

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 115

Approved March 2, 2023

WHEREAS, Viola Davis is an American actress and producer known for her dynamic performances on stage, television, and film, earning critical acclaim and numerous awards throughout her career; and

WHEREAS, Viola Davis was born in St. Matthews, South Carolina, and grew up in the great City of Central Falls, Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, Viola Davis graduated from Rhode Island College and then went on to earn her Master of Fine Arts degree from the Juilliard School in New York City; and

WHEREAS, Viola Davis has appeared in a wide range of notable films, including "Doubt," "The Help," "Fences," and "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom," and has received critical acclaim for her performances, earning Academy Award nominations for Best Actress and Best Supporting Actress, as well as winning an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress for her role in "Fences"; and

WHEREAS, Viola Davis has also made her mark in television, starring in the hit series "How to Get Away with Murder" and winning multiple awards, including a Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series, becoming the first African American woman to do so; and

WHEREAS, Time magazine named her one of the 100 most influential people in the world in 2012 and 2017, and in 2020, *The New York Times* ranked her ninth on its list of the greatest actors of the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, Davis's memoir, *Finding Me*, was published in 2022. The following year she won a Grammy for the audio version of the book. With that award, she became the third Black woman to win an EGOT; and

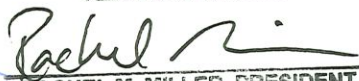

WHEREAS, Viola Davis has been a fierce advocate for racial and gender equality in Hollywood, using her platform to speak out against inequality and the lack of diversity in the entertainment industry; and

WHEREAS, Viola Davis is a true inspiration to many, proving that hard work, determination, and talent can help overcome any obstacle. She is deserving of all the praise the City of Providence and the State of Rhode Island has to offer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council hereby recognizes Viola Davis for her extraordinary accomplishments and contributions to the entertainment industry and for serving as a powerful role model and advocate for women and people of color everywhere.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage, copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Mayor of Providence, and Viola Davis as a symbol of the respect, admiration, and appreciation of the Providence City Council.

IN CITY COUNCIL
MAR 02 2023
READ AND PASSED


RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT

CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.


Mayor

Date: 3/2/2023