



Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County, TN

Legislation Text

File #: RS2021-1162, **Version:** 1

A resolution honoring the life of Connie Denell Cato Dickerson.

WHEREAS, Connie Denell Cato Dickerson was born on December 30, 1955 in Chattanooga, Tennessee to Dorsey and radio legend Evelyn Cato; and

WHEREAS, Denell was a graduate of Riverside High School (Class of 1973) in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and attended Morris-Brown College and Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, Denell's radio career started in Chattanooga where she worked for two local radio stations, WNOO AM and WNTP, hosting the "Quiet Storm" shows; and

WHEREAS, while attending Georgia State University, Denell worked at local Atlanta radio station WAOK FM on the campus of Clark-Atlanta University; and

WHEREAS, after college, Connie married her husband James Dickerson and relocated to Nashville, Tennessee where her career took off; and

WHEREAS, after brief news radio work, Denell joined the Nashville-based television network *TNN* and became the first Black talent coordinator to book country music artists on the nationally televised show *Music City Tonight*; and

WHEREAS, Denell went on to work with the *Charlie Chase and Lorraine Crook Show*, and worked with Dick Clark Productions and Rac Clark on the popular show, *Prime Time Country*, hosted by Gary Chapman; and

WHEREAS, later, Connie was hired as the Morning Show host for 92.1 WQQK FM and news reporter for WVOL AM in Nashville and by 2000, made the shift from R&B to Gospel, launching 92Q's hugely popular radio show, *Gospel Inspirations*; and

WHEREAS, *Gospel Inspirations* aired on Sunday mornings, quickly becoming one of the most listened to radio shows in Music City and earning Denell the beloved title of "The Gospel Diva"; and

WHEREAS, Denell worked for 92Q for 37 years before retiring from radio in December 2017, and subsequently joined the legendary Dr. Bobby Jones as a co-host on *Dr. Bobby Jones Presents* television show; and

WHEREAS, Connie Denell is credited with laying the blueprint for Black Gospel in Nashville, and 92Q radio host Kenny Smoov called her "one of the architects of Gospel music for the entire region"; and

WHEREAS, Denell won numerous awards for her work including a Stella Award and NAACP Award, and served Nashville for many years as the pre-march emcee for the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration on Jefferson Street, providing gospel talent a platform to perform; and

WHEREAS, she is survived by her husband James Dickerson, son Stephen Dickerson, sister Doris J. Parham, and her brother Charles Moon; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the Metropolitan Council recognizes and honors the significant cultural contributions of "The Gospel Diva" Connie Denell.

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 Connie Denell Cato Dickerson.

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.