

WHEREAS, in Nashville, Diane Nash, a student at Fisk University, sought to continue the Freedom Rides and pushed to find replacements. On May 17, ten students involved in the Nashville Student Movement took a bus to Birmingham, and were soon arrested and taken back to the Tennessee state line; and

WHEREAS, despite this, they continued their ride. A total of 22 students, 21 from Nashville, returned to Birmingham, Alabama and subsequently rode on to Montgomery, Alabama where they were assaulted by a vicious mob of hundreds; and

WHEREAS, John Seigenthaler, who was sent by U.S. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy to attempt to control the violence, was beaten unconscious by the mob in Montgomery; and

WHEREAS, an additional 27 students and adults, 13 from Nashville, rode the first two buses to Jackson, Mississippi on May 24th, where officials in the city decided the Riders would be arrested, but protected from mob violence; and

WHEREAS, Nashville became a pivotal location for recruiting and training riders throughout the summer of 1961; and

WHEREAS, in the fall of 1961, the Interstate Commerce Commission issued regulations prohibiting segregation in interstate transit terminals - a win for the Freedom Riders, and an inspiration for subsequent civil rights campaigns; and

WHEREAS, through their fearless journeys, the Freedom Riders sent a resounding message to the rest of America that desegregation was a moral imperative; creating a spirit that motivated and mobilized the next generation of civil rights leaders and inspired many of those involved to become lifelong activists, organizers, and leaders in the civil rights movement; and

WHEREAS, this momentous event calls upon all citizens of Nashville to honor the Freedom Riders and all those who struggled for equal rights and the core human values of truth, love, and non-violence; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the Metropolitan Council recognize the 60th Anniversary of the Freedom Riders.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY:

Section 1. The Metropolitan Council hereby goes on record as recognizing the 60th Anniversary of the Freedom Riders of 1961.

Section 2. This Resolution shall take effect from and after its adoption, the welfare of The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County requiring it.