



City of South Fulton

WHEREAS, Derek Cleveland's passion for music developed at an early age when he began learning to play the trumpet and taking music lessons at the age of 12 while attending Collier Heights Elementary School;

WHEREAS, Cleveland's love for music continued to flourish and he became a member of Frederick Douglass High School's Marching Astros Band and their concert band;

WHEREAS, after graduating from Douglass High School in 1979, he earned a scholarship to attend Clark College (now known as Clark Atlanta University), where he joined the Clark Marching Band as well as the world-renowned and critically-acclaimed Clark College Jazz Orchestra;

WHEREAS, Cleveland's music skills continued to be perfected and fine-tuned during his matriculation at Clark College and over the years under the tutelage of many musicians and professors at the college, he toured Europe, playing trumpet with a number of jazz greats including Joe Sample, Branford Marsalis, Winston Marsalis and Dizzy Gillespie;

WHEREAS, after receiving numerous awards and accolades for his musical skill, Derek earned his bachelor's degree in music from Clark College in 1984 and upon graduating followed in his father's footsteps as an educator;

WHEREAS, Cleveland worked for the Atlanta Public Schools at Kennedy Middle School before moving to Fulton County Schools where he taught at Woodland Middle School in East Point and Asa Philip Randolph Elementary School in South Fulton, Georgia;

WHEREAS, Cleveland in subsequent years, played and toured with the Atlanta-based African-American Philharmonic Orchestra along with several R&B bands and jazz ensembles, and played with his church band at Atlanta's Shrine of the Black Madonna Pan-African Orthodox Christian Church;

WHEREAS, Derek Cleveland has been a beloved teacher and was committed to making a difference in the lives of his students, wanting them to develop an appreciation for music and will be remembered for his passion for music.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and the City Council of the City of South Fulton will remember Derek Cleveland for inspiring the next generation of musicians and hereby proclaim Tuesday, October 27, 2020 as "***Derek Cleveland Appreciation Day***" in the City of South Fulton, Georgia.

Councilwoman Catherine Foster Rowell, Ph.D., District 1