

City of Philadelphia



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

(Resolution No. 260225)

RESOLUTION

Honoring and recognizing Mekia Elizabeth, Block Captain of the 4500 block of Fernhill Road in Southwest Germantown, for being named Block Captain of the Year by The Philadelphia Citizen and commending her outstanding leadership and dedication to building a stronger, more connected community in the City of Philadelphia.

WHEREAS, Mekia Elizabeth Matthews, a proud native of Southwest Germantown, has demonstrated extraordinary commitment to strengthening community bonds, empowering youth, and fostering neighbor-to-neighbor connection through creative grassroots initiatives on the 4500 block of Fernhill Road; and

WHEREAS, Inspired by the legacy of the women who shaped her life, particularly her grandmother Elizabeth, Mekia Elizabeth has worked tirelessly to transform her block into a vibrant and supportive neighborhood community and launched self-serve neighborhood coffee station on her porch that would grow into St. Harmony Café, a gathering space designed to reduce isolation and encourage neighbors to get to know one another; and

WHEREAS, Through the success of St. Harmony Café, neighbors began sharing food, resources, and talents, while local youth received training opportunities, including barista instruction, and the café's community contributions helped fund initiatives including college scholarships for hardworking neighborhood student; and

WHEREAS, Through partnerships with neighbors, churches, and volunteers, Mekia Elizabeth helped establish youth programs, community gatherings, and summer Playstreets activities that provide safe and joyful environments for children and families across the neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, Mekia Elizabeth also serves as co-chair of the Friends group supporting Fernhill Park, where she has brought energy, creativity, and collaboration to strengthen the relationship between residents and one of their neighborhood's most valued public spaces; and

WHEREAS, Through her leadership, neighbors who once felt disconnected now share meals, talents, and responsibilities, teenagers once viewed as potential troublemakers now lead

City of Philadelphia

RESOLUTION NO. 260225 continued

community events and programs, and longtime residents now proudly contribute their skills and experiences to the betterment of their neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, The work led by Mekia Elizabeth has demonstrated that meaningful change begins with community members who are willing to invest their time, compassion, and imagination to uplift others, proving that the strength of Philadelphia lies in the resilience and unity of its neighborhoods; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Hereby honors and recognizes Mekia Elizabeth for her exceptional service as a Block Captain, her visionary leadership in Southwest Germantown, and her tireless dedication to building joyful, connected, and resilient communities across Philadelphia.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That an Engrossed copy of this Resolution be presented to Mekia Elizabeth as an expression of the admiration and gratitude of the Council of the City of Philadelphia.

City of Philadelphia

RESOLUTION NO. 260225 continued

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 March, 2026.

Kenyatta Johnson
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Elizabeth McCollum
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Bass

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