooked spaces into places of growth, hope, and possibility; and through her tireless efforts to remediate soil, coax crops from neglected land, and teach her community the importance of recycling, composting, and environmental stewardship, she has empowered neighbors to care for both the earth and one another; and with open arms, she has welcomed friends and strangers alike into this sacred work passing on knowledge, cultivating leadership, and inspiring collective pride in their blocks; and guided by her belief in "painting a corner of the universe with beauty" and doing something productive in the name of a better world, she has left an enduring legacy of restoration, dignity, and love that continues to uplift the City of Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, Nyoca Carr has devoted more than 25 years of unwavering service to caring for urban gardens and community farm spaces quietly and faithfully painting, picking up trash, tending the grounds, and ensuring these sacred spaces remain clean, safe, and welcoming places where neighbors can gather, heal, and connect; and through her acts of love, she has not only beautified her surroundings, but has also nourished her community by cooking for neighbors, showing up consistently, and leading by example; and her steadfast commitment, humility, and pride in service have inspired generations of residents to value stewardship, collective responsibility, and the power of caring for one another; and she stands as a living testament to the spirit and resilience that make the City of Philadelphia a City second to none; and

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WHEREAS, Estelle Vaughn, Pela McFee, and Carolyn Booker have faithfully grown food for their neighbors for many years, serving as beloved community caregivers who devote their time, labor, and love to nurturing those around them at Tioga-Hope Park & Garden at 20th and Tioga Street; and as leaders in the urban farming movement, they have not been afraid to get their hands dirty, planting beautiful crops, welcoming volunteers, and bringing more community members into the practice of gardening and food justice; and their work stands as a unique and inspiring testament to the power of grassroots organizing, environmental stewardship, and collective care within their community; and

WHEREAS, Winnie Harris was a leader in the urban farming movement who planted seeds that continue to grow to this day; and the work she did has borne fruit year after year as community gardens thrive as safe, healing spaces that nourish neighborhoods, build food sovereignty, and strengthen community bonds; and these sacred spaces are increasingly protected by the City of Philadelphia through the advocacy of Estelle, Winnie, and those who carry forward their legacy of environmental justice and community stewardship; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Hereby recognizes and celebrates Dr. Carol Simmons, Nyoca Carr, Estelle Vaughn, Pela McFee, Carolyn Booker, Winnie Harris, and the Black women who devote their lives to nourishing their neighbors and communities across Philadelphia, on the occasion of Black History Month.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That three Engrossed copies of this Resolution be presented to Dr. Carol Simmons, Nyoca Carr, Winnie Harris, and the women of Tioga-Hope Park & Garden as evidence of the admiration and respect of this Council.

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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 twenty-sixth day of February, 2026.

Kenyatta Johnson
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Elizabeth McCollum
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Brooks

Sponsored by: Council President Johnson, Councilmembers Brooks, Phillips, Gauthier, Landau, Harrity, O'Rourke, Driscoll, Squilla and Ahmad