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R2011-1037

Office of the City Clerk

City Council Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date: 9/8/2011
Sponsor(s): Fioretti, Bob (2)
Type: Resolution
Title: Congratulations extended to Shemekia Copeland
Committee(s) Assignment:

SALUTE TO SHEMEKIA COPELAND AS THE NEW "QUEEN OF THE BLUES"

WHEREAS, On Sunday, June 12, 2011 at the Chicago Blues Festival, singer Shemekia Copeland officially became new "Queen of the Blues", an honor previously held by the legendary Koko Taylor and bestowed upon her by Taylor's daughter, Joyce "Cookie" Threat who presented her with Koko Taylor's actual crown; and

WHEREAS, Heir to the rich tradition of blues legends such as Ruth Brown, Etta James and Koko Taylor, Shemekia Copeland's coronation as of Queen of the Blues is the latest of honors for this noteworthy diva. At an early age, Shemekia Copeland became a force to be reckoned with in the blues genre. While still in her 20s, she has opened for the Rolling Stones, headlined at the Chicago Blues Festival as well as numerous festival around the world, scored critics choice awards on both sides of the Atlantic and shared the stage with such luminaries as Buddy Guy, B.B. King, Taj Mahal and John Mayer; and

WHEREAS, Shemekia Copeland's passion for singing, matched with her huge blast-furnace voice, gives her music a timeless power and a heart-pounding urgency. Her music comes from deep within her soul and from the streets where she grew up, surrounded by the everyday sounds of the city --- street performers, gospel singers, blasting radios, bands in local parks and so much more; and

WHEREAS, Born in the borough of Manhattan's Harlem neighborhood in 1979, Shemekia Copeland didn't fancy a singing career for herself although her father, the late great Texas blues guitar legend Johnny Clyde Copeland, recognized his daughter's talent early. He always encouraged her to sing at home and even brought her on stage to sing at Harlem's famed Cotton Club. When she was fifteen, her father's health began to fail and her outlook changed. At that point in her life, she wanted to sing and knew she had to do it; and

WHEREAS, At only 19, Shemekia Copeland stepped out of her father's shadow with her debut recording of "Turn the Heat Up!" released by Alligator Records in 1998 to critical acclaim. A year later, she appeared in the motion picture "Three to Tango" and her song "I Always Get My Man" was featured in another movie, "Broken Hearts Club". Her second album, "Wicked", released in 2000, garnered three Handy Awards (Song of the Year, Blues Album of the Year, Contemporary Female Artist of the Year) and a GRAMMY nomination; and

WHEREAS, The Honorable Robert W. Fioretti, Alderman of the 2nd Ward, has informed this august body of the significant honor conferred upon Shemekia Copeland; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED That we, the mayor and members of the City of Chicago, City Council, assembled this 8th Day of September, 2011 AD, do hereby salute Shemekia Copeland" and extend our very best wishes for her continued success and a long and productive reign as the new "Queen of the Blues".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That a suitable copy of the resolution be prepared and presented to Shemeka Copeland.

Robert W. Fioretti
Sincerely,
Robert W. Fioretti
Alderman, 2nd Ward

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