

Legislation Text

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Recognizing the accomplishments of Sun Ping, a performer in the Peking Opera Theater of China.

WHEREAS, Sun Ping was one of the first college graduates from the Institute of Chinese Traditional Operas in the early 1980s. Following graduation, she enrolled in the Peking Opera Theater of China. Her impressive vocal power and stage presence led her to becoming the star actress in several of the troupe's most famous works; and

WHEREAS, Peking Opera is an art form taking roots in Chinese culture, and involves the elements of dancing and acrobatics. Sun Ping introduced more action into her performances and impressed audiences with make-up and costumes containing a distinctly Chinese flavor; and

WHEREAS, Because of the very different cultural backgrounds, it was thought that it would be difficult to introduce this Chinese art form to western audiences. Sun Ping's first work, King Laszlo, was staged more than three hundred times in Europe. The initial success encouraged Sun Ping to move forward with a genuine Chinese story played in this new form; and

WHEREAS, In August, 1994, the show, Monkey King, was performed at the German Drama Festival and received awards and accolades. Former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl announced "action drama" as a new performance type and it was officially accepted across the European countries; and

WHEREAS, Following the achievements in Europe, Sun Ping continued promoting the Peking Opera in the United States. The American debut was in 2000, with the Washington National Symphony Orchestra; and

WHEREAS, Sun Ping feels a sense of obligation to pass on her love for the Peking Opera Theater of China, which she inherited from her predecessors, to the next generation. She tirelessly supports the Opera accepting speaking engagements throughout the world, including Yale University and University of Pennsylvania. The success of the Peking Opera is due in large part to Sun Ping's efforts; now therefore

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That we hereby recognize the accomplishments of Sun Ping and the success of the Peking Opera Theater of China.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That an Engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to Sun Ping, further evidencing the sincere sentiments of this legislative body.