

RESOLUTION NO. 061412

Honoring Jay McShann and saluting his enormous contributions to American music.

WHEREAS, Kansas City mourns the passing of Jay McShann, one of the country's greatest musicians and one who helped make jazz synonymous with Kansas City; and

WHEREAS, James Columbus McShann was born in Muskogee, Oklahoma in 1916. He came to Kansas City on his way to Omaha in 1936, and found the music scene in Kansas City too exciting, and decided to stay. Jay had begun playing piano when he was still a boy, and not long after he settled in Kansas City, Jay "Hootie" McShann was well-established in the world of Kansas City jazz, and was quite popular, but the Second World War forced him off the stage and into the armed services. After the war, McShann spent some time in California before finally settling in Kansas City; and

WHEREAS, Jay McShann was an exceptional musician, and recorded albums for many different labels. He performed around the world, and was the subject of films by such noted directors as Ken Burns, Bruce Ricker and Clint Eastwood. Seemingly left in the shadows of other jazz greats, McShann is known for his superior talent and his "rolling, ten-fingered sound of boogie-woogie," he also sang in a casual but charming style, capturing the blues like no one else. Whether performing at New York City's Village Vanguard or the Elks Club in Kearney, Nebraska, McShann was a jazz master who made people love his music; and

WHEREAS, Kansas City will miss Jay McShann, but his name will live forever in the annals of American jazz; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

That the Mayor and Council hereby honor Jay McShann and salute his enormous contributions to American music; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be spread upon the Minutes of the Council in testimony thereof and that a copy hereof be presented to Mr. McShann's family with appropriate recognition and sincere condolences.

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