

#1

John
Goerner Shepard
11-R-1354
Don't Write Above This Line

A RESOLUTION

BY COUNCILMEMBER IVORY LEE YOUNG, JR.

A RESOLUTION URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, BY AND THROUGH THE NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE, TO ORDER A REVISION TO THE INSCRIPTION ON THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. NATIONAL MEMORIAL; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

APPROVED BY:

IVORY LEE YOUNG, JR. ADOPTED BY COUNCILMEMBER

As Amended SEP 06 2011 COUNCIL

- CONSENT REFER
- REGULAR REPORT REFER
- ADVERTISE & REFER
- 1st ADOPT 2nd READ & REFER
- PERSONAL PAPER REFER

Date Referred

Referred To:

Date Referred

Referred To:

Date Referred

Referred To:

First Reading

Committee _____
Date _____
Chair _____
Referred To _____

Committee

Date

Chair

Action

Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side)

Other

Members

Refer To

Committee

Date

Chair

Action

Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side)

Other

Members

Refer To

Committee

Date

Chair

Action

Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side)

Other

Members

Refer To

Committee

Date

Chair

Action

Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side)

Other

Members

Refer To

FINAL COUNCIL ACTION

- 2nd
- 1st & 2nd
- 3rd
- Readings
- Consent
- V Vote
- RC Vote

CERTIFIED

CERTIFIED
SEP 06 2011

COUNCIL PRESIDENT PROTEM

CERTIFIED
SEP 06 2011

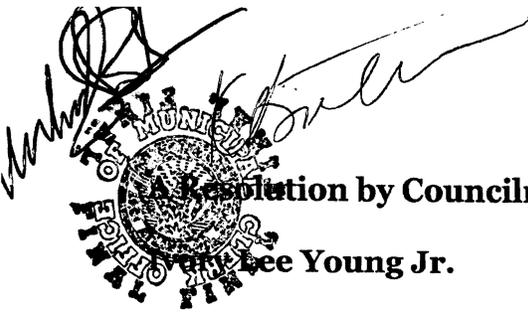
Rhonda Daughin Johnson
MUNICIPAL CLERK

MAYOR'S ACTION

APPROVED

SEP 15 2011

WITHOUT SIGNATURE
BY OPERATION OF LAW



John M. Hoot
Jelicia A. Hoot
ALSH

John
State Auditor
11-R-1351
Carl Smith
Clota
Andrew

A Resolution urging the President of the United States, by and through the National Parks Service, to order a revision to the inscription on the Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial and for other purposes

WHEREAS, the National Park Service formally welcomed the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial as America's 395th national park on August 28, 2011, the 48th anniversary of Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech, delivered in 1963 on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial; and

WHEREAS, the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial commemorates the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and honors his national and international contributions to world peace through non-violent social change; and

WHEREAS, the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial will act to increase awareness of Martin Luther King Jr.'s life, work, and contributions to those who may not be familiar with them; and

WHEREAS, in February 1968, two months before he was killed, Dr. King said, "If you want to say that I was a drum major, say that I was a drum major for justice, say that I was a drum major for peace. I was a drum major for righteousness. And all of the other shallow things will not matter;" and

WHEREAS, the inscription on the monument reads "I was a drum major for justice, peace, and righteousness," and paraphrases Dr. King's famous comments delivered at Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church in 1968; and

WHEREAS, it is the opinion of the celebrated poet, Maya Angelou, the National Monuments Foundation as referenced in the attached press release, as well as the opinion of the Atlanta City Council that the omission of the word "if," which appeared at the beginning of Dr. King's original comments, from the inscription, changes the meaning of Dr. King's words; and

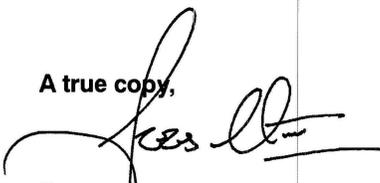
WHEREAS, this omission creates an appearance that Dr. King's statements were arrogant, and we believe that it was not the intention of the National Parks Service to do so.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA, HEREBY RESOLVES, that the President of the United States is urged to cause the inscription on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial to be revised by the National Park Service in order to correctly reflect the sentiments of Dr. King which were contained in his original comments delivered at Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church in 1968 when he said "If you want to say that I was a drum major, say that I was a drum major for justice, say that I was a drum major for peace. I was a drum major for righteousness. And all of the other shallow things will not matter."



BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Municipal Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to the National Park Service, the National Monuments Foundation, the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation, Inc. and all members of the United States Congress.

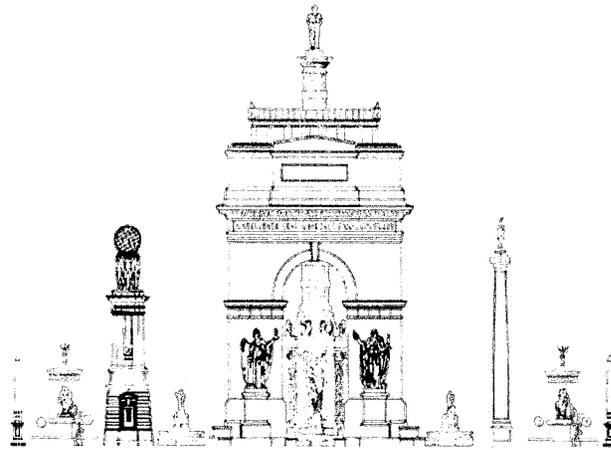
A true copy,



Deputy Municipal Clerk

ADOPTED as amended by the Atlanta City Council
APPROVED as per City Charter Section 2-403

Sept. 6, 2011
Sept. 15, 2011



National Monuments Foundation

Press release

September 6, 2011

The National Monuments Foundation exists to improve the quality of the built environment through a classical approach to the creation of public monuments, parks and civic buildings. The accurate preservation of the nation's memory is primary in our buildings and spaces. We are based in the Millennium Gate Georgia History Museum, the most comprehensive museum of Georgia history in the state.

The Millennium Gate and the National Monuments Foundation tells the story of Georgia's unique role since her founding as a land that has fostered Peace. The role of Dr Martin Luther King, Jr. is a very large part of that history. We have studied the poet and author Maya Angelou's criticism of an inscription etched on the Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial in Washington D.C.

The inscription reads: "I was a drum major for justice, peace and righteousness", which was a passage that was edited from a 1968 sermon at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. Dr. King's original words were: "If you want to say that I was a drum major, say that I was a drum major for justice. Say that I was a drum major for peace. I was a drum major for righteousness. And all of the other shallow things will not matter."

The inscription as it is paraphrased alters Dr. King's clear and humble meaning and changes forever the memory of his character. This is a design flaw that can easily be corrected with the additional words of his complete thought.

On behalf of the People of Georgia, please make these adjustments in honor of one of our sons.

Sincerely,

Rodney Mims Cook, Jr.

RCS# 1397
9/06/11
5:27 PM

Atlanta City Council

REGULAR SESSION

PERSONAL

REVISE INSCRIPTION ON THE MLK
JR. NATIONAL MEMORIAL
ADOPT AS AMEND

YEAS: 12
NAYS: 0
ABSTENTIONS: 0
NOT VOTING: 3
EXCUSED: 0
ABSENT 1

Y Smith	Y Archibong	Y Moore	Y Bond
NV Hall	Y Wan	Y Martin	Y Watson
Y Young	NV Shook	NV Bottoms	Y Willis
Y Winslow	Y Adrean	Y Sheperd	B Mitchell

PERSONAL

RCS# 1396
9/06/11
5:26 PM

Atlanta City Council

REGULAR SESSION

PERSONAL

AMEND/REVISE INSCRIPTION ON THE MLK
JR. NATIONAL MEMORIAL
YOUNG ET AL

YEAS: 14
NAYS: 0
ABSTENTIONS: 0
NOT VOTING: 1
EXCUSED: 0
ABSENT 1

Y Smith	Y Archibong	Y Moore	Y Bond
Y Hall	Y Wan	Y Martin	Y Watson
Y Young	Y Shook	NV Bottoms	Y Willis
Y Winslow	Y Adrean	Y Sheperd	B Mitchell

PERSONAL