

City of Philadelphia



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

(Resolution No. 240756)

RESOLUTION

Honoring and Recognizing Sarah Collins Rudolph, a survivor of the tragic Sixteenth Street Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham, Alabama, for her unwavering courage, her dedication to social justice, and her profound impact on the civil rights movement.

WHEREAS, Sarah Collins Rudolph is a resilient and remarkable individual whose life and experiences have significantly impacted the community and the nation; and

WHEREAS, On September 15, 1963, Sarah Collins Rudolph endured the tragic bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, an act of violence that claimed the lives of her beloved sister Addie Mae Collins and three other young girls, leaving Sarah herself with severe injuries and enduring scars; and

WHEREAS, Sarah Collins Rudolph's personal account of that harrowing day reveals not only the inhumanity of the violence but also the strength of her spirit and her unyielding commitment to honoring the memory of her sister and the other victims; and

WHEREAS, Despite the unimaginable pain and suffering she has faced, Sarah Collins Rudolph has courageously preserved and shared her story, illuminating the enduring struggle for civil rights and justice in America; and

WHEREAS, Sarah Collins Rudolph has actively participated in numerous public forums, including ESPN's "Outside the Lines," "Dear Black Athlete," and local youth events, using her voice to foster understanding, promote reconciliation, and inspire future generations; and

WHEREAS, Sarah Collins Rudolph has generously shared her story with audiences at various memorial services, including the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church bombing memorial service, and through her ongoing work to preserve and elevate the historical significance of the civil rights movement; and

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WHEREAS, Sarah Collins Rudolph has demonstrated incredible strength by continuing to lead a productive life, contributing to her community through her work and advocacy, while also finding solace in her faith, family, and personal pursuits; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Sarah Collins Rudolph for her unwavering courage, her dedication to social justice, and her profound impact on the civil rights movement and the ongoing fight for equality.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That an Engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to Sarah Collins Rudolph, in recognition and awe of this legislative body.

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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 twelfth day of September, 2024.

Kenyatta Johnson
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Elizabeth McCollum
INTERIM CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Jones

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Jones, Phillips, Landau, Young, Brooks,
Harrity, O'Rourke, Driscoll, Squilla and Bass