

City of Philadelphia



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

(Resolution No. 240128)

RESOLUTION

Honoring the Defender Association of Philadelphia on the 90th anniversary of the Association's founding and recognizing the contributions of the Association and its attorneys to Philadelphia's criminal justice system.

WHEREAS, The Defender Association of Philadelphia was founded in 1934 by a group of local Philadelphian lawyers who were dedicated to providing quality legal service for indigent criminal defendants. Following the landmark Supreme Court decision in *Gideon v. Wainwright*, the Association accepted responsibility as public defender for the City of Philadelphia, working to ensure that all criminal defendants can avail themselves of the rights guaranteed by the Sixth Amendment of the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, The Defenders Association of Philadelphia works diligently to provide high-quality legal representation to the citizens of the City of Philadelphia. Striving to support adult and juvenile justice, the Defender Association promotes courtroom advocacy and collaborates with vulnerable populations to ensure a fair and equitable justice system; and

WHEREAS, For ninety years, the Defender Association has worked to vindicate the rights of criminal defendants in Philadelphia. With attorneys representing more than 70 percent of defendants in adult and juvenile state court, the Association plays an invaluable role in promoting justice in our City; and

WHEREAS, In addition to providing legal representation to criminal defendants, Defender Association attorneys also serve as child advocates, representing children with open dependent petitions. In fulfilling this role, the Defenders Association has successfully advocated for children and families across Philadelphia, helping to advocate for important policy changes aimed at protecting vulnerable children and reducing the number of family separations; and

WHEREAS, The Defender Association of Philadelphia provides an invaluable service not only to the clients who they serve, but to all of our City's residents. In vindicating the rights of the underserved and advocating for the disadvantaged, the Defender Association has helped to create

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a more just Philadelphia, and the Council is proud to join in celebrating the Defenders' anniversary; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA hereby honors the Defender Association of Philadelphia on the 90th anniversary of the Association's founding and recognizes the contributions of the Association and its attorneys to Philadelphia's criminal justice system.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That an engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to the Defender Association of Philadelphia as evidence of the sincere sentiments 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 twenty-ninth day of February, 2024.

Kenyatta Johnson
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Elizabeth McCollum
INTERIM CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmembers Gilmore Richardson for Council President Johnson

Sponsored by: Council President Johnson Councilmembers Gilmore Richardson, Phillips, Bass, Thomas, Lozada, O'Rourke, Brooks, Young, Gauthier, Landau, Jones, Squilla, Harrity and O'Neill