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File #: TMP-6835

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RESOLUTION NO. TMP-6835

Recognizing the Black Economic Union of Greater Kansas City for decades of economic empowerment, community development, and lasting service; and recognizing May 7, 2026, as Black Economic Union Day in Kansas City.

WHEREAS, the Black Economic Union of Greater Kansas City was founded in 1968 by visionary leaders, including Jim Brown of the Cleveland Browns and Curtis McClinton, to advance economic empowerment, entrepreneurship, and community revitalization for African Americans in Kansas City and beyond; and

WHEREAS, for nearly six decades, the Black Economic Union has served as a catalyst for economic, social, and physical redevelopment in Kansas City; and

WHEREAS, the Black Economic Union has played a significant role in shaping the legacy and continued revitalization of the historic 18th & Vine Historic Jazz District and surrounding communities, creating opportunities for investment, ownership, and economic mobility; and

WHEREAS, on May 5, 2026, Dr. Marguerite McClinton Stoglin and the Black Economic Union of Greater Kansas City hosted “The Next Play: BEU Ownership & Investment Summit” at The Gathering KC, convening civic, business, and community leaders to honor the history, leadership, and enduring legacy of the organization while inspiring the next generation through education, workforce development, homeownership, economic development, and financial literacy; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kansas City recognizes the leadership and service of current Black Economic Union leaders, including Cathleen Broodhurst, Martinez Denmon, Charles Parker, James Coleman, Barbara Thomas, Dr. Gay Indar, and Vewiser Dixon, Senior Advisor; and

WHEREAS, the City further honors the contributions and lasting impact of former Black Economic Union leaders, including G. Lawrence Blankinship Sr., Ollie Gates, Ruby Jackson, Lester Matthews, Max Williamson, Bernard Powell, Charles Schmelzer, James H. Taylor, Lawrence Wilson, Don Sewing, Chester Stovall, and Chester Thompson Jr.; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

That the Mayor and Council hereby declare May 7, 2026, as “Black Economic Union Day;” 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 Eric Hawthorne with the mayor and Council encouraging all residents to recognize and celebrate the organization’s historic contributions to economic empowerment, community development, and the advancement of opportunity for all.



Authenticated as Passed

  
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Quinten Lucas, Mayor

  
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Marilyn Sanders, City Clerk

**MAY 07 2026**

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Date Passed