

City of Philadelphia



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

(Resolution No. 050320)

RESOLUTION

Honoring The Life Of Cushing Dolbeare.

WHEREAS, The world of low-income housing lost a life-long friend and advocate, Cushing Dolbeare on Thursday, March 17, 2005; and

WHEREAS, Cushing's work and dedication over the past 50 years will live on to inspire, inform and direct community development advocacy across the country for years to come; and

WHEREAS, Under Cushing's leadership, the Philadelphia Housing Association merged with the Fair Housing Council of Delaware Valley, and became the Housing Association of Delaware Valley and from 1956 to 1971 and Cushing Dolbeare held the post of Managing Director of the Housing Association of Delaware Valley, where she used public information, technical assistance, research and watch dogging to expand housing opportunities and to fight to end racism and exploitation in housing; and

WHEREAS, In 1974, she brought together advocates from housing, labor, civil rights, religious and social service groups on a national level and founded the National Low Income Housing Coalition and because of her tireless work former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Andrew Cuomo called her "the Rosa Parks of housing."; and

WHEREAS, She served as NLIHC's Executive Director from 1977 to 1984 and again from 1993 to 1994 and remained active with NLJHC as a researcher, policy analyst, and board member until her death; and

WHEREAS, Cushing was one of the nation's leading experts on federal housing policy and the housing circumstances of low income people and designed the methodology for and was the original author of Out of Reach, NLJHC's widely cited annual report on the gap between housing costs and wages of low income people; and

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WHEREAS, She was also well-known for her work on analyzing federal housing subsidies, documenting the disparity between the cost of tax-based subsidies that benefit homeowners and direct spending on housing assistance for low income households; and

WHEREAS, In 1995, Jason DeParle wrote in the New York Times of this adviser, friend and mentor to several HUD Secretaries and countless housing advocates and researchers that Cushing Dolbeare was the “dean” of the Washington corps of housing advocates; and

WHEREAS, Cushing Dolbeare is survived by her husband of 49 years, Louis P. Dolbeare, their son Louis N. Dolbeare, their daughter Mary O’Kane, her sister Alice Lynd, and four grandchildren, now therefore

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That we hereby honor the life and work of Cushing Dolbeare who was both the conscience and the brains of the affordable housing movement and whose life’s work helped millions of low income people obtain homes and extends to her family with the sympathy, the most sincere gratitude for her life’s accomplishments.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That an Engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to her family further evidencing the sincere and admiration 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-first of April, 2005.

Anna C. Verna
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Patricia Rafferty
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Ramos

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Ramos, Goode, Mariano, Miller, DiCicco, Tasco, Reynolds Brown, Blackwell, Kenney, Council President Verna, Councilmembers Clarke, Rizzo and Krajewski