

City of Philadelphia



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

(Resolution No. 150293)

RESOLUTION

Commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the Odunde festival.

WHEREAS, Odunde was created in 1975 by Lois Fernandez and Arthur Ruth and now Oshunbumi Fernandez is the current CEO of Odunde, Inc.; and

WEREAS, The festival takes place the second Sunday every June covering 12 City blocks; and

WHEREAS, Odunde provides opportunities for people from diverse backgrounds to meet, engage, cultivate, and learn about the African Diaspora's heritage, communities, leadership and arts; and

WHEREAS, The Odunde festival has vendors from around the world who offer African artifacts, clothing and crafts, and African, Caribbean and Soul foods; and

WHEREAS, The festival's concept originated from the Yoruba people of Nigeria and West Africa and celebrates the many cultures and traditions of the African Diaspora; and

WHEREAS, One of the many highlights of the festival is the procession from 23rd and South Streets to the Schuylkill River to offer fruit and flowers to Oshun, the Yoruba goddess of the river; and

WHEREAS, Odunde365 is an initiative that was created as a way to provide cultural programming all year round in addition to the festival through arts and crafts classes, African dance classes for children and adults, and Zumba classes; and

WHEREAS, Odunde365 works with other programs such as I AM B.U.M.I. that teaches young ladies ages five to eighteen the importance of hygiene, etiquette, self-love and self-motivation; and

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WHEREAS, Ms. Oshunbumi Fernandez has been honored by the *Philadelphia Tribune* as one of the TOP 10, People Under 40 to watch in 2011, and was named in 2012 as one of the most influential leaders of 2012; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Fernandez was a member of Tom Corbett's trade mission delegation to Brazil and Chile and is a member of the Mayor's Commission on African and Caribbean Affairs; and

WHEREAS, Oshunbumi Fernandez has dedicated her professional life to cultural awareness and expression through Odunde; and

WHEREAS, Odunde is the largest African American street festival in the country attracting up to 500,000 people annually; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Hereby commemorates the 40th Anniversary of the Odunde festival.

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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 ninth day of April, 2015.

Darrell L. Clarke
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Michael A. Decker
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Johnson

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Johnson, Quiñones Sánchez, Goode, Jones, Tasco, O'Brien, Greenlee, Squilla, Council President Clarke, Councilmembers Oh, Bass, Neilson, Blackwell, Henon, Reynolds Brown and O'Neill