

RESOLUTION NO. 050533

Honoring General Hospital #2 and the men and women of vision and courage who pushed its conception forward.

WHEREAS, General Hospital #2 started with an act of God, pushed forward by Dr. Thomas Unthank and Dr. J. Edward Perry who were men of vision and courage; and

WHEREAS, Kansas City Municipal Hospital was 35 years old when it was turned over to Dr. Unthank and Dr. Perry and was operated by the African American community and staffed by that same community; and

WHEREAS, General Hospital #2 opened its doors in February 1930 after a fire destroyed most of the Old City Municipal Hospital; and

WHEREAS, this hospital became the only city hospital in the country at the time to function with African American administrators and staff; and

WHEREAS, in 1931, its first interns began the long road toward developing a prestigious training center for minority physicians and later was accredited by the AMA as a subspecialty training center for Obstetrics-Gynecology, General Surgery and Radiology; and

WHEREAS, the names of some of the men who came to Kansas City to train at General Hospital #2 and stayed to support and help build this community are: E. Frank Ellis, M.D., M.P.H., General Hospital #2 Superintendent 1948-1954; Walter F. Haith, M.D., F.A.C.O.G., who served as an instructor at the consolidated facility; James Johnson, M.D., F.A.C.O.G., who served as an instructor at the consolidated facility; Carl M. Peterson, M.D., F.A.C.S., who served as the last Chief of Staff at General Hospital #2 and the first Chief of Staff at the consolidated General Hospital, along with that first, he was elected by his peers to lead the Jackson County Medical Society, now the Metropolitan Medical Society; and Walter R. Peterson, M.D., F.A.C.S., who served as a key member in the development of The Doctors Clinic, the first minority multi-specialty physician group in the country; John Ramos, M.D., board certified in radiology (deceased); and Starks Williams, M.D., F.A.A.P. who was appointed medical consultant to the Missouri Sickle Cell Anemia program; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

That the Mayor and Council hereby honor General Hospital #2 and the men of vision and courage who pushed its conception forward; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be spread upon the Minutes of the Council in testimony thereof and that copies hereof be presented to the above listed men with the appreciation of the Mayor, Council and citizens of Kansas City for their years of dedication and hard work in this community.

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