

City of Philadelphia



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

(Resolution No. 051040)

RESOLUTION

Honoring the life and memory of Stefan Presser, 1953-2005.

WHEREAS, The City of Philadelphia is known as the Cradle of Liberty; and

WHEREAS, The core rights that protect all Americans were first signed into law in Philadelphia over 200 years ago as the Bill of Rights; and

WHEREAS, For nearly twenty years, Stefan Presser led the Philadelphia office of the American Civil Liberties Union as its legal director, defending and securing the civil rights of countless Philadelphians of all backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, Stefan Presser was born in Brooklyn in 1953 but made his home in Philadelphia beginning in 1983; and

WHEREAS, Stefan Presser's efforts brought about systemic changes in the way the City of Philadelphia handles foster care and neglect cases, resulting in a dramatic increase in the number of adoptions and a reduction in the number of children languishing in foster care; and

WHEREAS, He was instrumental in the exposure of police corruption in the 39th District and in the creation of the Integrity and Accountability Office; and

WHEREAS, Upon his death on October 7, 2005 he was described as "committed to his work with every molecule of his being"; and

WHEREAS, In his life he was guided by the Jewish principle of "tikkun olam," the obligation to repair the world, and inspired by Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, His rabbi described him as a "man of absolutely no cynicism," and he has left his adopted city a legacy of integrity and commitment to liberty; now therefore

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RESOLVED, That the Council of the City of Philadelphia honors the life and memory of Stefan Presser; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That an Engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to his wife, Sandra Sherman, and his children, David, Natania and Rachel Sherman-Presser, as evidence of the sincere sentiments of this 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 third of November, 2005.

Anna C. Verna
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Patricia Rafferty
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Reynolds Brown

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Reynolds Brown, DiCicco, Krajewski, Goode, Council President Verna, Councilmembers Blackwell, Nutter, Miller, Tasco, Kenney, Kelly, Rizzo, O'Neill, Ramos and Clarke