

RESOLUTION NO. RS2018-1413

A resolution recognizing the historic election of Martesha Johnson as Public Defender.

WHEREAS, on August 2, 2018, Martesha Johnson was elected Public Defender of Nashville, after advancing from the primary on May 1, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Martesha Johnson has made history, becoming the first African-American and second woman to hold the position of Public Defender of Nashville; and

WHEREAS, she graduated *summa cum laude* with a bachelor's degree in Political Science and a minor in English from Tennessee State University in 2005, where she was a Presidential scholar; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Johnson went on to receive her Juris Doctor from the University of Tennessee in 2008, where she was a member of the National Trial Team and was recognized for more than 50 hours of public service during her time as a student; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Johnson began as an intern in the Public Defender's office in 2007 and was eventually hired on full-time as an Assistant Public Defender in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Johnson's passion for justice and being a voice for the voiceless is clear, and she will undoubtedly continue to advocate for reforms to the criminal justice system in her position as Public Defender; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the Metropolitan Council congratulate Martesha Johnson upon her historic election and recognize her years of service to the citizens of Nashville and Davidson County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY:

Section 1. The Metropolitan Council hereby goes on record as recognizing and congratulating Martesha Johnson upon her election as Public Defender.

Section 2. The Metropolitan Council Office is directed to prepare a copy of this Resolution to be presented to Martesha Johnson.

Section 3. This Resolution shall take effect from and after its adoption, the welfare of The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County requiring it.

INTRODUCED BY:

Tanaka Vercher
Member of Council