

RESOLUTION NO. 200158

Honoring Bobby Watson on the occasion of his retirement for his twenty years of dedicated service to the Conservatory and UMKC as the Distinguished Professor of Jazz Studies.

WHEREAS, Bobby Watson, a Kansas City, Kansas native whose career spans more than four decades, is a GRAMMY-nominated saxophonist, composer, bandleader, educator and producer who performed with notable jazz icons like Max Roach, Louis Hayes, George Coleman, Same Rivers, Branford Marsalis, Wynton Marsalis, Lou Rawls, Betty Carter and Joe Williams; and

WHEREAS, with Bobby Watson's guidance, the UMKC Jazz Studies program emerged as one of the country's finest jazz programs, fostering artistic expression, innovative styles and techniques; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, Bobby Watson self-produced *The Gates BBQ Suite*, celebrating his hometown's most famous food product and, being the true educator and mentor that he is, he featured his students in the *Suite*; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Watson was selected as one of the first inductees into the 18th and Vine "Jazz Walk of Fame," joining Pat Metheny as the only other living selection along with four of the City's jazz cornerstones: Count Basie, Jay McShann, Charlie Parker, and Mary Lou Williams; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Watson had a tremendous impact on his students and the jazz scene in Kansas City—one of the few jazz greats to establish a legacy as both a performing artist and an educator; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

That the Mayor and Council hereby extend to Mr. Watson on the occasion of his retirement, the heartiest best wishes for his future, together with appreciation for his 20 years of dedicated and devoted service to students of UMKC and to the citizens of this Great City of Kansas City, Missouri; 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 Bobby Watson in token of the Mayor and Council's respect and high regard and their best wishes for the long and happy retirement which he so richly deserves.

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