

PENDING APPROVAL

RESOLUTION _____

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF THE HONORABLE HANNAH DIGGS ATKINS

WHEREAS, Hannah D. Atkins was the first African-American woman elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives in 1968; representing District 97 for 12 years; and

WHEREAS, Hannah D. Atkins was known for calmly challenging political powerhouses, a trait that would help her become the first woman to chair a House committee; and

WHEREAS, Hannah D. Atkins, upon leaving the House in 1980, worked for the State Department of Human Services, serving as Assistant Director; and

WHEREAS, Hannah D. Atkins, under Governor Henry Bellmon, served as state Secretary of Social Services, Secretary of Human Resources, and Secretary of State; and

WHEREAS, Hannah D. Atkins, upon her retirement from state service in 1991 was the highest ranking woman in state government; and

WHEREAS, Hannah D. Atkins, also served as the chairwoman of the Oklahoma Advisory Committee of the U. S. Commission of Civil Rights, served eight years on the Democratic National Committee, and was appointed in 1980 by President Jimmy Carter as a delegate to the 35th General Assembly of the United Nations. She served as commissioner to the U.N. Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization from 1979 to 1982; and

WHEREAS, Hannah D. Atkins, throughout her life, was involved with many organizations such as the American Civil Liberties Union, the national boards of the Women's Education Fund, the Black Child Development Institute, and the Joint Center for Political Studies. She was active in the Interfaith Alliance, the Oklahoma City Public Schools Foundation and the Oklahoma City National Memorial Trust; and

WHEREAS, Hannah D. Atkins was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame, the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame and the Oklahoma Afro-American Hall of Fame. She was given the regional Humanitarian Award of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the National Governors' Association Award for Distinguished Service to State Government, the Leadership Oklahoma Lifetime Achievement Award and the Pathmaker Award from the Oklahoma City/County Historical Society; and

WHEREAS, Governor Brad Henry said, "Hannah Atkins was many things to many people, a civil rights pioneer, an influential state legislator, a great public servant, a dedicated educator and mentor, but more than anything, she was an inspirational leader who worked tirelessly to improve her state and its people."

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County of Commissioners of Oklahoma County do hereby express their condolences to her family and wishes to express their appreciation for her never-ending desire for dignity and respect for all.

APPROVED this 23rd day of June 2010.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chairman

Member

Member

ATTEST:

Carolynn Caudill, County Clerk