

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 287

BY REPRESENTATIVE COX

A RESOLUTION

To commend Natchitoches Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., for his civil service.

WHEREAS, Ronnie Williams, Jr., is a long-time resident of Natchitoches, Louisiana, and the city's current mayor; he graduated with a bachelor of science degree in secondary education from Northwestern State University in 2008 and received a master of divinity in Christian thought from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in 2017; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Williams worked for twelve years as a social studies teacher in Red River Parish and has been the senior pastor of Rockford Baptist Church for over nine years; his work as an educator and pastor has afforded him the opportunity to serve the community; he taught hundreds of students and prepared them to be productive citizens, and as senior pastor, he regularly plans and executes community service projects such as soup kitchens, food drives, and community outreach events; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Williams answered the call to public service, and in 2020, he became the first African American mayor of the city of Natchitoches; in his short tenure as mayor, he has improved Natchitoches for both residents and tourists; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Williams launched a monthly newsletter and instituted quarterly town hall meetings to keep Natchitoches residents informed on important events and developments in the city; he also established the Façade and Economic Improvement Grant program to help revitalize Texas and Washington Streets' business corridors and lay the foundation for the revitalization of future business corridors throughout the city; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Williams lobbied the Louisiana congressional delegation regarding the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program; Natchitoches was subsequently awarded \$17.2 million in grant funding, the largest award of grant monies in the city's history, to rehabilitate the city's streets and roadways, create bicycle lanes, and provide for safer commuting; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Williams created the city's first diversity, equity, and inclusion team, working collaboratively with the Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce and the Natchitoches Economic Development Alliance to attract a number of new businesses to the city; he worked with various stakeholders in Natchitoches, including the superintendent of Natchitoches Parish schools and the president of Northwestern State University, to form collaborative, mutually beneficial partnerships; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Williams played a pivotal role in reestablishing the Natchitoches Boys & Girls Club and the Mayor's Youth Council; he implemented the Summer Youth Work Program to further engage area students during the summer months; and

WHEREAS, Natchitoches Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., is a true champion of the community who has accomplished much; despite his professional accomplishments, his most cherished achievement is the family he has built with his wife of fourteen years, Tiffany, and their three children, Micah, Trae, and Maesie; he is most deserving of the highest recognition for his incredible civil service.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Natchitoches Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., for his civil service; does hereby further recognize his commitment to providing the city of Natchitoches with a strong foundation for a much-improved future; and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that he continue to prosper in all of his endeavors for many years to come.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES