

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 55

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILLARD

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Pontchartrain Park Neighborhood Association on attaining historic designation on the National Register of Historic Places for the neighborhood of Pontchartrain Park in Orleans Parish.

WHEREAS, on June 23, 2020, Pontchartrain Park was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as "Pontchartrain Park Historic District", recognizing the sixty-five year old community's significance in Louisiana history; and

WHEREAS, the designation was achieved under the leadership of Gretchen Bradford, the president of the Pontchartrain Park Neighborhood Association, or PPNA, and the PPNA's Historic Committee; the members of the committee include Carrie Mingo-Douglas, Wiletta Ferdinand, Wilfred Arnolie, Patrick Clementine, Gaynell Lawrence, and Elder Delerez Perkins; and

WHEREAS, Pontchartrain Park was built between 1955 and 1961, and the neighborhood was one of the first suburban-style subdivisions developed specifically for African Americans to own a home in the segregated South; it is located in the affluent Gentilly neighborhood, and many middle- and upper-class African-American families were drawn to the new development; the neighborhood thus became a symbol that the "American dream" could be achieved by all; and

WHEREAS, many Pontchartrain Park homes were sold to World War II veterans through the GI Bill, creating a neighborhood filled with young families whose children would grow up together and create a community cohesion that can be seen even today; and

WHEREAS, Pontchartrain Park is the site of numerous landmark achievements for the African-American community in Orleans Parish; it contained a golf course designed by African-American architect Joseph M. Bartholomew which was the first course that he designed and was allowed to play on; Southern University was established in Pontchartrain

Park to provide higher education for black students in the area; additionally, the neighborhood is home to Wesley Barrow Stadium, a baseball field where Negro League baseball games were played; and

WHEREAS, Pontchartrain Park is truly an iconic, historic landmark in Louisiana history, and the Pontchartrain Park Neighborhood Association is most deserving of recognition for attaining historical designation for the area.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Pontchartrain Park Neighborhood Association on attaining historic designation on the National Register of Historic Places for the neighborhood of Pontchartrain Park in Orleans Parish; does hereby recognize Pontchartrain Park as a true historical landmark in Louisiana; and does hereby extend sincere hopes and wishes that the Pontchartrain Park Neighborhood Association continue to prosper as they safeguard this historic location.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Pontchartrain Park Neighborhood Association.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES