



City of Philadelphia

City Council
Chief Clerk's Office
402 City Hall
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Legislation Text

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Honoring the Jacob Lawrence's series *Hiroshima* and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts as it continues to grow and provide the rare combination of a world-class museum and an extraordinary faculty known for its commitment to students and for the stature and quality of its artistic work.

WHEREAS, Born in Atlantic City, New Jersey, Jacob Lawrence spent part of his childhood in Philadelphia before moving to Harlem 1930; and

WHEREAS, Fascinated by the impact of major historical events on the lives of ordinary people he, starting in 1936, frequently researched and then designed multi-panel narratives based on key events in American culture and the African American experience; and

WHEREAS, In 1982, Sidney Shiff, owner of the Limited Editions Club, New York commissioned Jacob Lawrence to make illustrations to the book *Hiroshima*; and

WHEREAS, *Hiroshima* was written in 1946, by John Hershey, depicting six survivors of the first atomic bomb attack; and

WHEREAS, Lawrence created eight paintings that are inspired by author John Hershey, transcending his text to rank among the most powerful visual statements; and

WHEREAS, This exhibition will place the *Hiroshima* series in the context of Lawrence's career as an empathetic chronicler of history and his own time; and

WHEREAS, Rather than illustrate the text he selected, Lawrence drew on his own experience in urban communities to imagine the bomb's "noiseless flash" as it destroyed lives and irrevocably changed our culture; and

WHEREAS, A part of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts permanent collection, the series represents Lawrence's devastating evocation of the physical and emotional impact of the Hiroshima bombing; and

WHEREAS, Lawrence was honored with a medal from the Pennsylvania Academy in 1997. He lived, worked and taught in Seattle for nearly three decades passing away there in 2000; and

WHEREAS, As of June 26, 2008 the permanent collection will be on display at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts; America's oldest continually operating school of fine arts museum; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That we hereby honor the Jacob Lawrence's series *Hiroshima* and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts as it continues to grow and provide the rare combination of a world-class museum and an extraordinary faculty known for its commitment to students and for the stature and quality of its artistic work.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That an Engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to representatives from the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts for honoring the work, efforts, and legacy of Jacob Lawrence as evidence of the sincere sentiments of this

legislative body.