

City of Philadelphia



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

(Resolution No. 160983)

RESOLUTION

Honoring and remembering Harold B. Hairston, the City of Philadelphia's first African American Fire Commissioner, who passed away on November 1, 2016 at the age of 76.

WHEREAS, Harold B. Hairston was appointed Philadelphia's Fire Commissioner in 1992 by Mayor Ed Rendell, after 29 years of service with the Fire Department. He would be Philadelphia's first African-American Fire Commissioner; and

WHEREAS, Harold B. Hairston's career with the Philadelphia Fire Department spanned 40 years, from 1964 to his retirement in 2004. In addition to his service as Commissioner, Mr. Hairston was a decorated firefighter who received two citations for lifesaving rescues; and

WHEREAS, Hairston oversaw 2,500 employees in the nation's fifth-largest fire department. Furthermore, he led several important improvements to the Fire Department's operation. Fire deaths declined and the average response time improved while Hairston was Fire Commissioner; and

WHEREAS, The Metropolitan Fire Chiefs named Harold Hairston as Fire Chief of the Year in 2003. Additionally, the National Fire and Burglar Alarm Association named him Fire Official of the Year; and

WHEREAS, After his retirement, Harold B. Hairston continued to serve the public as a CBS consultant on fire safety and emergency response issues; and

WHEREAS, Philadelphia is a City built by people from a diverse array of cultures. Harold B. Hairston, the City's first African-American Fire Commissioner, was a living example of the value that this diversity brings to the lives of Philadelphia's citizens; and

City of Philadelphia

RESOLUTION NO. 160983 continued

WHEREAS, We honor Harold B. Hairston for his service to the City of Philadelphia and to its citizens, and we celebrate his lasting legacy both within the City and beyond; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That we hereby honor and remember Harold B. Hairston, the City of Philadelphia's first African American Fire Commissioner, who passed away on November 1, 2016 at the age of 76.

City of Philadelphia

RESOLUTION NO. 160983 continued

City of Philadelphia

RESOLUTION NO. 160983 continued

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, 2016

Darrell L. Clarke
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Michael A. Decker
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Johnson

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Johnson, Domb, Jones, Parker, Green, Blackwell, Greenlee, Taubenberger, Henon, Oh, Reynolds Brown, Squilla, Bass, O'Neill, Gym and Council President Clarke