

Submitted by: ASSEMBLY MEMBERS GRAY-JACKSON,
Birch, Drummond, Flynn, Gutierrez, Hall, Honeman,
Johnston, Ossiander, Starr, Traini
Prepared by: Assembly Counsel's Office
For reading: July 13, 2010

CLERK'S OFFICE
APPROVED

Date: 7-13-10 ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AR NO. 2010-204

1 **A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY RECOGNIZING AND**
2 **REMEMBERING ALASKA PIONEER AND COMMUNITY ACTIVIST: GRADY WARD.**
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4 WHEREAS, on June 11, 2010, Grady Ward, a founding member of the Fairview
5 Community Council and Fairview Community Patrol, died at the age of 85; and
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7 WHEREAS, Grady Ward was born on December 29, 1924 in rural east Texas; and
8

9 WHEREAS, in 1949, Grady Ward headed north to Anchorage, Alaska to make a
10 future in "The Last Frontier"; and
11

12 WHEREAS, as one of Alaska's first African-American pioneers, Grady Ward found
13 no one willing to rent him a room in a boardinghouse, so he lived in a tent on the Ship
14 Creek rail yard for over two-and-a-half years while working as a welder for the Alaska
15 Railroad; and
16

17 WHEREAS, as a laborer, welder and carpenter, Grady Ward was a member of
18 Carpenter's Local Union 1281 and worked for 52 years on numerous local construction
19 projects including the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport, JC Penney,
20 Nordstrom, Fifth Avenue Mall, Providence and Alaska Regional Hospitals, Captain Cook
21 Hotel, and projects on Elmendorf Air Force Base and Fort Richardson; and
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23 WHEREAS, in 1976, Grady Ward helped found the Fairview Community Council;
24 and
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26 WHEREAS, in the 1970s and 1980s, Grady Ward worked tirelessly with Fairview
27 residents, with the Anchorage Police Department, and with former Mayor George Sullivan
28 to improve the quality of life in the Fairview community; and
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30 WHEREAS, Grady Ward, also a founding member of the Fairview Community
31 Patrol, spent many nights patrolling the streets of Fairview making it safer for families; and
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33 WHEREAS, Grady Ward was instrumental in obtaining traffic signals, school
34 crossings, speed limit and "drug-free community" signs throughout Fairview which make
35 for a safer community today; and
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37 WHEREAS, a friend recently described Grady Ward as a Fairview community
38 legend whose vigilance and dedication increased awareness of one's responsibility to
39 oversee and to actively engage in maintaining the safety of one's community; and

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2 WHEREAS, Grady Ward was friend to many of Alaska's pioneers including former
3 Senator Ted Stevens, former Governor Bill Egan, and former Mayor George Sullivan; and
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5 WHEREAS, over the years, Grady Ward worked closely with the Alaska State
6 Legislature including Senator Johnny Ellis, his neighbor and fellow Fairview Community
7 Council member, and Senator Bettye Davis; and
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9 WHEREAS, true of many unsung heroes, Grady Ward did not seek the limelight,
10 but was more concerned about making a difference in his neighborhood, community and
11 state; and
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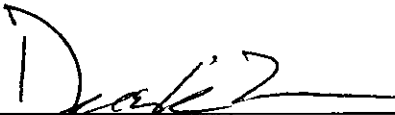
13 WHEREAS, the Municipality of Anchorage and Fairview community are indebted to
14 Grady Ward for his community service;
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17 NOW, THEREFORE, THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RECOGNIZES AND HONORS:
18

19 **GRADY WARD**

20
21 for his passion and commitment to the Fairview community, pioneer spirit, and fortitude in
22 meeting the challenges of "The Last Frontier."
23

24
25 PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 13th day of
26 July, 2010.
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31 _____
32 Chair

33 ATTEST:
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37 _____
38 Municipal Clerk
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