

City of Philadelphia



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

(Resolution No. 240070)

RESOLUTION

Honoring the life and legacy of Charisse McGill, founder of Lokal Artisan Foods, for her enduring dedication to the City of Philadelphia as a businesswoman and organizer.

WHEREAS, Charisse McGill tragically passed away on January 15, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Charisse McGill was formerly the director of special events at Valley Forge Military Academy, before leaving education to open her French Toast Bites food stand at Philadelphia's Christmas Village. She became well known in the City, notable for her infectious energy and unwavering positivity; and

WHEREAS, French Toast Bites' debut was followed up by appearances at various special, pop-up events and festivals such as the Roots Picnic and Made in America festival; and

WHEREAS, Charisse received awards and recognition from the Philadelphia 76ers Buy Black program, United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey, and the African American Chambers of Commerce of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. Additionally, Charisse was an annual participant in Councilmember Thomas' Black Business Crawl; and

WHEREAS, Charisse was appointed executive director of the Farmers Market Coalition, a national nonprofit that advocates for thousands of farmers markets; and

WHEREAS, Charisse was also an educator. At different points in her career, she was adjunct faculty at Montgomery County Community College, an instructor in the School District of Philadelphia's hospitality program, and a lecturer at Rutgers University; and

WHEREAS, Charisse worked tirelessly to create the Lokal company, which she has now left to her daughter, who will continue to run it in Charisse's memory; now, therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That we hereby honor the life and legacy of Charisse McGill, founder of Lokal Artisan Foods, for her enduring dedication to the city of Philadelphia as a businesswoman and organizer.

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FURTHER RESOLVED, That an Engrossed copy be presented to the family of Charisse McGill, further evidencing the sincere admiration and respect 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 first day of February, 2024.

KENYATTA JOHNSON
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Michael A. Decker
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Thomas

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Thomas, Landau, Bass, Phillips, Driscoll,
O'Rourke, Gauthier, Squilla and Brooks