

2014 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 156

Offered January 14, 2014

Commending the 2nd Street Festival.

Patrons—McClellan and Carr

WHEREAS, in 2013, the 2nd Street Festival, one of Richmond's premier outdoor events, celebrated 25 years of enthusiastic support of the Jackson Ward community and the ongoing efforts to revitalize downtown Richmond; and

WHEREAS, the 2nd Street Festival began in 1989 as a gala to mark the release of a video called *2 Street*; it was one of the first organized neighborhood street parties, coinciding with the City of Richmond's goal to revitalize Second Street and the surrounding Jackson Ward area; and

WHEREAS, several local organizations were the prime movers in developing and promoting the 2nd Street Festival; Nina Abady, who was director of Downtown Presents in 1989, insisted that a free public event be included in the 1989 video-promotion festivities; and

WHEREAS, from its beginnings under one tent in front of the Hippodrome Theater, "2 Street" as it is fondly called, has grown into a four-city-block celebration, offering Richmonders and visitors alike the chance to reconnect with old friends and familiar places; and

WHEREAS, the 2nd Street Festival is a grand celebration of Richmond's vibrant African American community—its storied heritage, its dynamic present, and its promise of an extraordinary future; and

WHEREAS, more than 45,000 people have thronged the streets of Jackson Ward during the 2nd Street Festival, which in 2013 was held on October 5 and 6; there were concerts on four stages throughout the event; and

WHEREAS, the 2nd Street Festival, which is sponsored by Venture Richmond, promotes the continuing rebirth of Jackson Ward and encourages homeowners and businesses to invest in and be a part of a burgeoning neighborhood renaissance; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the 2nd Street Festival on the occasion of its 25th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Jacqueline McClenney-Wallace, chair and chief executive officer of Venture Richmond, as an expression of the General Assembly's congratulations and admiration for its work to promote one of the Commonwealth's most historic and vibrant African American communities.

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