

RESOLUTION NO. 180846

Congratulating the Twin Citians Social Club on celebrating their 75th Anniversary and their role in serving the community.

WHEREAS, it was in January, 1943, in the middle of World War II, that twenty-four women, recently graduated from college, and just beginning their diverse careers, decided to form a club; and

WHEREAS, the club was to exist for the purpose of promoting social recreation and enjoyment while engaging in limited civic activity. Membership was composed of persons from both Kansas Cities – 17 from Kansas and 7 from Missouri – therefore the club name of “Twin Citians” was chosen; and

WHEREAS, two Kansans, Inez Kaiser and Julia Peterson, were instrumental in the organization of the club. Gertrude Bardwell was elected as the first president, through the years, the club’s civic scopes broaden and the members began contributing to numerous worthy charitable and civic causes. These included a life NAACP membership and participation in various other organizations; and

WHEREAS, in the fall of 1958, the Twin Citians spearheaded the call for action to desegregate the lunch counters in the Kansas City, Missouri downtown department stores. This prompted the club to call meetings for prominent Black Leaders and representatives from many social, civic and religious organizations to join the cause; and

WHEREAS, the group adopted the name of “COMMUNITY COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL ACTION” (CCSA). After weeks that spread into months of picketing, the stores finally agreed to desegregate their lunch counters and cafeterias in Spring 1959. This action served as an impetus for the opening of other avenues for Blacks; and

WHEREAS, there are currently 28 active members, 4 alumni members and several associate members; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

That the Mayor and Council do hereby congratulate and commend The Twin Citians Social Club of the present-day, comprised of women dedicated to the betterment of themselves and their country and its citizens; 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 Iris Dillard, President, with the encouragement of the Mayor and Council to have all Kansas Citians join in the celebration of the 75th Anniversary of Twin Citians Social Club.
