

RESOLUTION NO. 150659

Declaring Saturday, August 15, 2015 as Diane “Mama” Ray’s Band Weekly Jam Session Day for 29 years in Kansas City.

WHEREAS, Diane “Mama” Ray is a blues and jazz singer and received her first violin from her mother, a concert violinist, and also played the piano. At 13, Diane performed her first major gig with a military band back-up and two other vocalists at the Eagle’s Club in Wiesbaden, Germany; and

WHEREAS, in 1962, Diane came to Kansas City from New York and became involved in the local blues and jazz scene where she became friends with pianist/vocalist Betty Miller (Abel) who was performing with her husband bassist Milt Abel. Betty gave her sage advice “Never give up on her dreams”. In 1986, Diane teamed with organist Rich VanSant and guitarist Tom DeMasters, to begin one of the longest running jam sessions in Kansas City history. “Mama” Ray hosted a jazz and blues jam session for 22-years at Harlings Upstairs; and

WHEREAS, a live recording entitled *JAM-CD*, was made featuring the band and many outstanding musicians. The second recording’s title song “*Mama’s*” *Mood*, was written by Mama Ray and the jam session relocated to BB’s Lawnside Barbecue in South Kansas City, for the past seven years; and

WHEREAS, She was a member of the original Spirit, KC Blues Festivals and Jazz Lover’s Pub Crawl. She has been a recipient of the Spirit of KC Jazz Award, Barbara Potts Award for years of service to Hope House, Heritage Musician Award and Elder Statesmen of KC Jazz and accolades from Governors and cities in the greater Kansas City metropolitan areas. She appeared in the documentary *Kansas City Jazz and Blues, Past, Present and Future*. Diane is owner of D. Ray Design and Construction, Inc., with her sons Steven and Sean; and

WHEREAS, Diane “Mama” Ray, Jay EuDaly, Allen Monroe and Steve Barrett, perform at the current weekly jam session at BB’s Lawnside Barbecue; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

That the Mayor and Council hereby declare Saturday, August 15, 2015 as Diane “Mama” Ray’s Band Weekly Jam Session Day for 29 years in Kansas City; 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 Elder Statesmen of KC Jazz, BB’s Lawnside Barbecue and Jam Session members with the appreciation of the Mayor, Council and citizens of Kansas City for the many years of entertainment to our community.

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