



WHEREAS, because of his participation in the Freedom Rides, Patton was one of fourteen students expelled from Tennessee State University. He never finished his degree, but worked various jobs including as a jazz musician and a long distance truck driver; and

WHEREAS, he served as a member of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. He also was a member of The Nashville Quartet, whose music now belongs to the Smithsonian Folkways collection; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, Tennessee State University granted honorary doctoral degrees to the fourteen students expelled in 1961, including Patton. Patton was also presented with an honorary doctor of laws degree from Stetson University in 2010; and

WHEREAS, on July 17, 2021, Patton along with other civil rights icons were presented a key to the city of Nashville by Mayor John Cooper for their courage and leadership in the Nashville Civil Rights Reform; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the Metropolitan Council recognize the contributions of Dr. Ernest "Rip" Patton to the Civil Rights Movement in Nashville and across the country.

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

Section 1. The Metropolitan County Council hereby goes on record as honoring the life of Nashville Civil Rights advocate and Freedom Rider Dr. Ernest "Rip" Patton.

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.