

City of Philadelphia



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

(Resolution No. 260349)

RESOLUTION

Honoring and recognizing Ezechial Thurman, Music Technology Teacher at Hill-Freedman World Academy, for his creativity, mentorship, and dedication to enriching the educational experience of young people through music, innovation, and student-centered learning in the Ninth Councilmanic District.

WHEREAS, The Council of the City of Philadelphia recognizes that a strong public education system includes opportunities for students to explore creativity, technology, leadership, and self-expression, and that educators who cultivate these opportunities help young people discover their talents, build confidence, and envision new possibilities for their futures; and

WHEREAS, Ezechial “Zeke” Thurman is a veteran educator, accomplished operatic tenor, and worship leader who has dedicated his life and career to youth empowerment through the arts, and since 2016 has served as the Music Technology Teacher at Hill-Freedman World Academy High School, where he founded Hill-Freedman Records, a student-run record label that serves as a platform for student voice and creativity; and

WHEREAS, Under Ezechial Thurman’s leadership, students at Hill-Freedman have produced eight studio albums, including the 2022 Emmy-nominated *Growing Up Black*, the subject of the John Legend-produced HBO documentary *Stand Up & Shout*, reflecting both the excellence of the program and the transformative power of arts education rooted in authentic expression; and

WHEREAS, With more than 26 years of teaching in the School District of Philadelphia and seven years on the faculty at Eastern University, Ezechial Thurman has consistently integrated anti-racism, leadership development, and social-emotional wellness into his curriculum, helping students grow as artists and as engaged, confident members of their community; and

WHEREAS, An award-winning educator and lifelong artist, Ezechial Thurman is a Lindback Award recipient who has performed professionally as an operatic tenor for more than 30 years, currently serves as a worship leader at Christ Church in Rockaway, New Jersey, and resides in Philadelphia with his wife, Tiffany, and daughter, Alicia, reflecting a life of excellence, service, and commitment to uplifting others through music and mentorship; now, therefore, be it

City of Philadelphia

RESOLUTION NO. 260349 continued

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Hereby honors and recognizes Ezechial Thurman for his dedicated service, creativity, and positive impact as Music Technology Teacher at Hill-Freedman World Academy and as a champion for youth development in the Ninth Councilmanic District, and expresses the sincere admiration and appreciation of this legislative body for his commitment to the students and families of Philadelphia.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That an Engrossed copy of this Resolution be presented to Ezechial Thurman as an expression of the admiration and respect of this legislative body for his outstanding work and dedication to empowering Philadelphia's youth.

City of Philadelphia

RESOLUTION NO. 260349 continued

CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the sixteenth day of April, 2026.

Kenyatta Johnson
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Elizabeth McCollum
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Phillips

Sponsored by: Councilmembers, Phillips, Gilmore Richardson, Landau,
Lozada, Brooks and Squilla